Minutes of the February 4 meeting

The President called the meeting to order at 6:30. The minutes were then approved.

The Treasurer reported that the balance is after a deposit of $ 73.14.

Programs:
On March 3rd the Club along with Woodford Co. Emergency Management will sponser the annual Skywarn Program with the Nation Weather Service presentation. It will be held in the community Room in the basement of the Woodford Co. Courthouse. Registration is at 6:30 and the presentation begins at 7:00. Drew Chandler has volunteered to contact the National Whether Service and will place and article in the Woodford Sun.

Emergency:
Jerry brought 12 ARES manuals to the meeting and Stu suggested that the Club pay for them. The motion was past the cost of the manual were $117.40.

Website:
Jerry would like to put up the newsletter on the website. The newsletter had not been updated because of an internet problem.

Repeater:
Steve said that he is getting complaints that the 440 repeater has a lot of noise. He would like to take it down for possible repairs but is not sure when he could do it. Paul III said that he has heard the noise and that it may not be the repeater.

The phone patch maybe up on the 2m repeater. There was some discussion on whether to put a tone on it if problems persist.

Fund Raiser:
The Club discussed the possibility of having one prize for this year's raffle. There was a concern that the Club would lose its relationships with the sponsors of past raffles.

Net Report:

1/15/04 Called by: Paul III KB4ENQ	1/22/04 Called by: Paul III KB4ENQ
Todd KE4YAH	Deborah KE4GNX
Alan KE4OOI	Greg KD4UBN
Greg KD4UBN	Stu KG4TNA
Jerry KC4WZO	
Deborah KE4GNX	
Paul KG4YXS	
John KS4WW	
Dale KE4OOS	
Rick KG4LXR	

Members Present:

Steve McFadden	Paul Harrington III	Todd Rose	Mike Brannock
Stu Butler	Debbie Harrington	Jim Hughes	Paul Harrington IV

Visitors: Drew Chandler

Discussion:
Paul III said that the 993 tuner would be the best to use in the EM trailer. It has a frequency counter and 2000 memory spots. The cost is $259. The club will wait on purchase the tuner until Keith Slugantz has agreed to reimburse the Club.

Jerry would like the club to have vest for easy identification during public events that the Club has attended such as the Christmas parade.

Jerry wanted to know if anyone was interested in becoming a volunteer examiner. He suggested that the Club could hold its own test session or help with other tests.

For the Area net:
The Area Net material may be used for club newsletters and other publication with out permission. Please be sure to the latest version of the list. For information please contact Martin Hensley kf4ebc@kf4ebc.net

From the ARRL News Letter:

* President Bush thanks ham radio volunteer: Shortly after stepping off Air Force One February 5 during a visit to South Carolina, President George W. Bush took a few moments to express his appreciation to ARRL member and Charleston County ARES Emergency Coordinator Charlie Hall, K4AOT. “For all Charlie has done for ham radio and the community, he certainly deserves to be put in the spotlight,” said his friend Alex Krist, KR1ST. A member of the Charleston Amateur Radio Society and a retired US Army sergeant, Hall, 64, volunteers with a newly formed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) <http://www.citizencorps.gov/programs/cert.shtm>, a Citizen Corps <http://www.citizencorps.gov/> program. The president shook Hall’s hand and thanked him for his efforts on behalf of the community. ARRL is a Citizen Corps affiliate, and in a growing number of localities, Amateur Radio emergency response activities are being incorporated into CERTs. Hall, who also volunteers with the American Red Cross and a SKYWARN team, was tapped as Charleston County’s “official greeter” for the presidential visit mainly because of his Citizen Corp/CERT activity.—some information from Alex Krist, KR1ST, and Jim Boehner, N2ZZ

* AMSAT announces ECHO launch delay: AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, has announced that due to a delay in the delivery of the primary payload to the launch site in Kazakhstan, the launch of the ECHO satellite has been delayed by some three months. "The 'official' launch date is now June 29, 2004," Haighton said. "I assume that this new date is the start of the new launch window, which may last several weeks."--AMSAT-NA

