

2015/04/25 April 2015 Meeting Minutes

General meeting

Dave WA7DGW called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM in the Rainier Room of Providence Medical Center. Visitors and members introduced themselves around the table.

HOUSEKEEPING

Raffle: Tickets were on sale for 50/50 raffle until 8:45AM. They cost \$1 each or six for \$5; half of the raffle income is applied towards Club projects. Last month's collection was \$146; half went to Club projects.

T-shirts/patches: See quartermaster Steve K7LKA and make payment to the treasurer.

FISTS - CW training disks for those that would like learn CW. See Steve K7LKA. They're free!

REPORTS

Treasurer's report: Randy AJ7B gave the Treasurer's report for April 19, 2015, details for which have been posted on the website. Recent repeater expenditures account for reduction in repeater funds. The Repeater Endowment Fund was established with Scottrade. Motion to approve report was seconded and passed.

Minutes: Dave W9LD mentioned that minutes for the March 28, 2015, meeting have been on the website. Motion to approve minutes was seconded and passed.

VE report: Loren KK7M reported that a test session met last month, serving nine persons. Eleven tests were given resulting in several new licensees, including newcomers to ham radio. Two passed the Extra Class exam. Former licensees can have the FCC reactivate licenses by taking the Tech Exam. An exam session will occur at 10AM today.

Nominating Committee Report: Loren KK7M is Club liaison for nominations. Five persons, including Loren, Rob NR3O, Frank K7GSE, Jim K7KFB, and Tom K7AFA, comprise the Nominating Committee. Members interested in Board service should contact any of the Committee members.

Education report: Jim K7KFB said that the next class is anticipated in October or November. During "quiet" times, we refer individuals to ARRL.org, which has tests online. Several study manuals are available, with expiration date June 30, 2015. See Jim to obtain such a manual.

Tech Committee report: Dave WA7DGW invited members to volunteer for Tech Director, a position that's empty now.

Tech group: Curt N7OBI reported the all-day session to install a mobile rig in his car. He requested antenna replacement by the vendor, since its resonator proved defective. Next month will specialize on antennas for Field Day. Dave WA7DGW volunteered to send Curt information and material for

making a tape-measure three-element beam for two meters. Date of next meeting will be Saturday, May 23, 2:00 PM, during the afternoon after the Club meeting.

EMCOMM Report: Bob KC7QT reported that DEM has a new Fusion repeater on its desk, intending to install it at Clearview. There is a new van to replace "Porky". It is equipped for various power sources, transmission frequencies, and antennas. Springtime events appropriate for gaining emergency radio expertise were discussed.

DX report: Frank K7GSE said that HF bands have been very good, thanks to solar activity. On 20 meters, he heard signals as strong as S9+20dB from Africa, Near East, etc, including rare stations. One DXpedition had an emergency Medivac in the Far East/South Pacific Ocean. Military provocations were a concern, because Chinese/Philipino ownership of involved island territory was at issue. Chinese Amateur Radio Day is coming up on May 3. New DX is in the works, featuring Sandwich Island, Georgia Island, etc.

Fusion Repeater update: Rob NR3O reported problems with the computer running Echolink, perhaps owing to AC power problems. Randy AJ7B's Fluke power monitor reported a utility voltage dip down to 107 volts, but showed no high voltage surges. Rob has worked with the new Fusion system, finding updates that required learning. Echolink is running again. Steve KJ7YL has been helping with configuration. Triple beep acknowledgements have been heard, but should be simplified soon. This work will eventually coordinate with the reinstallation of tower and antenna equipment on Bakerview Apartments' building. (For detail, see Bakerview Tower Work below.)

The VHF Fusion repeaters is on the VHF from Rob's house, and running for test purposes. Old and new repeaters use 103.5 Hz and new 127.3 Hz for PL tones, respectively. Conversations on the old repeater take priority. Members are encourage to be patient during the test phase.

Fusion repeater service will begin on UHF after UHF duplexers, etc., are picked up from storage.

OLD BUSINESS:

Field Day: Dave WA7DGW reported in event coordinator Don KG7HBT's absence. He reserved Alf's Pizza, North Broadway, for the next planning meeting on Wednesday, May 6, at 6PM. Volunteers are needed to help mainly with food for the feed on Saturday, June 27. Please contact Don or Dave WA7DGW, if willing to help. Rob NR3O's equipment, including tower, trailer, beam, will be available; however, Rob cannot attend, owing to travel, but he will help with setup/teardown.

Tee shirts: Dave WA7LAW reported that an order for polo/golf shirts and long sleeve tees has been submitted. Randy AJ7B has some info regarding options for shirts.

Website: Dave WA7DGW invites comments on the new look of WA7LAW.org. In particular you should find a Silent Key and Contact Us button on the "About Us" page. Rob NR3O explained methodology for a second email alternative (announcements only) on the WA7LAW mailing system. Rob mentioned the Yahoo Group account that provided for club discussions. Traffic on the Yahoo account was low. After Google came along, the Club set up two lists: "schc-members" and "schc-announce". Traffic on the former has become heavy, prohibitively so for some. The latter has been neglected by comparison

with the former. A forum requires more time, discussion, and set up, but should help members to focus. Dave WA7DGW mentioned that a "button" might be used to navigate to the forum and back.

The Club is looking for help by someone with website design experience

Bakerview Tower Work: Beginning Thursday, June 4, noon-5PM, install guy wire brackets and tower base. Saturday, June 6 is antenna take down, maintenance, install tower and reinstall antenna. Jim KD7JB will climb tower. An additional tower climber may be helpful. Protective gear is required. Please contact Dave WA7DGW if you are willing to help.

7QP: Saturday, May 2, Eagle Ridge Park, Lake Stevens, 6AM to midnight, or until we depart. Pizza delivery will be obtained for dinner. Antenna raising party is Friday, May 1, 3-5PM. Anyone interested is invited.

NEW BUSINESS:

ILLW: Dave W9LD has contacted the John Collier, President, Mukilteo Historical Society, and awaits response from Jennifer Berner, Director of Recreation and Cultural Services.

Radio Demonstration: Frank K7GSE donated equipment and refurbished the telegraph office in Skykomish, WA. He invited anyone to come out to witness the demonstration next weekend.

Calendar:

- a. 7QP fest, May 2-3, 2015, Lake Stevens Senior Center.
- b. Stanwood Hamfest, May 9, 2015.
- c. SEA PAC, June 5-7, 2015, Seaside, OR.
- d. Dryden Gun Club Hamfest, June 12-14, 2015.
- e. Field Day, June 26-28, 2015, Harborview Park, Mukilteo. (Preload at AG7F on Thursday evening, June 25, beginning at 4PM. Caravan from AG7F on Friday, beginning 4PM. Sign up to work with Jill, WA7JIL.)
- f. ILLW, August 15-16, 2015. Dave W9LD is working with Mukilteo Historical Society on permission to park and locate operation near the Lighthouse.
- g. Salmon Run, September 19, 20, 2015. Last year we logged all 39 counties in the state.

50/50 Raffle: Winner of drawing was Jim K7KFB. Total of \$114 was collected. Fifty percent will be used to help with Club projects.

ARRL certificates: John, N7AME informed the group of ARRL certificates for the Centennial Year.

Adjournment: There being no program today, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted
Dave Cornell, W9LD, Secretary

Approved
Dave Williamson, WA7DGW, President