

Snohomish County Hams Club

General Membership Meeting

Minutes

February 24, 2018

1. The meeting was called to order at 0800 by the President Rob Salsgiver NR3O
2. Introductions
 - a. Call for first time visitors. There were a few visitors who introduced themselves:
 - (1) Ken KI7SXM
 - (2) Gary KI7xUJ
 - (3) Jim xxxFTX
 - (4) Dan KI7RYU
 - b. The membership introduced themselves
 - c. The following announcements were made by the president:
 - (1) The 50/50 Raffle drawing will be at 0900- buy tickets prior; proceeds from the first half of the year go to the general fund, while the second half proceeds go towards the purchase of prizes for the Christmas party raffle. The cost of Christmas party raffle prizes are augmented from the Club general fund. Last year we needed additional funding from the Club; request you spend more now.
 - (2) Henry Poland announced that in March, he will post the website for the vendor who is producing our Club T- Shirts. All financial transactions will be between the customer and the vendor (flyinlions@earthlink.net).
 - (3) Rob asked if anybody knew who the winner of the computer program at Christmas Party was. The Club is holding the key to activate that program.
3. Reports
 - a. Treasurer's report – Randy Mather announced that the monthly treasurer's report had been posted on the Club website and requested approval of the posted report. A motion was made by Jess Ray to approve, seconded by Dave Cornell and approved by vote.
 - b. Secretary - Roger Hoot announced that the minutes of last month's (January) meeting had been posted on the Club website and requested approval of the posted minutes. A motion was made by Dave Cornell and seconded by Jess Ray and approved by vote.
 - c. VE Report - Randy Mather announced the results of the VE test session as follows:
 - (1) 9 Voluntary Examiners were present
 - (2) 28 tests were administered to 15 candidates with the following results:
 - (a) 7 new HAMS at the Technician Level
 - (b) 4 new HAMS at the General Level
 - (c) 2 upgraded from Technician to General Level
 - (d) 1 became a HAM at the Extra Level
 - (e) 1 upgraded from General to Extra Level
 - d. Education Report – Jim Blake announced that there would be a Technician Level Class presented on 16-18 March. He noted that training material for the general level needs to be upgraded
 - e. Investment Committee - Loren Hatch reported that there had been no activity by the committee however the value of our investment had been up & down as a reflection of the volatile market activity. He stated that no action had been taken to acquire stock in the Southern Company; previously approved by the Board.

- f. Tech Committee report: Michael Hill reported that he, Henry Poland and Dave Cornell had held a 4-hr clinic at the Bakerview Apartment building on 3 Feb. to build tape measure yagi antennas. It was a success with 9 antennas being built and tested. Dave announced that another Clinic will be held after Field Day (June). Rob announced and solicited interest input concerning more School Programs as part of our 'outreach projects). He circulated a list of proposed activities that was developed from last month's solicitation.
 - g. EMCOMM report - Bob Wheeler announced that the Communication Academy is going to be held on 14-15 April. Details and sign up are on their website. He also noted that equipment demonstrations would be available at the Mike & Key Electronics Show. Dave Williamson stated that there is always a need for HAMS at sporting events to provide safety/security and is a good opportunity to develop Emergency Communications skills. More info can be gotten by contacting Dave.
 - h. DX Report – John Van Dalen reported on several future DX contests
 - i. Hamfest calendar – Dave Archer announced planned HamFests:
 - (1) Mike & Key: 10 March
 - (2) Yakima: 7 April
 - (3) Stanwood: 12 May
 - (4) Wenatchee: 8 April
 - (5) CPAC (Oregon): 1-3 June
 - j. Quartermaster Report – Steve Elli announced that a Yaesu FT-1900 2M radio had been donated to the Club however it needs a battery and a mag-mount Antenna. We need a cleaning party for the storage trailer but will wait for better weather.
 - k. Net Control - Nothing to report
 - l. Membership Report: Roger Hoot reported three new members:
 - (1) Brett Gailey - K9SWT
 - (2) Skip Walton - No Call Sign yet
 - (3) Greg Campbell - KD7LPX
4. Old Business
- a. The President reported that the Club ARRL Affiliate status and the designation of a Special Service club renewals had been accomplished.
 - b. Budget – The president announced the need of club input on capital projects to finalize the budget (i.e. replace beam antenna, UHF amplifier, replacement of generator). The following suggestions were made with the level of interest, (votes) shown:
 - (1) Expand repeater capabilities - 22 (to be discussed by Board for Budget)
 - (2) Procure flooring for the Club event tent - 17 (consider only where needed)
 - (3) Acquire radios - 15 (to be discussed by email)
 - (4) Acquire Beam Antenna - 14
 - (5) Acquire a small, quiet generator - 2

There were comments made that the Club in Camano is seeking to dispose of excess tables. The problem with that is storage. We have six in the trailer.
 - c. At 0856 the 50/50 raffle drawing was conducted with John Van Dalen drawing the winning ticket #526 which was held by Kevin Lynch who donated his half of the \$64 pot (\$32) to the Club Christmas raffle prize fund
 - d. Repeater review - Rob provided a summary of issues with the Club repeater:
 - 1. current performance is poor; particularly with VHF
 - 2. future plans may include addition of Fusion capability
 - 3. Rob will conduct a site visit after the meeting to check conditions
 - 4. Rob brought UDRC-II to experiment with for anyone who is interested

5. Possibly swap out existing UHF repeater unit with spare to upgrade firmware
 6. Possibly add an amplifier on UHF system
 7. There was lengthy discussion about how to expand our repeater foot print
 8. Rob reported that several neighborhood communication groups have shown interest in using our repeater
5. New Business
- a. Christmas Party location – Rob asked for any suggestions for a new venue for the party; the attendance is growing; parking at current location is very limited however, the current location is free of charge.
 - b. National Night Out – Rob stated that it could be a new event to consider.
 - c. Field Day / 7QP planning – Randy Mather stated his intent to contact every member to determine their interest in participating. He will be sending an electronic questionnaire. Planning meetings will start in March.
 - d. 5-year plan review – Rob reviewed the results of an interests survey:
 - (1) New events / activities – Local schools have shown interest = Kids Roundup is sponsored twice a year by ARRL; we could pursue that contest with a network of 'school clubs' that may even include neighborhood connectivity.
 - (2) Projects, Programs, Activities - We could have 2-3 members 'adopt' a school to advance their interest/knowledge of electronics/radio (STEM Program)
 - (3) A list circulated at last meeting was reviewed at a special meeting on 10Feb. We need participation by more members. We should develop a list of special interest groups as part of the 5-year Plan. The results of meetings could be presented to the Club and/or posted on the Club website. The Boeing Club is interested in participating
 - e. Formally develop and support a contesting group: Need leadership and identify Interested members.
 - f. Jim Blake proposed a Q&A session for newly licensed HAMs to be held shortly after getting their license to provide an actual 'hands-on' training session.
 - g. Meg Engelter inquired about events, activities, workshops, etc being posted on the Club website. Rob responded that it is a viable objective, but currently, we're short on administrators to develop and maintain a calendar of Club events.
6. There was a motion to adjourn, it was seconded and a vote approved the adjournment of the meeting.
7. Program (none this month)

Submitted by Roger Hoot
Secretary