* Six hams set to ride shuttle "Return to Flight" mission: Six Amateur Radio licensees will be aboard when the shuttle Atlantis returns to space--something NASA now says might not happen until 2005. The mission, STS-114--which NASA is calling the "Return to Flight" mission--will be the first since Columbia broke apart February 1, 2003, during reentry following a 16-day science mission. The mishap claimed the lives of seven astronauts--three of them Amateur Radio licensees. NASA has announced the STS-114 crew members as Mission Commander Eileen Collins, KD5EDS; Pilot James Kelly, KC5ZSW; Mission Specialist Charles Camarda, KC5ZSY; Mission Specialist Wendy Lawrence, KC5KII; Mission Specialist Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP; Mission Specialist Stephen Robinson, and Mission Specialist Andy Thomas,

KD5CHF/VK5MIR. A veteran of three space flights, Collins has logged more than 530 hours in space. During the Return to Flight mission, the crew will test and evaluate new procedures for flight safety and shuttle inspection and repair techniques.--NASA

==>ASTRONAUT CHATS WITH HIS SON, TEXAS YOUNGSTERS VIA HAM RADIO

Ian Foale, the son of International Space Station Expedition 8 Commander Mike Foale, KB5UAC, was among several other youngsters attending his school who got to ask questions of his dad February 4 via Amateur Radio. The contact with James F. Bay Elementary School in Houston, Texas, was arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. The third-grader first lobbed a softball question at his dad—"How far is the space station from Earth in miles and kilometers?"—but followed up with a more challenging query about whether the ISS crew could detect changes in land forms on Earth.

"Yes, we can detect changes," his father responded. "They happen slowly over many months, but we can see the snow building up on mountains, and we can see the glaciers developing in the Patagonia area." The elder Foale also said the crew is able to see erosion of earth and mud down rivers into the sea. What the crew cannot see, Foale said in reply to another question, are the great pyramids or the Great Wall of China. While these should be visible, Foale said, they blend in too much with their surroundings.

Foale conceded that living aboard the ISS with only one crewmate can be a lonely experience for both of them. "My hardest adjustment to life here is being away from lots of nice people," Foale said. "I have one crewmate, Sasha, and we are good friends, but we miss other people."

The young sters let loose with a hearty round of applause as the approximately 10-minute-long contact ended.

Visiting the school for the event and taking part in pre-contact activities were Foale's wife, Rhonda, and his 12-year-old daughter, Jenna, who attended James Bay Elementary in her younger years. Rhonda Foale presented a "video post card" from her husband that offered the elementary schoolers additional insights into daily life aboard the ISS.

Daughter Jenna, meanwhile, told the youngsters about her Aibo <http://www.us.aibo.com/> robotic dog, for which Foale writes programs while aboard the ISS. Astronauts Scott Kelly and Julie Payette also attended the event and answered questions from the pupils about space travel.

ARISS <http://www.rac.ca/ariss> is an international educational outreach project with participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

==>AO-40 COMMAND TEAM PLAYS WAITING GAME

Ground controllers for the now-dark AO-40 satellite are waiting for something to break aboard the spacecraft. Specifically, they want one of the cells of the main battery bank to open up and "unshort" the power bus. That open circuit then could mean the command team would be able use the auxiliary batteries--now tied in parallel with the main battery bank—to restart the satellite. The command team hypothesizes that a failure within the main battery is clamping the bus voltage low. In the hope that a receiver still is operating despite the low voltage, the command team continues to signal AO-40 to turn off its main batteries and turn on the auxiliary batteries and the 2.4 GHz "S2" downlink transmitter.

"If we have approximately 10 V on the main bus, then these commands should be making it through," said ground controller Stacey Mills, W4SM, "but the S2 transmitter was not designed to run below 20 V and is not coming on."

AO-40 has been silent since January 27 (UTC), in the wake of a precipitous voltage drop. The satellite's controllers believe that one or more shorted battery cells are at the root of the problem. Mills said the AO-40 command team assumes the bus voltage aboard AO-40 is lower than 12 V, and that the onboard IHU-1 ("internal housekeeping unit") computer, the command receivers or the battery changeover relay have

insufficient power to operate. There's some conjecture that the current problem may be related to the near-catastrophic incident that occurred onboard AO-40 in December 2000 less than a month after its launch during testing of the 400-newton propulsion system. Following that incident, the AO-40 command team was able to restore some of the satellite's functionality.

Updates on the AO-40 situation are being posted on the AMSAT-DL Web site <http://www.amsat-dl.org/journal/adlj-p3d.htm#NEWS>. There's additional information on AO-40 on the AMSAT-NA Web site <http://www.amsat.org>.