

2026-01-27 Net Minutes

opened

20:00

closed

20:34

Check-ins (36)

- Matthew Barry (KG5LYE)
- Jeff McDowell (KI5CES)
- Ron Hambric (N5SBN)
- Ken Wilson (KE5DFR)
- Bill Rose (K5WTR)
- Avery McIntosh (N7ALM)
- Brian Gaskamp (N5WCT)
- Brandon Bartlett (KG5LYN)
- Matt Robinson (W5XMR)
- Patrick Zapalac (KJ5ATR)
- Larry Shiver (KJ5KFU)
- Travis Scott (KI5TMS)
- Brad Snyder (W5BLS)
- Nathan Wood (KN4TTV)
- Matthew Cadman (KJ5IIF)
- Don Ling (WB5CKO)
- Gabriel Rodriguez (AI5TN)
- Kevin Walton (N4RMF)
- Joe Napoli (KG5SDF)
- Dick Zimmer (W5DZ)
- Lorna Flansburg (KI5FIZ)
- Troyce Wilson (KC5CBI)
- Bill Preston (KZ3G)
- Mike Wisby (KA5HIA)
- Ron Estes (KJ5EF0)
- David Bailey (K5DKB)
- Roseanne Cunningham (KC5FGG)
- Josh McMillin (KJ5DAO)
- Harold Turbyfill (KG5SDG)
- Michael Bobinski (N5NYL)

- Mike Mertes (KZ5M)
- Russ McDonald (KL2PB)
- Phil Gates (N5ZKF)
- Tom Johnson (KI5ZPG)
- John Graesser (KC5DWD)
- Emery Hyden (K5OW0)

Opening Remarks

- Echolink challenges tonight (*operational by end of net*)
 - Internet doesn't seem to be connecting to our local node
 - 9999 echo test node works
- Broadcastify does seem to be working, though

Officer Reports

President

David Bailey (K5DKB)

- Thanks to everyone who made it out to Winter Field Day
- Winter decided to show up and kept our numbers lower than they would have normally
- I had a great time and enjoyed seeing everyone there!
- Thanks especially to those who volunteered to make it happen!

Vice-President

Tom Johnson (KI5ZPG)

- Winter Field Day is in the books!
- Hopefully you made it through unscathed
- No worries if you couldn't make it; the ice was brutal this weekend
- I'll have a full report next meeting

Secretary

Matthew Barry (KG5LYE)

- Minutes will be sent out after the net.
- I feel really bad I wasn't able to make it out to Winter Field Day
 - Combo of server migration from last week and the ice kept me away

- Sounds like y'all had a great time, though!

Treasurer

Lorna Flansburg (KI5FIZ)

- Bank balance: \$13,092.44
- 62 members so far for 2026
- Next [license exam](#) 2026-02-21
 - Already received email from someone interested
 - Will need volunteer examiners for that
- This Thursday, 2026-01-29, is the 5th Thursday, which means it's **Kolache Thursday** sponsored by our club!
 - Join us for [Veteran's Coffee](#) at American Legion Post 159
 - Look forward to seeing you there!

Announcements / Comments

Question #260 for conversation: (KE5DFR) *Do you use a stealth antennas?*

(If interested in submitting a weekly question, email n5zkf@arrl.net)

Ron Hambric (N5SBN)

- [CEOC visit](#) on Friday, 2026-01-30 09:00
- Meet on sidewalk
- If you're late, call on W5BCS repeater and we'll let you in
- Lots of good radio equipment and operating/learning opportunities if you want some practice

Matthew Cadman (KJ5IIF)

- Announcements from W5AC
 - Josh McMillin (KJ5DA0) and I were able to stop by Winter Field Day on Saturday
 - Weren't able to stay the whole time, but it was great to see everyone
 - I look forward to Summer when the weather is hopefully more cooperative
 - W5AC launching 2 more semester-long projects (info on Discord server if you wish to contribute ideas, etc.)
 1. Building a set of 80 m and 160 m antennas for go-kit
 2. High-performance audio module: speaker, headphone amplifier, filters
- Stealth Antenna:
 - Fan dipole
 - difficult to tune, but "works equally bad everywhere"

- Talking on what could be technically be a 2 m stealth antenna
 - -30 dB isolation (with TV?)

Brian Gaskamp (N5WCT)

- Brenham Winter Field Day was cancelled because the city turned off the water on Friday
- A few of us went solo
- I put in 15 hours
 - ended up with 350 contacts
 - worked 44 of 50 states
 - got 52 of 61 ARRL sections
 - total of 23K points
- Bands were in good shape
 - 10 m, 15 m, 20 m, 40 m

Mike Wisby (KA5HIA)

- Shout-out to Kevin Walton (N4RMF) in North Carolina
 - I talked with him on 20 m (and 10 m) during Winter Field Day
 - He's doing well and wishes us the best
 - Really misses being here with everyone, and especially being at Winter Field Day
- Complements to everyone who assisted with antenna setup
 - Safe and efficient!
 - Had to leave things up over Sunday
 - Yesterday afternoon, a crew showed up at the legion and took everything down
- RACES has been activated
 - At RELLIS manning equipment during the day
 - Tracking a lot of things in this area and region 8
 - Today was "Generator Day" - dispatching very large truck-mounted 35-40 KW generators
 - Thanks to RACES members who have assisted!
 - Several got to tour the facility and see it in action
 - I'll be out there again around 09:00

Ken Wilson (KE5DFR)

- End-fed wire along wood fence
 - Able to get to CO and FL
- Tried "HOA Buster" - using gutters for antenna
 - Couldn't hear anything on it due to interference
- Have a wire up from my roof to back fence now
 - not really stealth, but HOA allows it

Buy / Sell

Michael Bobinski (N5NYL)

- I still have 10 element 2 m beam antenna for sale
 - \$20 or best offer to get it out of my apartment
- Was hoping to give away a few metal detectors at Winter Field Day
 - let me know if interested
- [Good on QRZ](#)

Closing Remarks

- Visit us online at w5bcs.radio.