

TLARC Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2022

- President Richard Meyer W8CNY called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm EST. The location was Chota Recreation Center, Room D, Tellico Village.
- Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call confirmed 29 total attendees – 26 ACTIVE members and 3 guests. All attendees signed the Club and Chota Recreation Center sign-in sheets.
- The Club “Sunshine” report identified two members with health issues. George Sifnotis WB9TFR is recovering from recent surgery, and Jeff Buffington N4POD is recuperating from back issues.
- Richard Meyer W8CNY introduced a new Amateur Radio book/magazine, Raspberry Pi Pico for Radio Amateurs, published by Elector. It contains numerous interesting projects, kits, and articles of Ham value.
- David Andrews N1ESK presented a short “Kill The Cat” (curiosity) session on whether a Ham radio license allows one to operate legally on the Family Radio Service, Multi Use Radio Service, and General Mobile Radio Service frequencies. Answer: No!
- Vice President, Ben Poff KN4VIF, discussed future monthly Amateur Radio program topics, recognized the extensive membership input to date, and welcomed further feedback for the TLARC General Meetings.
- Secretary Chuck Ferguson N4CSF acknowledged prior distribution of the DRAFT January 19, 2022, meeting minutes for review. Comments were received and will be incorporated. The minutes were adopted as corrected.

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- OFFICER REPORTS –

President Richard Meyer W8CNY:

- Welcome to all attendees
- The Club P.O. Box has been acquired at the Lenoir City Main Post Office, as approved at the January 19, 2022, meeting. The annual rental cost \$166. The Postmaster said boxes/packages should be addressed to “Suite 902”, rather than “P.O. Box 902” since the box is so small. The Post Office will send us a pick-up notice when such shipments are received. The two keys are currently possessed by the President and Secretary Chuck Ferguson N4CSF.
- Various Amateur Radio references were highlighted and made available for members’ viewing at the front of the meeting room.
- President Meyer asked if members feel like they’re being “spammed” by too many TLARC@Groups.io messages and reminders. The consensus was that current Groups distribution levels are acceptable.
- Next month’s main door prize will be a 2-channel, 20 MHz oscilloscope. It was obtained from the President’s Silent Key friend. Its Hamfest value might be \$50.

Vice President Ben Poff KN4VIF:

- The Vice President presented a DRAFT organization flow chart, showing the current Administration, Standing Committees (permanent), and Special Committees.
- He sought input on how/if to incorporate a training/examination team and a formalized Elmer program. Discussion followed on these topics and the availability of prior Subject Matter Expert survey data in the Administration hand-off package.

Treasurer George Sifnotis WB9TFR:

- The end-January Financial Report was reported and included –
 - Total balance = \$3,949.09
 - Repeater fund = \$750.00
 - General fund = \$3,199.09 = \$2,843.15 end-December balance + \$440.00 in deposits (membership dues) – \$84.06 in expenses (chili cookoff costs)
- Mike Wagner KK6OKU moved to accept the Financial Report as read. The report was approved and filed for future audit.

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Secretary Chuck Ferguson N4CSF:

- Thank you to Joyce Tarbell K1JAT, Mike KK6OKU and Gidget Wagner, and David Weikert KF4DKW for provided dessert snacks for the meeting attendees.
 - All meeting attendees must sign both the Club and Chota Recreation Center sign-in sheets before leaving.
 - The meeting attendance was 29 persons – 26 ACTIVE members and 3 guests.
 - There are 53 ACTIVE Club members on the roster as of the meeting. This reflects a 75% renewal rate from the 2021 membership numbers. Renewals continue.
 - Visit the new Club planning calendar on TLARC@Groups.io for upcoming Nets, meetings, social events, By-Laws driven requirements, community support opportunities, hamfests, special on-air events, etc. You can access it by clicking on the “Calendar” command in the left column of the Groups.io dashboard. We welcome membership input on the contents.
- STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (Permanent) –

Repeater - David Weikert KF4DKW:

- Nothing new to report this month. Mary Ann, owner of God’s Cozy Acres, is looking to sell the 19- to 20-acre farm. TLARC HF stations, portable antenna masts, antennas, and cables are installed/stored at the site and will require removal.

