

TELLICO LAKE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2021

President Mike Wagner KK6OKU called the meeting to order at 1924 EDT. There were 30 participants, including 1 new membership applicant (Kurt Nitzsche KC4EWI) and 3 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) has been selected as this year's site for TLARC operations. Be thinking about what we need for the event.
- Please note first contacts for new Ham licensees. The ARRL acknowledges first-time amateur radio contacts with a frame-worthy certificate of recognition.
- Welcome to new members Bruce Moore KC4BTS and Jim Bottenhorn W4GRH. Congratulations to you all! Reach out to them on the air.
- The Knoxville Hamfest is scheduled for Saturday 19 Jun 21 at Kerbela Temple in Knoxville. Both indoor tables and a boneyard will be available.
- The East Tennessee Hamfest is set for Sunday 25 Sep 21 at the Sevier County Fairgrounds. ARRL dealers and vendors and a large boneyard will be onsite. Also, don't forget the Chicken Bogg!!!

Treasurer's Report – Presented by George Sifnotis WB9TFR

- The current TLARC checking account balance is \$1,515.38. The starting balance as of the 17 Mar 21 meeting was \$1,583.88. Monthly receipts totaled \$131.50 (\$40 in dues and \$91.50 netted for T-shirts) and expenses \$200.00.
- Randy Kruszka WK9M moved to approve, and David Andrews N1ESK seconded. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report – Presented by Chuck Ferguson N4CSF

- Draft minutes of the 21 Apr 21 in-person meeting were distributed on 13 May 21. No revisions were received, and the minutes were submitted for TLARC approval.
- Brad Berger KM4OJK moved to approve the minutes, and Allan Tarbell K1AT seconded. The motion carried.
- There currently are 52 paid-up members on the active TLARC roster.
- We are now tracking TLARC dues, donations, etc, using a receipt book containing both original and carbon copies (for distribution). Please see the Secretary to obtain your receipt, if you haven't already received one.
- We are reconciling and updating TLARC's Groups.io directory for consistency with the current club roster. Any members not receiving messages via Groups.io should advise the Secretary to resolve.

President's Report – Presented by Mike Wagner KK6OKU

- Club Inventory – TLARC must report donations of cash and equipment for tax-exempt purposes. Report any donated items >\$500 in value.

- The Club is considering future awards and raffle give-aways for meeting attendees. More to follow on this initiative.
- David Andrews N1ESK and his committee (Ralph Monserrat KM4TUY, Robin Monserrat KO4PNC, and David Weikert KF4DKW) have been working to update By-Laws Section 1, "Membership". We are presenting their proposed updates tonite for discussion with the intent of voting to approve them at the June 2021 general meeting. The revised membership categories include: (1) Individual Members – pay regular dues, (2) Family Members – no additional dues required, (3) Individual Members Under 21 – no dues required, and (4) Lifetime Members – pay one payment of 25 times the current regular dues or nominated by current Club President and approved by 2/3 of members present. Joyce Tarbell K1JAT commented we historically have avoided any mention of dues, vice having to update the By-Laws. We've also omitted any reference to household dues for some reason. Mike Wagner KK6OKU stated the proposed updates do not mention specific dues amounts and are not intended to "get rich". Rather, our rationale is to help family members wanting to join the hobby and encourage broader participation. Richard Meyer W8CNY asked about potential impacts to our tax-exempt status. David Andrews N1ESK will review any potential 501(c) implications and clarify before the June vote.

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

- An unauthorized operator has been impersonating a licensed TX Ham on the TLARC repeater. The individual apparently is operating from Madisonville and sounds younger and scratchy. We have sent an on-air audio recording of him to the FCC. Joyce Tarbell K1JAT asked how we tracked him. David Weikert KF4DKW responded that a licensed non-member reported it to him, which began our monitoring efforts.
- An ARRL VEC Form 605-C requesting update of the WB4BSC Club Station trustee and Club mailing address has been completed for Mike Wagner's KK6OKU signature and submission to the ARRL. In turn, ARRL will process and submit the request to the FCC for approval and recording. David Weikert KF4DKW will be the new Club trustee.

Field Day Chair's Report – Presented by Jeff Buffington N4POD

- There will be a Zoom planning meeting later this week, and expect more to come.
- The Field Day rules packet is now available. We will be requesting input from folks wanting to help, contribute, observe, participate, setup/cleanup, etc. Please reach out on the air or via email with any questions or comments.
- The next formal planning meeting will be 10 days before Field Day.
- Mike Wagner KK6OKU commented we will be inviting ARRL and local dignitaries. Please don't view this as a contest. Instead, embrace it as valuable practice for real-world emergency communications events.

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

- Nets are going well, and we have plenty of volunteers.
- Anyone interested in being added to, removed from, or rescheduled on the Net Control list should contact Randy at WK9M@arrl.net.

- Sometime after June, we plan to mix up the Net Control and Logger roles to diversify volunteers' training experience.

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

- Nothing reported from Mike McMillan KD9DCW.
- Mike Wagner KK6OKU advised the May/June PIO effort will focus on contacting dignitaries and inviting them to TLARC's Field Day event.

Website Committee Chair's Report – George Heron N2APB

- Get out into the field and operate mobile/portable when you can. There are lots of cool field operations opportunities coming in the next few months.

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

- George Sifnotis WB9TFR is beginning work on the 2021/2022 budget. We're expecting to receive a grant(s) for repeater funding in the near future.
- Mike Wagner KK6OKU announced TLARC's April Fox Hunt was successful. He acknowledged the locally sponsored awards and door-prizes that were distributed.
- The Chota Wellness Center conference room is no longer available for meetings. We will keep this in mind as we consider potential venues for future meetings/gatherings.

Sharing/Training Session

- Sam Howard KV4XY and brother Rob Howard WW4WTF presented an informational session on Parks on the Air (POTA) operations.
- Go to www.parksontheair.com to sign up. Registration is easier than LoTW!!!
- The POTA locations are worldwide and locally they include National Parks, Federal/State Wildlife areas, the Appalachian Trail, etc. Operations span all modes and all bands, even 2m Simplex. No repeater communications are allowed.
- The Howards' portable setup included a Wolf River vertical, Spyder beam mast, end-fed dipole, LiFePO4 battery power, and 6W-100W transmitter.
- During the previous weekend, the Howards operated POTA locally and had a park-to-park contact with a British park. There are definitely contacts to be made!
- Know park rules before operating POTA. Set up inside park boundaries. Stations activating "linear" parks (e.g. roads and trails) must be within 100' of the park element.
- All in all, POTA offers ample opportunities to make exciting contacts, without having to climb those pesky mountain peaks in Summits on the Air!!!!

Adjournment

- President Mike Wagner KK6OKU adjourned the meeting at 2036 EDT.

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Ferguson N4CSF, TLARC Secretary.