

Snohomish County HAMS Club
General Membership Meeting
Minutes
22 April 2017

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 0800 by the President, Kevin KG7CLD.

2. Introductions

a. The president welcomed all new and visiting members and requested that they identify themselves which resulted in the following

- (1) Victor Harris KI7MMZ - Applicant
- (2) Brent KI7MNC and Cheryl KI7MND Stainer - Applicant
- (3) Lynh Dicken - KI7MMX

b. The president then called for introduction of all present, which was accomplished.

3. Club Reports

a. Secretary's report was made by Roger KF7WVT

(1) He reported that the minutes of the March meeting had been posted on the Club Website and requested a motion to accept as written; Henry KH6VM made the motion to accept and it was seconded by John N7AME and vote approved.

(2) Rog explained that the attendance roster being circulated had two categories: 1) Dues Paid and 2) Dues Not Paid.

(3) Kevin explained what benefits come with being a (paid) member - primarily the privilege of voting, but it's not a requirement. The fees go into the general fund.

b. Treasurer's Report was made by Randy who reminded the three new applicants who were graduates of the 'CERT Class', to provide Roger with their 'comp' application.

(1) He reported that the period of the report was from 20Mar17 to 16Apr17.

(2) We had an income of \$940 with expenses of \$480 with a balance of \$7002.69 in the checking account.

(3) The Repeater Maintenance Fund has a balance of \$482.89

(4) Un-deposited Funds are \$75.

(5) The Repeater Endowment/Upgrade Fund has a balance of \$4669.19

(6) The General Investment (CD) Fund has a balance of \$495.84.

(7) A motion to approve was made by Roger; seconded by Dave, and approved by general vote of the membership.

c. Investment Committee

(1) Loren reported that the value of the Endowment Fund is up to \$5006.15.

d. Repeater Group

(1) Rob reported that a meeting of 14 people was conducted at Bob' B&B after the last month's Club meeting and that the results had been distributed by email on the Club's reflector. It will be posted on the Club Web page.

(2) He invited interested members to join him at the repeater site (Bakerview Apt Bldg) after this meeting.

(3) The President asked about any upgrades of firmware. Rob responded that of several one in particular, is necessary and must be sent to Yaesu for installation. Rob stated that he could provide a substitute machine while the Club's is being upgraded. Further recommendations will be submitted. Kevin asked about connection to internet and Rob said yes but it is 'tunneled' with the Building's system. Mentioned several enhancements that were identified and will be pursued.

(4) Frank announced that the FCC requires us to have 'Control Operators'. He advised that users were not keying correctly and some contacts were being chopped. He stated that there were three Control Operators: Frank K7GSE, Randy AJ7B and Henry KH6VM that monitor the repeater which he does 24hrs a day to prevent profanity or other prohibited transmissions which would cause him to turn it off.

(5) Kevin reinforced the identification of multiple applications of the repeater.

e. Technical Committee.

(1) Daniel KD7LEE reported that there had been no projects identified and request suggestions.

(2) Dave W9LD proposed the building of an attenuator for the purpose of conducting a 'Fox Hunt'. He needs parts and about 3-5 participants. It could cost about \$20 each.

(3) Jim KD7JB said that there is interest in learning how to solder.

(4) Frank explained the actions of a 'fox hunt'. He also recommended that we learn how to program H/T radios.

(5) Randy provided a correction to the terms being used for the involved groups:

(a) Project Manager runs the Technical Committee

(b) Rob NR30 explained that the PM position has not been filled for several years.

(c) Jim said that different groups had formed to accomplish technical jobs and the group names got misapplied to those trying to accomplish technical problems.

f. Education Committee

(1) Jim reported that there had been a class provided to the Everett Office of Emergency Management wherein 15 students took tests that resulted in 12 Technicians.

(2) Maybe will be done for this audience again, maybe in August or September.

(3) Kevin stated that he'd received a letter from Mr Eiler of the 'Makers' group who was interested in a class for his group. Jim was familiar with the Group who was willing to host a dedicated class.

g. EmCom Committee

(1) Bob KC7QT stated that our low turnout was due to several members attending the 'Communication Academy' in South Seattle.

(2) He announced that next Saturday (29Apr) there would be an exercise at DEM.

(3) Also, that there would be a test of FEMA's channel 1 on Wednesday at 1730 on 60M

h. DX Report was made by Frank K7GSE who stated that the bands were up and down. He said that there was a sun spot. There is a DXpedition in Tripoli, Libya. There is a Chinese DXpedition being planned in the 'Cebal Reef' near the Philippines. Also in 2018 there will be one on Buffet island near Antarctica. He was not optimistic about improvement in signal propagation.

(1) A member asked about opportunities to share resources (antennas) to take advantage of the DXpedition transmissions. The general response was 'that's what Field Days are for'. But Kevin also advised that if he wanted to lead a group, some Club equipment is available for that purpose.

(2) Frank advised that 40/75/160 are best right now. He said 17/20/15 are very unreliable. He also said that over the next 7 or more years, the sun will start to improve.

(3) Dave advised that after sunset is the best time to try.

i. Quartermaster Report. Steve K7LKA had no report but reminded us that use of the Club equipment requires membership in the Club. Kevin announced that John had brought in large industrial strength lights for use by the Club.

j. 7QP and Field Day Report was provided by Ray KD7AVP

(1) 7QP will be at 2302 Soperhill Rd in Lake Stevens. Set up will be on Friday at 1500. Randy has the antenna plan and Barry has the radio plan. We need helpers to set up and tear down.

