

W7DP Meeting Minutes

01-11-16

Attendance:

W7UB Don
KC7CCL Heidi
N7ACW Keith
AL1Q Jeff
WA7LKF Mike/Robert
KC7FUZ Maynard
KG7PJD Harold
KF7WVQ Orie
Kemp (not licensed yet)
KC7JIX Dave
KC7ZMT Robert
KC7PNE Mary
N4EIE Elmer

(13 members present)

Meeting was run by Vice-President Don W7UB, in President Fred KF7UNF absence.

Secretary's report:

Minutes of Nov. meeting read, 2nd and approved (No business meeting in Dec. There was a joint W7DP/ARES "Christmas party/social" instead)

Treasure's Report:

After income and paying bills (including rent for PO box), balance is \$1364.63 including petty cash. (Treasurer had forgotten report at meeting time, so no formal action re: 2nd and approval at that time. Current balance was e-mailed to officers/members later that evening)

Building and Grounds:

All OK, per Dave KC7JIX

FCC rule of the month:

No report

Repeater Report:

- Jeff AL1Q reports repeaters are working well, in spite of brief power "blip" a time or two, battery backup, switch and charger all working properly.

- The 440 repeater is now hooked directly to the backup battery system, as it kept "locking up" whenever there was multiple fast changes in the AC power coming in to the solenoid switch and repeater. That has solved the problem of Jeff having to manually turn power off/on to resume function. A secondary benefit is that the backup batteries are getting some routine use/exercise, rather than only being exercised during power outages.
- There had been an issue with someone "kerchunking" and/or keying up for awhile but not saying anything on the linked system "side". Owner of N7LZM system and a few other folks have an idea who it might be, and suspect it's not "intentional", rather an issue with "operator error" by person with "memory challenges".
- There has been INTENTIONAL "kerchunking" on both the 146.96 repeater, and the 147.14 repeater at the exact same time, occurring several times in recent weeks. Members were reminded to "ignore" such behavior, but good to note times, frequencies involved etc., in case further actions become necessary.

ARES Report:

- Planning with Liz (Emergency Management) re: scheduling the antenna installation is still underway. Keith suspects the winter weather is affecting the scheduling of installation. *@ alt EOC / WWFD 5/1 12* Loop*

-Keith, the Franklin Co. EC and others have been working to schedule a joint Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla ARES net once a month. Walla Walla participants can use the 146.96 repeater, while those in Tri-Cities and other areas outside of the WW valley can use "their" repeater that's linked via the N7LZM system. The first joint net is scheduled for Tues. Jan. 12 at 7 pm. All interested hams are welcome and encouraged to participate.

VE:

- Next VE will be * **Jan. 17** at 2 p.m. on the WWU campus, "Chen Sung" bldg. *room* 152. Fee for testing is \$15. *This is a change from previous years, when the first test session of the year was held in February.

Announcements:

none

Health and Welfare:

Heidi KC7CCL reported having visited with Lyle N7VPV, and learning that while he's been making steady improvements/recovery from previous surgeries, he NOW faces yet another back surgery, but THIS time it "should" be a less serious surgery with hopefully quicker/easier recovery.

Old Business:

New Business:

There was a group discussion re: ideas for training/education and fun activities for W7DP club meetings throughout the year, as well as additional activities that members might like to do or participate in.

The items from the e-mailed list of ideas was used as a starting point. There was considerable interest in several of the educational components and on-air activities.

In particular, there was considerable interest in:

- "hands-on" demonstrations/training via projects using "breadboards" etc
- Direction-finding/"fox hunts" during warm weather
- Ideas/projects for attenuating signals to assist with direction-finding/fox hunts
- Participation in contests and special events using club station
- Training on how to use club HF station
- General skill-building for operating on HF
- Training/classes re: evaluating and tuning antennas

- Someone mentioned "Winter Field Day", which will be held Jan. 30/31. Don W7UB indicated there have been some changes in format and "rules" this year, due to change in leadership of organizers. Several members expressed interest in learning more about that event, AND the possibility of "working it" via the club station.

- Keith N7ACW suggested that members take photos of their antennas/antenna systems and bring pictures to show others at upcoming meetings

- It was suggested the club plan at least two fox hunts for 2016, one in May or June, another in August or Sept.
- It was suggested we have a short tutorial video and/or demonstration re: solderless "breadboards" and start with some simple component layout/project for the February meeting
- It was suggested we have training/information (possibly including handouts?) re: how to use the club's Kenwood HF station, including external tuner, for the March meeting

- There is a “possibility” that the club station may be opened to participate with Winter Field Day if there is adequate interest and someone to take the lead re: rules and operating procedures for that event, and someone familiar with the Kenwood HF station to serve as an “Elmer” etc.

Show and Tell:

Jeff A11Q showed a new inexpensive but nice multi-meter he recently purchased at a Harbor Freight store on the coast. Since Walla Walla will soon have a Harbor Freight store, he wanted members to be aware of that source for anyone wanting their first inexpensive multi-meter, or wanting a “cheap” unit for their “go kit” etc. (price was less than \$10)

Jeff also showed some antenna plans that were in a file given to him by Mable Babbitt. (files from Jack Babbitt Sr, now a SK) Jeff will scan and copy the plans and make them available to members.

Heidi KC7CCL showed a new small SLA battery (sealed lead acid) 12 volt, 12 amp hr with “blade-type” connections that could be useful for a number of ham radio and home emergency power projects etc. She also showed a couple brands of readily-available connectors that clip right onto the battery terminals, a completed “battery clip to Anderson Power Pole” power cable to facilitate “instant” connection of battery to other cables/devices using Anderson Power Pole connections, etc. The source of the battery is Radio Shack, and it’s currently on sale for \$22 and change, vs. usual price of about \$35.

Heidi also showed a large “solderless breadboard/project board” that’s mounted on a wood base making it suitable for classroom demonstrations etc., and the selection of “jumper wires” to use with it. In addition to showing the “solderless breadboard” unit and jumper wire set, Heidi also showed the January 2016 issue of QST magazine, that has a magazine cover color photo of a small “solderless breadboard” with components installed, and the full parts list, instructions and photos of the related “Done in One” project for building a backup battery power source for devices using “wall wart” power supplies. That project may be suitable for club members to build as part of one or more club meetings. (may take 2 or 3 meetings to have enough time for interested members to work with/on the project and get it completed, then tested)

Education:

(see above re: show and tell)

meeting adjourned at 2025

Respectfully submitted, Heidi KC7CCL, Secretary