

# Net Minutes

## date

2023-05-16

## opened

20:00

## closed

20:34

## Check-ins (27)

- Matthew Barry (KG5LYE)
- Avery McIntosh (N7ALM)
- Jeff McDowell (KI5CES)
- Bill Rose (K5WTR)
- Paul Bilke (KF5WGJ)
- Tom Johnson (KI5ZPG)
- Joe Napoli (KG5SDF)
- Brad Snyder (KG5SDE)
- Garrett Martin (W5HVS)
- Brian Gaskamp (KA5BKG)
- David Bailey (K5DKB)
- Don Ling (WB5CKO)
- Rich Rychetsky (KI5QNR)
- Jonathan Edwards (KI5YZR)
- Lorna Flansburg (KI5FIZ)
- Mike Wisby (KA5HIA)
- Kevin Walton (K5BTX)
- Jason Shutt (KI5LGO)
- Robert Carter (NC5R)
- Ralph Cobb (W5RYC)
- Dick Zimmer (W5DZ)
- Bennie Naiser (KA5TWB)
- John Walpole (K5ZY)
- Phil Gates (N5ZKF)
- Becky Darien (K5BEC)
- Curtis Pool (KD5HEY)
- David Barry (KG5UZA)

## Opening Remarks

- It's been rainy lately, but looks like we had a chance for things to drain today

## Officer Reports

### President

*David Bailey (K5DKB)*

- Reminder: Club meeting this Saturday, 2023-05-20 09:30
  - American Legion Post 159
  - Lots to talk about: Field Day
  - After-meeting presentation by David Wisby: Parks on the Air
  - VE Testing Session: 11:00
- Got plenty of rain here at my house: 5 in since Saturday morning!

### Vice-President

*Paul Bilke (KF5WGJ)*

- Can always use Volunteer Examiners for our test session
- Other activities will be in the building after, so need to be good stewards in case we stay a bit later than usual
- Will be happy to accept door prize donations and stash those for Field Day
- N5ZKF: Thanks for last week's reminder about the Armed Forces Crossband Test over the weekend!
- Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the meeting

- KI5FIZ: Prizes are...
  - \$500 Burdett & Son Outdoor Adventure Gift Certificate
  - \$400 Visa gift card
  - Wouxun KG-UV980P Quad Radio
  - Yaesu FT-60R
  - \$100 Casa do Brazil gift card
  - 100th Anniversary Special Edition handbook

## Secretary

*Matthew Barry (KG5LYE)*

- Sorry I've been absent for the past week or so:
  - wrapping up semester with final exams and papers
  - my brother graduated, youngest in the family and last one to finish undergraduate (did so with honors)
  - had family visiting from out of town and out of state
- Minutes from last week's net and this week will be sent out after the net.
- Look forward to seeing y'all at the meeting this weekend!

## Treasurer

*Lorna Flansburg (KI5FIZ)*

- 59 members
- Bank balance: \$6,722.59
- Looking forward to license exam after meeting this weekend and would be delighted for anyone who can participate

## Announcements / Comments

Question #127 for conversation: *Do you have your amateur radio station grounded?*

*(If interested in submitting a weekly question, email [n5zkf@arrl.net](mailto:n5zkf@arrl.net))*

### Kevin Walton (K5BTX)

- I am petitioning that Charlie Culver (KD5DLW) be made an honorary member of our club
  - I have 27 signatures (votes) and need 40 total; constituting 2/3 of the membership approval per constitution and by-laws
  - If unable to attend this weekend, let me know and I can bring the petition to you

### Phil Gates (N5ZKF)

- station grounding seems to be a controversial issue
- I've tried to adhere to code recommendations:
  - Rod just outside the shack
  - lightning arrestors
  - Large gauge bonding cable and copper straps

### Matthew Barry (KG5LYE)

- do it for safety: doesn't take much stray electricity to kill you, and it can damage equipment
- source of electrons to potentially boost transmission
  - driven element(s) is one half of your antenna... the ground is the other half
- Make sure to ground to a single point:
  - avoid ground feedback loop (can cause noise in your signal)
  - avoid difference in voltage at different ground points

### John Walpole (K5ZY)

- "I'll stick out my hand and get slapped"
- Tower is grounded at the base
- everything else in the shack is free
- Only radio that I've lost to lightning strike was before I had a tower

### David Barry (KG5UZA)

- When you have that 8 ft rod in the ground, how do you tap it?

- N5ZKF:
  - stamped copper plate that can be wrapped (sandwiched) around the rod
  - can also be welded
  - solder probably won't work; any high voltage would melt it
  - DX Engineering has some nice (but pricey) stuff:
    - <https://www.dxengineering.com/search?SortBy=BestKeywordMatch&SortOrder=Ascending&keyword=grounding>