

Minutes of the January 16, 2019 Tellico Lake Amateur Radio Club

- President Juan Lopez (AC6ZM) called the business meeting to order at 7:04 at the Rec Center of Tellico Village. This was followed by introductions around the room. There were 17 Members and Friends signed in.
- Juan mentioned that there will be a **Winter Field Day** coming up. Details will be posted on the Club website. www.TLARC.org. There many other items on the website, so check it out.
- The **RTTY Round Up** was very successful with 8 participants and 3 times the points versus last year. Kirk (K4RO) President of the Tennessee Contest Group was asked by Jeff Stai (WK6I) QST Editor for RTTY Round-Up experience articles. He was impressed with our improvement and would like to do a story with pictures for potential publication in QST. Juan asked for picture release forms by all members that were in the photo taken during the event.
- Juan asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to last month's **Minutes**. Hearing none, Tom Sullivan (W8MKL) made a motion which Allan Tarbell (K1AT) seconded to accept them as written and the motion passed.
- Brad Berger (KM4OJK), Treasurer, gave the **Treasurers report**. As of today, we have \$1120.65 in the checking account and no outstanding bills. Brad reminded everybody that the 2019 dues are overdue and if you haven't paid them, please do so. Jim Anderson (K0RGI) made a motion which Mike Foley (K4MJF) seconded to accept the Treasurers report and it was passed by acclamation.

Old Business

- George Heron (N2APB) has been discussing the idea of the club building a **ham shack accessory kit** either at a meeting or perhaps as a special event between meetings. The kit would be a GPS clock, and showing among other things, shack temperature, altitude and other useful ham related data. Since George wasn't at the meeting, Juan suggested he would put together a work group to decide on a location, primary and secondary dates. The kit would be \$25 and George would collect the money and obtain the kits.
- Juan brought up the subject of **HamClubOnline** which is a tool to handle the administrative tasks for the club. Juan submitted the names of the members and ran a trial run of a message to members to see how the system works. It seemed to be ok. There then was a long discussion about security of addresses, phone numbers and credit card info if we decide we want to be able to pay dues on line. Several members expressed concern about having that data potentially exposed and protected by a host server which the club has no control over. This led to a discussion about how much info we want on the Club Roster and how it is communicated to members. In the past, after new members are asked about the publication of their address and phone number, the roster has been sent out as an email attachment. Juan directed the Secretary and Treasurer to look into the issue(s) and bring a recommendation on how we should proceed back to the membership by the next meeting.

- We then had a **Special Election** for the open position of 2019 Club **Secretary**. There were 2 nominees, **Sam Howard** (KV4XY) and **David Andrews** (N1ESK). Before there was a vote, Sam withdrew from the race and David was elected by acclamation. Thanks to both candidates for stepping up as nominees.
- Juan stated the 2019 Officers will have the **proposed 2019 Budget and Annual Goals** for review by the membership by the next meeting.
- Juan is working on the idea of forming a committee to develop an **Operating Award System** for the club. Participants can engage in various club activities to earn points towards 2019 year end club award(s). The proposed award scheme will follow the Bronze, Silver, Gold and the big one, Platinum approach. Point accumulation will be a combination of both group activities and solo independent operating. Members will need to accumulate points in both categories to be eligible for operating awards
- Juan and **Program Chairman David Schoenherr** (KN4LMM) asked that we think about and communicate to David Schoenherr suggestions for program topics for future meetings of interest to the group.
- The business meeting was adjourned at 7:40 on a motion by Allan Tarbell and seconded by Mike Foley. It passed.

The program for the evening was presented by Juan and the topic was “**On Line HF Prediction Tools.**” Juan discussed and provided a live demonstration of the **Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program** (www.VOACAP.com) service where they accumulate prediction data like sunspot activity, ambient atmospheric noise level and combine the data with customizable variables such as: send and receive antenna information, transmitter power, antenna location, targeted station information, grey line location for both the short part and long path and develop a set of probabilities of success for 24 hour daily activities on all of the commonly used HF bands. Juan demonstrated the software and one of the most powerful outputs is a **Propagation Wheel** where we can easily see, on a 24 hour basis on any date up to a year, where and how we are most likely to have successful QSO’s. Juan will post the presentation slides on the TLARC website for your review. He offered to answer any questions about its use. It was a very interesting and useful presentation. Thanks, Juan.

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted, Brent Martin, Acting Secretary