**TELLICO LAKE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 17, 2021**

Pre-Meeting Fall 2021 Chili Cook-off and Dinner – All attendees enjoyed plentiful deliciousness before the General Meeting. There were eight chili entries, ranging from Flying Squirrel to Roadkill. In the end, the winning entry voted on by all participating consumers was submitted by Dianne Ferguson. Congratulations to our Fall 2021 Chili Queen!!

President Mike Wagner KK6OKU called the meeting to order at 1900 EST in Conference Room D of the Chota Recreation Center in Tellico Village. The meeting began with introductions from all member participants and guests. Total attendance was 30 persons – 25 members and 5 guests.

**Vice President’s Report** – Presented by Vice President Mike Foley K4MJF

* POTApalooza: A good time was had by all on the Foothills Parkway. There was a lot of fun with lots of contacts made.
* TLARC Holiday Party: The RSVP cutoff for the December 4, 2021, party is today, November 17, 2021. Please confirm your attendance no later than tonight. Grain Bin Commodities needs our final headcount in time to procure and provide the necessary items to accommodate us.
* Officer Nominations: Final nominations are tonight and will be followed by election of 2022 officers. Please consider running and make a difference.
* Central Club Mailbox: At last meeting, we introduced the idea of a single, official TLARC mailing address, regardless of who is in office. We confirmed Loudon has no available boxes. President Wagner will address this further in the President’s Report.
* Upcoming Ham Contests:
  + NAQCC CW Sprint, on November 18
  + ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, on November 20

**Treasurer’s Report** – Presented by President Mike Wagner KK6OKU for Treasurer George Sifnotis WB9TFR

* The current TLARC account balance is $3,340.13 – $2,590.13 in the General Fund and $750.00 in the Repeater Fund. The August 2021 beginning balance was $3,340.13. There were $0.00 in deposits and $0.00 in expenses during this reporting period.
* Ralph Monserrat KM4TUY moved to approve the report, and Ben Poff KN4VIF seconded. The motion carried.

**Secretary’s Report** – Presented by Secretary Chuck Ferguson N4CSF

* The draft October 20, 2021, minutes were distributed for review on Groups.io. Robin Monserrat KO4PNC voiced concern the minutes mentioned paying in advance for Holiday Party tickets. Club officers confirmed only advance RSVP is required. However, members may pay $20 per person in advance if they desire (check or cash) or at the door on December 4 (cash, check, or credit card). We will revise any references to advance payment in the minutes before finalizing them. Otherwise, there were no substantive comments or changes.
* Allan Tarbell K1AT moved to approve the minutes, and John Kiley KB4TV seconded. The motion carried.
* There currently are 67 paid-up members on the active TLARC roster, including four 2022 dues renewals. There are two new member application actions pending further discussion on pro-rating of dues.
* Administrative Items: Please sign the provided meeting attendance sheet, and see the Secretary if you haven’t yet received a receipt for your 2020 Club dues. Also, please advise if you aren’t receiving TLARC Groups.io e-mail traffic so we can invite you to the group.

