



RGVARC Meeting Minutes

5/11/2019

The meeting was opened by Eddie Olivarez, President at 1:10 PM.

The regular May meeting was low in attendance due to the BSides Conference on Cybersecurity ongoing at STC. A number of members manned the booth at STC for this conference. Eddie Olivarez thanked all who attended the monthly meeting and for those manning the booth at the event. Those at STC were Chief Lopez, KF5KYL, Joe, AG5DL, David, WA5MMY, Bill, AG5SK, with other members coming and going at various times.

Attending the monthly meeting were Eddie Olivarez, Ed Warwas, David Hanson, Bill Fogel, Mac Shirley, Cathy Ault and David Ault.

Minutes from last monthly meeting were not read as Chief Lopez, Secretary, was manning the booth at the BSides conference.

Ed Warwas, Treasurer, reported we had a balance of \$116 in the bank.

Rio Link system was up and running along with DSTAR, Winlink, etc. In the future we will need approximately \$2,800 for a new repeater and related equipment in La Feria. The end of summer is projected for completion.

David Waldrige was also at the BSides conference so no Volunteer Exam report was given. There are at least two people scheduled for testing on Tuesday, May 14th.

Upcoming events will be Skywarn training in Harlingen Medical Center complex, Saturday, May 18th from 1:00-3:00 PM presenter will be Berry Goldsmith. This is necessary for those wanting to become or renew Skywarn certification.

June 1st will be participating in Hurricane Preparedness event at the La Plaza Mall. There will be a walk-through on May 31st to see where we want to set up. Volunteers will be needed. Chantel and Rene will be the lead.

June 5th there will be a DPS Emergency Management training at the STC in Rio Grande City. Eddie Olivarez will be lead for this event which will be held from 1:00-5:00 PM. Eddie will give about a 30 minute presentation describing how Ham Radio can support their efforts in an emergency situation. We will setup a station for demo and questions.

June 22nd will be ARRL National Field Day. We will participate at the Hidalgo County Health and Human Services office located at 1304 South 25th Avenue on the east side of the Expressway 281 North in Edinburg. It is air conditioned!

There was talk of a Field Day in either Rio Grande City or Zapata in June or July but no date was nailed down. Possible idea would be in conjunction with Operation Lone Star July 24 but is still undecided.

It was announced that Ed Warwas stepped down as ARES District 3 Coordinator and Rene Lopez will take over that position. Thanks to Ed for all his support and good luck to Rene.

Under old business Bill Fogel brought up fundrasing/donations as we will be needing money for the La Feria project. Discussed were local business, electronics supply companies and manufacturers.

A question was brought up about Mercedes School Radio Club. There used to be a very active group on campus. They had their own equipment, tower and antennas. Is there anyone in the club that has contact with the Mercedes School District Administration. We are hoping that they can be contacted to find out if they are still using their equipment.

It was suggested that members might like to attend the Summer Ham Fest 2019 in Austin. It will be August 2nd & 3rd at the Crown Palaza Hotel in Austin. Attached is the link for details of the event. The site is Austin Summer Fest and it is a Ham Radio event.

[Austin Summer Fest 2019](#)