

TCHC MEETING MINUTES-March 7, 2017

Club president Frank Adams, KK5CF, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. There were 17 present at the meeting. The membership is 25 as of this date.

Ruth Ragsdale, WM5LA, gave an updated treasurer report .

Jim Ragsdale, W5LA, reported the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 has been reintroduced in the House, passed and now sent once again to the Senate. This would provide relief for some HOA restrictions.

Comments are due by March 20 on the ARRL January 12 Petition for Rule Making to allocate a new, secondary amateur band at 5 MHz, while keeping four of the current five 60-meter channels - one would be within the new band - as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP effective radiated power (ERP) limit.

ARRL is seeking opinions concerning a possible new entry level license. The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give newcomers a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The committee has created an online member survey. ARRL is asking that individuals complete and submit the survey no later than April 7, 2017. Survey results will be published.

Mark Ketchel, K5ER, reminded everyone that the Louisiana QSO Party (LAQP) is coming up March 18. Jim Ragsdale, W5LA, will be operating CW and Bobby Baker, WM5H, will be operating SSB and RTTY as N5LCC. Scott Ren with ARRL/ARES will be at the Hamfest for a forum.

ARES Regional Director Duffy Frantom, KD5IGZ, reported that we will once again be supporting "Run for the Cross" on April 8, at 7:00 AM.

There was much discussion regarding the Hamfest. The date is April 29 and the location will be the West Monroe Convention Center. Set up will be on Friday, April 28 from 2PM until 5PM (possibly later). Talk-in will be done by several individuals and a schedule will be set up. Duffy Frantom, KD5IZ, reported the there will be a portable tower set up at the side of the Convention Center.

Jim Ragsdale, W5LA, gave a presentation on the Palmyra DXpedition.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM by President Frank Adams, KK5CF.