

## FOUR SEASONS BEAUMONT

### AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

#### MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2022

Members Present: Pete Hersey KJ6NRR, Fred Plenge K6FXP, Bill Taylor KM6CIU, John Enzler KN6FMM, Henry Ciesielski KN6CQL, Harry Henderson AC2LZ, Mike Mendoza KK6BUW, Ted Mohr KG6HZ, Laurie Larson KM6CIT, Fred Weck KK6HBQ

New Business: Election of club officers was held with the following results: Club President: Pete Hersey, Club Vice President, Fred Plenge; Club Secretary/Treasurer, Fred Weck.

Henry informed the members that, if elected, he would be willing to serve as Vice President at the next election cycle for next year.

Pete opened the meeting with an update on the ground plane antenna he built as a test of cost and feasibility prior to having several of the members follow his lead and build theirs. Pete's preference was for an aluminum ground plane but settled for a more economical galvanized sheet. He discussed the connector he used and the antenna wire (#4 solid copper, 19 1/4 inches long plus additional 3/4 inch inside the connector). Pete mentioned that if he made another antenna, it would probably be about 21 or 22 inches long. Pete stated that the total cost was approx. \$21.00 Harry mentioned that a person could carefully 'curl back' the top of the antenna until optimum antenna performance was achieved. Pete also discussed how a 'trap' (capacitor and inductor) could be installed on an antenna thereby allowing one antenna to be used on VHF as well as UHF. Pete emphasized that resonance is the key to optimum antenna performance.

Harry mentioned that he had a magnetic antenna with a built-in coil, suitable for mobile operation which allows use for both UHF and VHF operation. His antenna is about 3' tall.

Pete gave the members an overview of antenna history, practice and the fundamentals of antenna operation. As it relates to ground plane antennas, Pete mentioned that club member Rob Gardner and former club member Dick Van Bree made a ground plane antenna for their Four Seasons residences and they worked just fine and did not pose an unsightly scene on their homes.

Mike Mendoza talked about his experiences with the CHIRP program with some old Bao Feng hand held radios. Mike informed the club that the free CHIRP program allows you to program your radio from your laptop or desktop computer. However, Mike stressed to the members the importance of using the correct cable in order to determine what communications port that you are using.

When asked, Pete responded that ham radios are not allowed to broadcast on FRS or GMRS frequencies.

Pete mentioned that he may go to a backyard vertical antenna of about 16 feet in height. Various members mentioned their interest and several questions were asked and answered concerning backyard antennas, including inverted-V antennas. Harry mentioned that Eric Zarr, First Service Residential Gen. Manager, had given Harry information about collapsible antennas. Harry discussed his experiences on his own backyard inverted-V antenna. Pete said an inverted-V could be purchased for under \$100.00 and a more elaborate one could be purchased for about \$150.00

Mike mentioned that he would like all members acting as net control operators to download Fred Plenge's net control message in print form. This would allow handy use of the net control script and would contain the most current list of club members, as membership changes periodically. Mike said that net control should acknowledge every 'check-in' response that is received so they know that they have been heard.

With business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 am and the next meeting will be held on Feb. 25, 2022. Minutes submitted by Fred Weck, Radio Club Secretary.