

FOUR SEASONS BEAUMONT

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2022

Members Present: Pete Hersey KJ6NRR, Fred Plenge K6FXP, Bill Taylor KM6CIU, John Enzler KN6FMM, , Harry Henderson AC2LZ, Laurie Larson KM6CIT, Al Blair AE6AL, Jim Peterson K6JWP, Fred Weck KK6HBQ

Club President Pete Hersey opened the meeting with a question to all members as to what each of us were trying or working on. John brought up the subject of his Baofeng radio that allows a person to hear FRS, but does not allow speaking on it and it is a dual band 2 meter plus 440mhz. Pete mentioned the recent problem with Baofeng radios not complying with FCC rules and their older radios were not in compliance. However, Pete did mention that the older non-complying radios apparently are not being confiscated. Fred Plenge mentioned that he has several such Baofeng radios.

There was general discussion concerning the problems that club members were having programming their HT radios and several options were discussed that might make things easier. At the January 28, 2022 Radio Club meeting, club member Mike Mendoza discussed his experiences with CHIRP program concerning programming older Baofeng radios. Club members are encouraged to refer to the minutes of the January 28 meeting for more information or to contact Mike Mendoza directly.

When asked, Fred Plenge stated that our Radio Club website login code is: Hamradio, at www.w6fsb.org

Pete mentioned that with the changes in the solar cycle, (and there was uncertainty as to whether it was 23 or 24), that ham radio may be coming back due to the changes.

Pete mentioned an interesting update on the efforts to hopefully find what exactly happened to the Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 that vanished in March 2014 on a flight from Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia to Beijing, China. According to Pete, a former United Kingdom FAA physicist says he knows where it is. He is also a ham radio operator. Given the securing of needed funding, this could generate yet another search for the plane.

Pete mentioned the possibility of presenting classes on selected topics to the club members in the future.

Pete then gave the club members an informative discussion on the comparison and contrasts of tubes and transistors. Tubes are voltage devices that operate by controlling electron flow between two or more electrodes in a vacuum. Transistors, by contrast, are current devices and uses an electric field to control electron flow through a conducting channel. Pete's discussion involved significant more detail than the club secretary could adequately capture and record here.

Harry mentioned that he was making a transistor radio "from scratch" and was refining it before closing up the case. Harry went to say that there is a very specialized transmitter and he used a perforated board to mount the components and that he wired the parts together. The radio is of his own design and should be finished later this year.

Again, on the subject of possible classes to enhance radio club member skills, Pete said that he can do a class on antennas and soldering with soldering first. He said he could do it at the March 2022 meeting and a few specialized support items might be needed from club members like soldering guns, protective mats to do the soldering on, etc. Fred Plenge said he had a protective mat that could be used to protect table tops. When asked, all the club members expressed interest in participating in this class.

There being no further business before the club, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am. The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2022.

Minutes submitted by Fred Weck, Radio Club Secretary