Website - Jeff Buffington N4POD:

- No report filed. Mike Wagner announced Severe Weather Awareness week begins Sunday February 20, 2022. Special virtual weather events will occur each day. The Nashville National Weather Service office is offering online training. The Monroe County ARES Net occurs each Wednesday at 8:00pm EST.

Events Coordinator - Jeff Buffington N4POD:

- No report filed.

Net Control - Robin Monserrat KO4PNC:

- No report was filed. Richard Meyer W8CNY advised that Robin is still looking for more volunteers to serve as Net Control Station and Logger.

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Public Information Officer - Mike McMillan KD9DCW:

- TLARC contact and schedule inputs are being worked with the Tellico Village POA to update our listings in POA Directory, TelliGram, and The Connection.

- SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Club HF Facility/Shelter - Ted Goodhue W1EG:

- The shelter survey needs to be distributed so the Club membership can respond what it desires for providing a possible HF operating facility beside the Tellico Village water tower. The survey DRAFT was finalized in December 2021 and has been reviewed/revised by both the 2021 and 2022 Executive teams. Based on this discussion, Richard Meyer W8CNY and Ben Poff KN4VIF approved public release of the survey. The survey will be distributed to the membership via TLARC@Groups.io and not posted to TLARC.org. This action item is made even more critical by the potential sale of God's Cozy Acres.

TLARC Cookbook - David Weikert KF4DKW:

- There has been no further progress this month. David Weikert KF4DKW and Mike Wagner KK6OKU will resume work on this project in the coming months.

- SPECIAL ORDERS (Required in By-Laws) –

There were no Special Orders to Report.

- UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

ARRL Club Grants:

- ARRL established a \$500K foundation to create grants for Club projects up to \$25K. Application forms will be posted on the ARRL website in April 2022. There may be possible value here for the HF operating shelter, depending on the outcome of the Club survey.

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Club Zoom Subscription:

- We have a stop-gap measure in place, using David Andrews' N1ESK Zoom account. Discussions will be needed if there is a desire for the Club to buy its own subscription for the long-term. More to follow on this matter.

Security for SK Homes During Funerals/Hospitalizations:

- Consensus was this is a worthwhile service to provide our members' families. It was agreed needs for assistance should be addressed to the Secretary as they occur.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

New Examination and Training Standing Committee:

- Consensus was no formal committee is needed. Allan Tarbell K1AT is our resident Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. It was agreed exam sessions can be administered as needed, on a case-by-case basis, rather than establishing a regularly scheduled timetable. If folks are ready to test, they can contact the Administration or Allan Tarbell.

Hamcation 2022, Orlando, FL:

- Mike Wagner KK6OKU and David Weikert KF4DKW summarized their experiences and lessons learned at Hamcation. Training was above-average, AUXCOMM discussions were very informative, and the boneyard was amazing. EMCOMM exercise/seminar was quite valuable.

Cherohala Challenge 2022:

- Tim Montgomery provided background information on the bike races, which are scheduled to occur June 4, 2022. TLARC typically provides communications support for this event. David Weikert KF4DKW said the Loudon County repeater trailer will be used along the Cherohala Skyway near the TN-NC stateline.

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- ANNOUNCEMENTS (Hamfests, Contests, Items for Sale, etc)

Items for Sale:

- Richard Meyer W8CNY will travel to Dayton, OH, in the coming weeks and will be shopping for equipment. Please advise if you have any equipment purchase or sale needs.
- DOOR PRIZES
 - Rob Deyo K4MBZ won the watt meter main door prize. Four laminated ARRL band plans were also given away.
- ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm EST (Motion: David Schoenherr KN4LMM; 2nd: Jim Jenkins AA1J)

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Ferguson N4CSF, TLARC Secretary.