**President’s Report** – Presented by President Mike Wagner KK6OKU

* Pro-rating of Membership Fees: Pro-rating of dues requires a By-Laws change. We will reserve this action for the incoming Admin Team. Please consider how we should pro-rate and be ready to provide your input when the issue is addressed. Two pending membership applications will be handed off to the 2022 Admin for processing.
* Club Donations: The Admin Team has been considering donation ideas, and we have sufficient 2021 funds available to donate since the Club is not paying for the Holiday Party. Mike Wagner KK6OKU proposed donations to East TN Children’s Hospital and Our Place. Ted Goodhue W1EG proposed we make a By-Laws change requiring that donations focus instead on Ham-related endeavors and advance the good of Amateur Radio. Allan Tarbell K1AT concurred, stating the Club’s donated support and expertise are our primary contributions to the community. Discussions followed about providing equipment to Club members supporting community events, donating Club support to community causes to raise Ham Radio awareness, installing a building/shelter adjacent to the Tellico Village water tower (see below item). David Andrews N1ESK referenced how November 2020 meeting discussions about increasing annual Club dues to $20 focused on making sure the added funds would be used for the furtherance of Amateur Radio, vice giving away the money to others. He also added we don’t need a By-Laws change to apply funds within the Club to benefit Amateur Radio. Based on this discussion, it was agreed to focus the available Club resources on items that would advance the greater good of Amateur Radio within the community.
* Exploration of an Adjunct Building/Shelter at the Tellico Village Water Tower: Mike Wagner KK6OKU appointed Ted Goodhue W1EG to chair a Special Committee to explore a proposed building at the water tower site that houses the TLARC repeater and how to partner with the Tellico Village Property Owners’ Association (POA) in planning and executing this endeavor. This could provide a more centrally located site for remote operations that eventually could replace the more distant God’s Cozy Acres site. The site is secure and could provide adequate space for such a building/shelter. The Special Committee should plan to report to the Club at the December General meeting, or later if more time is needed.
* TLARC Test Session: The test session is scheduled for December 8, 2021, 1800-2000 EST, at Chota Recreation Center, Conference Room D. Cost is $10 per person. Checks are payable to the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society (WCARS). Funds are needed to provide necessary supplies. If you don’t pass the exam, your payment will be refunded.
* Official Club Mailing Address: A USPS box costs about $60 for 6 months or around $120 per year. A P.O. box at UPS costs $120 for 6 months. No boxes are available in Loudon. Providing a single mailing address for the Club’s call sign and official business will ensure more efficient handling of contact information and processing of communiques and correspondence to/from amateur radio oversight organizations. Joyce Tarbell K1JAT recommended using the Secretary’s home address instead of paying for a common box. Mike Wagner KK6OKU advocated for a common address to ensure we don’t fail to receive/process incoming correspondence, QSL cards, etc. Tim Montgomery N4TLM indicated USPS may photograph incoming mail and e-mail the keyholder(s) of arrivals. Jeff Buffington N4POD advocated for a common box in case of the absence or incapacitation of the primary keyholder, and the keys can be transferred when Admin Team members change. David Andrews N1ESK moved that the Club approve a USPS mailbox in Lenoir City to serve as the central TLARC mailing address, with the total annual cost not to exceed $120. Ralph Monserrat KM4TUY seconded. Discussion followed that the annual mailbox cost is too high and we should continue using current officers’ home addresses. The Club voted to approve a central TLARC mailbox in Lenoir City with 16 yeas and 7 nays, and the motion carried. The decision to “test drive” the approved box for 6 months or rent it for a full year was reserved for the 2022 Admin Team.
* Nomination and Election of 2022 TLARC Officers: Mike Wagner KK6OKU thanked Ralph Monserrat KM4TUY and his team for their tireless efforts in identifying nominees. The nominees are: Richard Meyer W8CNY – President, Ben Poff KN4VIF – Vice President, George Sifnotis WB9TFR – Treasurer, and Chuck Ferguson N4CSF – Secretary. All nominees accepted their nominations. The vote was called for, and the 2022 officers were unanimously elected to their respective positions.
* The TLARC Holiday Party is set for Saturday, December 4, 2021, 1730 EST, at Grain Bin Commodities in Sweetwater. You may purchase your tickets in advance or at the door for $20 per person. Tips are not included in the ticket price, and they will accept credit cards at the venue.
* Net Control Chairperson: The Club still requires a volunteer to chair the Net Control Committee and execute the responsibilities of scheduling the Net Control Station and Logger roles for the weekly TLARC Net. Robin Monserrat KO4PNC volunteered for the position.
* December Monthly Meeting: The next TLARC monthly meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2021, at the Holiday Party. It will be very BRIEF.
* The Admin Team meets at 0900 at the Lenoir City Cracker Barrel each Monday before our monthly Club meetings. There is a standing invite to all TLARC members and guests to attend this meeting for fellowship and/or provide monthly meeting planning input.
* WinLink: Mike Wagner KK6OKU discussed his upcoming role as Monroe County ARES Emergency Coordinator. His extensive training for the position introduced him to the value of WinLink in emergency communications. This is an HF-friendly e-mail protocol for use under backup power that is also available via the internet, when local electrical service is available. It integrates all the forms needed for ARES operations. Consider it a valuable tool to add to your EmComm toolbox.

**Sharing/Training Session**

* No Sharing Session was presented.

**Repeater Committee Chair’s Report** – Presented by David Weikert KF4DKW

* The Tellico Village Public Works Department (PWD) has been working around the water tower recently. There has been a lot of worker traffic in/around the TLARC repeater rack associated with this. David Weikert KF4DKW plans to take a closer look to ensure the recent activity has not negatively impacted the repeater rack or functionality. He intends to work any Club concerns/questions with the PWD leadership.

**Nominating Committee Chair’s Report** – Presented by Ralph Monserrat K4MTUY

* Mike Wagner KK6OKU thanked Ralph Monserrat K4MTUY for the work he and his committee put into identifying nominees for the 2022 officer positions. Ralph acknowledged the amazing opportunity he has had to talk to members he hasn’t had the chance to meet before and considers it an honor to serve as the committee chair.

**Website Committee Chair’s Report** – Presented by Jeff Buffington N4POD

* Website is up to date. Still working some “back-end” issues on the server. Coordinating with a Madisonville company (printer??) on various items and needs a high-resolution version of the TLARC logo.

**Net Committee Chair’s Report** – Presented by Mike Wagner KK6OKU

* No Committee business was reported. Mike Wagner KK6OKU successfully obtained Robin Monserrat KO4PNC as the new Net chairperson (see above).

**PIO Committee Chair’s Report** – Presented by Mike McMillan KD9DCW

* No Committee business was reported.

**Old Business**

* Run LoCo Marathon/Half-Marathon, December 4, 2021, 0730-1400 EST: Tim Montgomery N4TLM is working with Loudon County on this. TLARC has sufficient volunteers to cover the EmComm support roles for the race. Would like to have more volunteers if possible. We have six checkpoints to cover this year. Tim will e-mail respective assignments to the TLARC volunteers. A marathon and a half-marathon will occur simultaneously. There have been 160 sign-ups thus far, and the county expects up to 300 participants. The marathon is a qualifier race for the Boston Marathon. The race starts at 0800 EST, and our role ends at 1400. So, the event should not conflict with the TLARC Holiday Party.

**New Business**

* Standing Committee for Events: Jeff Buffington N4POD proposed the committee to handle planning for all Club events (Winter Field Day, Field Day, etc). He suggested possibly using separate planning chairs/experts for each event with the Committee chair serving in an oversight role. He will continue to explore options for how the committee should be comprised.

**Adjournment**

* President Mike Wagner KK6OKU adjourned the meeting at 1955 EST.

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Ferguson N4CSF, TLARC Secretary.