

2026-02-24 Net Minutes

opened

20:00

closed

20:42

Check-ins (30)

- Matthew Barry (KG5LYE)
- Larry Shiver (KJ5KFU)
- Joe Napoli (KG5SDF)
- Avery McIntosh (N7ALM)
- Mark Zimmerman (N5NBD)
- Patrick Zapalac (KJ5ATR)
- Brian Gaskamp (N5WCT)
- Brad Snyder (W5BLS)
- Gabriel Rodriguez (AI5TN)
- Bill Rose (K5WTR)
- Don Ling (WB5CK0)
- Brandon Roberrson (KJ5JWV)
- Kevin Walton (N4RMF)
- Bill Preston (KZ3G)
- Lorna Flansburg (KI5FIZ)
- Troyce Wilson (KC5CBI)
- Mike Wisby (KA5HIA)
- Mike Mertes (KZ5M)
- David Bailey (K5DKB)
- Ron Estes (KJ5EF0)
- Steven Payne (AA5BX)
- Harold Turbyfill (KG5SDG)
- Michael Bobinski (N5NYL)
- Russ McDonald (KL2PB)
- Nathan Wood (KN4TTV)
- Phil Gates (N5ZKF)
- Tom Johnson (KI5ZPG)
- Matthew Cadman (KJ5IIF)
- Elizabeth Shutt (KJ5IDP)
- Dick Zimmer (W5DZ)

Opening Remarks

- It's rather windy this evening

Officer Reports

President

David Bailey (K5DKB)

- Thanks to all who joined for our February meeting!
- Had a good time and a good license exam session
- Scoped out El Camino Real picnic area near Cook's Point
 - Likely location for our Spring Radio in the Park / Parks on the Air activation
 - Looks like it'll be a good, comfortable place!
 - Plenty of shade from trees

Vice-President

Tom Johnson (KI5ZPG)

- Long meeting on Saturday (longest I can remember)
- Lots of important business that was handled very well!

Secretary

Matthew Barry (KG5LYE)

- Minutes will be sent out after the net.
- Sending out with [HamClubOnline](#) seemed to work well for the meeting minutes this weekend
 - Let me know if you get them from only one source

Treasurer

Lorna Flansburg (KI5FIZ)

- Bank balance: \$12,778.10
- 65 members
- Next ham license exam will be 2026-03-21 11:00 (after club meeting)
 - American Legion Post 159
 - If you're taking the Technician exam, be sure to have your FCC Registration Number (FRN) handy!

Announcements / Comments

Question #264 for conversation: *Do you operate low power radio (QRP)?*

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

Matthew Cadman (KJ5IIF)

- W5AC Announcements:
 1. Meeting tomorrow
 - 2026-02-25 19:00
 - Zachry building (ZACH) room 200
 - License testing starting 18:00
 2. Aggieland Saturday this weekend (2026-02-28) starting mid-morning to about 15:00
 - Large prospective student day
 - W5AC will be trying to get them on the air ([repeater](#))
 - Feel free to monitor and reach out
 3. W5AC speaker project question later
- I'm using a radio set to 3.5 W, and most of my operations are under 5 W
 - QRP is a challenge, but very rewarding
 - Also fun to bring hiking up a mountain
- Almost all of my operations are QRP unless I use the club radio or use my 100 W home rig

Brian Gaskamp (N5WCT)

- Annual Technician license course last weekend
- Many people had already studied prior to being there
- A lot of Blinn students (from Brenham campus)
 - One of faculty is a member
- 26 people in the class, all of whom passed!
 - Ages ranged from 10 yrs old to 72 yrs old
 - Expect to hear them on the air soon
- 37 hams in 2 years, and more on the waiting list!

Bill Rose (K5WTR)

- Solar weather report
 - Early this morning marked first time in 4 years (since 2022) with no sunspots!
 - Ionosphere will be thinning out over the next few days.
- QRP operations:
 - I have several radios

- Multiband, multimode, crystal sets
- Love operating it, but haven't done it in a long time
- Made some unbelievable contacts:
 - Christmas Island on 5 W
 - Kentucky on 0.25 W on 80 m
- QRP CW setup is very simple to build and very effective if you're willing to learn!

Information Exchange

Matthew Cadman (KJ5IIF)

- Working on a speaker audio module project for W5AC
- Current plan:
 - 3 headphone outputs with individual volume controls
 - Internal speaker with its own volume control
 - For use in "go-kit" where multiple operators are needed
- Question:
 - Wanted to put all of the knobs and headphone jacks on the front panel, but that made it very big
 - Thinking of moving the headphone jacks to the back. Any ideas for how to lay out this design?
- KG5LYE
 - Mixer layout on one face with speaker on the reverse face
 - stand on-end or use feet to stand off desk
 - Use only 2 knobs in a flexible digital setup:
 - channel-selector knob with digital scrolling knob
 - use digital potentiometers for channel volume control
 - could also add LCD display and use knob(s) for menu navigation

Closing Remarks

- Visit us online at w5bcs.radio.