

FOUR SEASONS BEAUMONT

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 29, 2022

Members Present: Pete Hersey KJ6NRR, Fred Plenge K6FXP, Bill Taylor KM6CIU, Harry Henderson AC2LZ, Al Blair AE6AL, Jim Peterson K6JWP, Rudy Garcia, Henry Ciesielski KN6CQL, Ted Mohr KG6HZ, Fred Weck KK6HBQ

Club President Pete Hersey opened the meeting by reminding everyone that to get on our club's website, to use Ham radio as the password and use W6FSB as member info.

Pete went on to mention that the FCC has decided that there is no more free ham radio license processing. The FCC is now asking for \$35.00 so that now the total is going to be \$50.00 (\$15.00 for ARRL and \$35.00 for the FCC.)

Pete also mentioned that Field Day will be the last full weekend in June. SPARC will participate in Dysart Park. You can take the 22nd Street exit and then go north from the I-10 freeway.

It was also mentioned that radio club member Laurie Zeldon (formerly Larson) is at home on hospice care. Her husband says that she can entertain visitors with advance, approved notice by contacting her husband first.

Pete also explained about vanity call signs for ham radio operators.

Ted Mohr brought up the subject of two apps, Call Search and Repeater app.

Peter mentioned that Best Buy sells a GE phone that stops 'robo calls'. The subject of various hearing aids was also discussed .

Henry Ciesielski was the featured speaker at our meeting and he brought along his 'dim bulb tester'. He mentioned that such a device has been around since the 1930's and 1940's in Poland. Henry said that he started to repair old radios recently getting parts from eBay and he used his dim bulb tester to carefully evaluate older radio components without exposing them to damaging electricity. He said that we should remember that when evaluating older radio components and tubes to not be so quick to "plug it in" as the older components could be damaged. He went on to say that the dim bulb tester could be used like a fuse and evaluate if there is a short in the equipment, the current limiter is used to see if the equipment works while reducing the possibility of damaging the equipment. Pete asked if Henry could draw up a wiring diagram so that the radio club members could replicate the device that Henry made. Henry said that he would. Henry passed out some very useful diagrams, one was labeled "Dim Bulb Tester (Current Limiter) Analysis which was quite impressive.

Members are reminded to bring to our next meeting supporting equipment to accomplish our ongoing soldering activities.

The meeting ended at 11:30 am and the next meeting of the Radio Club will be on May 27, at 10:00 am. These minutes were recorded and respectfully submitted by Fred Weck, Radio Club secretary