

August 20th, 2025 TLARC meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1900 by Chuck Ferguson N4CSF, Vice president of the club. Our President, Juan, was out for a family emergency. The call to order followed by the pledge of allegiance.

There were 24 people in attendance and we picked up one new member, Gary Mount.

George and four tlm said he wants to continue workshops at his house. There are two projects in the works right now. One is an end fed longwire and the other is an on-air display on lexan or plexiglass which lights up with different LED colors. Some of the projects are in the works. Others have yet to be started. George said he will post the next date for the workshop so those who started the project will be able to finish and those who want to begin will be able to start a new project. The cost for the laser etching on the plexiglas is about \$10.

Richard, AE4RS, gifted everybody in attendance with small colorful decals that says 'when all else fails, ham radio works'.

Gary, K4RQT, mention the passing of a friend and fellow ham who passed away on July 16th. He leaves behind a lot of collectible items like boats, cars and about 1 and 1/2 rooms filled with ham radio gear. Quite a bit of it is vintage boat anchor radios including Collins s line. There are also several newer items like an icom 7300. Gary says the club will get first chance at it and there are many bargains to be had. He will announce to the club when the items will be listed.

Jeff, N2JF, also had a friend pass away, Bob, W1IZT. Those items will also be listed, with the first priority going to our club. There are many new and slightly used items including antennas, IC 7800, mobile radios, coax, etc. They will listed shortly.

Our main speaker was Dave, N1ESK. They began the presentation by referring to Wednesday nights repeater net. He asked people to try to directly input the direct frequency to see if they could hear each other without using the repeater. Many people seem to have difficulty trying to program their radio without using a computer. He then handed out several HTs for those who did not have one. Everyone attempted to program the direct frequency in just using the keypad. Most were successful. Some still had problems. The whole point of the demonstration was for members to ride around listening to the input of our repeater to try to locate where the noise, which has been plaguing us, is coming from. If we turn the squelch down and listen directly on 447.1, we should be able to pinpoint it with enough members monitoring. At this point he says it seems to be emanating from somewhere in the welcome center. The exact location is still uncertain.

Dave said there is a club event planned for sometime in September. He wants to do a scavenger hunt, with teams, where everybody is using a direct input frequency to locate a certain item or to find a certain location. There will be teams in both boats and cars. People on each team will relay to each other along the way, using simplex only. He is also going to set up a fox hunt as part of the exercise. We will be using the repeater input frequency of 447.1.

He also suggested that we purchase our own inexpensive radios that we can use for monitoring such as baofeng or Quansheng. They are expendable should something happen to them.

On the business side of the meeting, it was decided to withhold comments on last month's minutes until Richard returns.

Vice president Chuck Ferguson reminded everybody that there is a Tennessee qso party coming up on September 7th. An email will be sent out with a link for all the particulars. It was noted that ft8 or ft4 will probably not be used due to the fact that it can't report a county. N4TLM reminded everyone that it was a very good chance to earn WAS if you don't have it, since everybody has to call TN.

Chuck also asked that at least two people step up before the September meeting to serve on the nominating committee. At this point, the vice presidency position will be open and possibly the presidency if Juan decides not to continue in his role. The officer position is only one year and a chance for people to get to know the club better, should they want to serve on the committee or as an officer.

The Christmas party will be December 6th at Cook and Craft Academy in Loudon. We need a headcount by November 15th. The cost will be approximately \$32 to \$35 per person for the food and will give you a choice of two or three entrees. We are only allowed 40 to 45 people maximum because of the size of the venue.

Our treasurer Bill says we have \$20 to add to the coffers with a new member, Gary Mount. Our current treasury amount is \$4,326.70. \$2,500 of that goes into the repeater fund. \$1,826 remain in the general fund.

There are several upcoming Ham Fests. One is the East Tennessee Morristown hamfest on September 13th. There will be one in Chattanooga on October 3rd and 4th. And one in Erwin, Tennessee on August 23rd.

There is also one at the end of August, the 30th and 31st, in Shelby, North Carolina which is quite large.

There was also another reminder that the Tennessee QSO party will be September 7th. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2026. It was seconded by John KB4TV.