

TELLICO LAKE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2021

President Mike Wagner KK6OKU called the meeting to order at 1910 EDT. There were 28 participants, including one new membership applicant (Bruce Moore KC4BTS) and five guests.

Vice President's Report – Presented by Mike Foley K4MJF

- ARRL Field Day is scheduled for 26-27 Jun 21. God's Cozy Acres (GCA), Loudon Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Lenoir City Park, and Melton Hill Park are under consideration as possible locations. Both GCA and EOC are the probable choices for now.
- Please note first contacts for new Ham licensees. ARRL acknowledges first-time amateur radio contacts with a frame-worthy certificate of recognition.
- Welcome to new members Robin Monserrat (KO4PNC), Bob Loving (K9JU), and Nick Hanson (KK4TID). Congratulations to you all! Reach out to them on the air.
- The TLARC Foxhunt is rescheduled for 24 Apr 21, 1000-1400, at Lenoir City Park Shed #4. The event is open to all, features at least two foxes, and will occur rain or shine. We're hoping for media coverage by the Tellico Village Connections publication.

Treasurer's Report – Presented by George Sifnotis WB9TFR

- The current TLARC checking account balance is \$1,603.63. The starting balance as of the 17 Mar 21 meeting was \$1,429.38. Monthly receipts totaled \$286.00 and expenses \$111.75.
- George Sifnotis WB9TFR will host an antenna raising party in the near future. More details will follow.

Secretary's Report – Presented by Chuck Ferguson N4CSF

- Draft minutes of the 17 Mar 21 Zoom meeting were distributed on 20 Apr 21. No revisions were received, and the minutes were submitted for TLARC approval.
- Sam Howard KV4XY moved to approve the minutes, and Randy Kruszka WK9M seconded. The motion carried.
- There currently are 51 paid-up members on the active TLARC roster, which reflects e-mail address updates for Mike McMillan KD9DCW and Tim Montgomery N4TLM. We've exceeded President Mike Wagner's KK6OKU 50-member goal!!!
- We are now tracking TLARC dues, donations, etc, using a receipt book containing both original and carbon copies (for distribution). The receipts reflect 2021 dues paid to-date.
- ARRL will release new RF exposure guidelines in May 2021. Amateur radio service operators will be required to evaluate their respective RF exposure for compliance by May 2023.

President's Report – Presented by Mike Wagner KK6OKU

- The Club Survey is no longer available online. We are now evaluating the responses. Elmer availability is a BIG priority for the club.
- George Heron N2APB has been appointed TLARC's new Event Coordinator and will be responsible for planning and reserving venues for future club events.

- Congratulations to Juan Lopez AC6ZM and Randy Kruszka WK9M on their 160m contest accomplishments last December! They were the TN statewide and Delta Division winners! Randy commented good antennas were critical to their success.
- Huntsville HamFest is scheduled for 21-22 Aug 21. Lodging is full at the Embassy Suites event venue. Attendees should look elsewhere (hotels, AirBnb, etc) to book accommodations before they disappear.
- Club Inventory – TLARC must report donations of cash and equipment for tax-exempt purposes. We are working to quantify our current receipts of both. Once verified, we will store the donated equipment inventory, possibly at GCA, for sign-out and turn-in.
- Alan (K1AT) and Joyce (K1JAT) Tarbell and Ralph (KM4TUY) and Robin (KO4PNC) Monserrat send 73's to the club and are sorry they can't attend tonite's meeting.

Repeater Committee Chair's Report – Presented by Dave Weikert KF4DKW

- There have been two maintenance visits per month since Jan 2021. A maintenance/repair book with photos has been established to record work efforts.
- Completed site clean-up. Performed cooling/ventilation improvements to maintain repeater integrity. Repaired the main power supply and DC backup power distribution/relays.
- 6 Feb 21: Enabled the repeater shutdown code in response to an unauthorized user occurrence. Also, extended the time-out timer setting from 90 seconds to 3 minutes.
- 22 Feb 21: Met with the Tellico Village Facilities Chairman to propose ventilation, door, and grounding improvements/upgrades for the site.

Net Committee Chair's Report – Presented by Randy Kruszka WK9M

- Nets are going well.
- Anyone desiring to be added to, removed from, or rescheduled on the Net Control list should contact Randy at WK9M@arrl.net.
- Mike Wagner KK6OKU commented there's nothing about operating Net Control to be nervous about. There will always be plenty of Elmer "backup" to assist.

PIO Committee Chair's Report – Presented by Mike McMillan KD9DCW

- Distributed vendor solicitation letters for support.
- Mike Wagner KK6OKU confirmed DX Engineering responded they could not help in 2021. That's OK...we'll just make sure we're on their 2022 list EARLY!

Website Committee Chair's Report – George Heron N2APB

- The TLARC website is an excellent source of information and enjoyment.
- Mike Wagner KK6OKU advocated the website as a huge asset for the club, Ham radio, information, etc.
- Introduce yourself to new Hams. George visited a next door Ham today.
- Get out into the field and operate mobile/portable when you can. George Sifnotis WB9TFR recently operated and recorded multiple contacts from the Cherohala Skyway using low power (QRP).

Sharing/Training Session

- David Andrews N1ESK presented an informational session on foxhunting.
- Foxhunting is not just a game but can also be helpful in locating spurious emissions and transmissions.
- Use a quality handheld transceiver (HT) that is properly shielded for best results.
- Directional antennas are essential to determining signal directionality. Pan left and right and rotate (polarity adjustment) to refine initial direction – both horizontal and vertical.
- Attenuators are critical to successfully tuning out noise and allowing refinement of the source signal.
- Don't forget the reverse lobe of directional antennas, such as the Yagi. Failing to account for this could put you 180 degrees off course!
- Use your eyes!!! Meters can tell you only so much. So remain observant of your surroundings. Don't presume the signal source is on the same plane as you.
- For contest scenarios, ask how difficult is the hunt.

Old Business

- We are considering possibly conducting some future nets using our club Zoom subscription. Let's use it since we have it!
- Don't hesitate to reach out to new and prospective Hams. A TLARC welcome package is available for forwarding.

New Business

- Nothing was discussed.

Adjournment

- President Mike Wagner KK6OKU adjourned the meeting at 2023 EDT.

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Ferguson N4CSF, TLARC Secretary.