(2) Field Day needs helpers, particularly someone to stay overnight.

(3) Next meeting is at 1800 at Alphy's in Lake Stevens.

k. Lighthouse/Lightship field event will be on 19/20 August, but we will only do Sat (19th). Kevin is lead and will basically use his personal equipment. There will be a fee for parking. Cable creates a 'trip hazard' which is an unresolved concern.

(1) Dave reminded us that there is a Solar Eclipse on 21Aug17

l. Salmon Run event still needs a coordinator. Kevin said maybe it could be held at Eagle Ridge Park in Lake Stevens. Jim asked if individual efforts could be combined into a Club Activity? No reply was made but Kevin said it deserved further consideration.

m. The Christmas Party still needs a coordinator. Contact the Board.

n. Net Control Coordinator Daniel KD7LEE needs a controller for the digital net. Henry said he had done it remotely.

o. VE Report was made by Randy who stated that two sessions were conducted:

(1) 9 VE's conducted a test session on 25Mar17 which administered 20 tests to 13 candidates resulting in 8 Technicians; 2 upgrades to General; 1 upgrade to Extra; and 2 failures to upgrade to General.

(2) 7 VE's conducted a test session on 2Apr17 which administered 29 tests to 15 candidates resulting in 12 Technicians; 3 failures to Technician; and 14 failures to upgrade beyond what they held.

(3) He stated that he expected 2 tests today.

p. Events Report was provided by Frank in the absence of Dave KA7RRA.

(1) The HAMFEST in Stanwood would be held on 13 May from 0900 - 1300 at the Middle School.

q. Membership Committee will be constituted by Jil WA7JIL. Kevin will provide further guidance separately later.

r. Kevin announced 5 new members:

(1) Skyler Brower KI7LHZ

(2) Frank Perkins N6CES

(3) Hugh Beauregard

(4) Joel Penner

(5) Victor Harris

s. Boy Scout Report was made by Tom N7PKK who stated that Merit Badge Counselor training criteria is online and new.

No need to sit in a class. The new requirements are listed on the Club Website under the 'Welcome' tab. The certification process is to watch the presentation, take a test, print the certificate and then notify the Boy Scouts that you are willing and able to provide counselor duties. Background Check is required.

4. Old Business

a. Kevin stated that repeater issues have been resolved
b. A better shelter is needed and Kevin requested input from the membership. A lengthy discussion ensued with the following suggestions:

- (1) Commercial Style
- (2) FEMA style from 'Tentguy' on Craigslist for \$9500
- (3) Military surplus 16x16
- (4) Conex rental for \$250 is lockable, delivered
- (5) Worksite Office - towable/rental

c. Kevin stated that 'size' is a significant consideration and Jim reinforced the need to have a durable shelter and not use a 10'x10' pop-up.

d. Frank suggested that Quartermaster Steve continue to research. Kevin asked Tom about what the Scouts use - response was 'not tents'.

e. Kevin reminded us that some public parks prohibit stakes, so we need to consider that. In the meantime, we can rely on member's 10x10.

f. Henry asked about ordering new club shirts. Jill volunteered to help Henry in developing an order. New colors was suggested.

5. New Business

a. LMR 600 cable from Keysight Technologies is available for disposal. Before cutting and selling to Club members, Rob recommended that we hold it until we determine if there is a need for the tower on Bakerview Bldg. Kevin said that 7QP would be a good time to test the quality of the cable. Henry stated that Eric AD7BF has a test device. Rob said he also could run a test on it.

b. Nominating committee needs to be populated. Need volunteers. Initial response was from Jill, Frank, and Rob.

c. Post Meeting subjects were requested by Kevin.

(1) Roger proposed a speaker, Matt Kelly to talk about programming H/T with focus on Baofeng radios. 15 members indicated by show of hands that they would be interested.

(2) A member suggested that a CW Net be established using the repeater with H/T (Baofeng)

5. For the Good of the Order

a. Barry recommended a new 16x16 military tent for about \$1825. This would work well with our normal equipment

layout. Frank made a motion to buy it. Motion was seconded by Roger.

b. Due to the eminent departure of VE's, the 50/50 raffle was conducted. The winning ticket number was #861 and the winner was Bob Wheeler KC7QT. The pot held \$64 so the winner got \$32.

c. The treasurer reported that we have \$5800 available for the purchase of a shelter.

d. Frank said that we need a shelter and this recommendation would last a long time. Barry said that we've been discussing this subject for almost 3 years.

e. Jim Harper KH6CN made a motion to move the (previous) question. Therefore, a roll call vote was conducted by the Secretary. There were 11 no's and 13 yes's to end discussion, therefore the discussion was ended and a roll call vote to buy a 16'x16' tent pole tent, model #9941E3013B4A for sale by RDDUSA.com was taken by the Secretary. There were 5 no votes and 19 yes votes to buy the tent identified above.

f. Upcoming events:

- (1) 6-7 May - 7QP
- (2) 23-25 June - Field Day
- (3) August - Lighthouse
- (4) September - Salmon Run

6. A **motion to adjourn** was made by John N7AME; seconded by Roger KF7WVT. The meeting was adjourned at 0948.