

Snohomish County Ham's Club Meeting Minutes for August 23, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Eric Nordin AD7BF at 8:19 am. Eric immediately turned presiding duties over to Past President Frank Dolan N7WUB who handled the task while Eric finished wolfing down his breakfast. Frank asked for introductions around the room. There were 20 in attendance.

The July 26th meeting minutes were read (by Secretary Melisa KE7KRS) and motion to approve as read was made by Frank N7WUB and seconded by Jim KD7RHI.

The Treasurer's report was read by Gary Whiting W7MGG. David KE7GOY moved to approve and Frank N7WUB seconded. Please see attached report.

Membership: There were three new members added; Mel Hultt KE7VFF, Walter Charczenko KE7VFT, and Cesar Libed KE7VDT for a total membership of 116 with one SK, life member Carl Cowl W6DPL.

The VE report was given by Gary W7MGG. There were 4 served by 6 VE's. See attached report.

Education committee Report was given by Jim Ludden KD7RHI. Jim reported he has encountered some difficulty in scheduling tests during Summer because people are on vacation. No word on where Grant is with progress on creating power point tools for teaching a General license class. When dates are set notices will be sent out.

No Web Report as neither Grant nor Gar were in attendance.

DX Report was given by Frank Remington K7GSE. Olympic stations (five of them) are going to be on the air until September 7th and are operating all bands and all modes. If you contact all five a nice certificate is available. There is a good article on working DX in the September issue of QST. Frank spoke with well known DXer, Ann WS1S, recently and learned that a Dxpedition to Kingman Reef is being planned for sometime next year. Salmon Run, the Washington state QSO party will take place on September 20th. Russian radio restriction is in place for Georgia.

The Technical committee Report was given by Steve Burling KJ7YL. Steve reported the link receiver is still off the air. Until its recent failure due to water ingress, the link receiver was located in an enclosure that was external to PSE's container. Jon is considering relocating the receiver to inside the container to better protect it from the elements. Steve also mentioned that PSE is considering vacating its repeater site at Gunsite Ridge. It is unknown what options might be available for a remote receiver should that take place.

Old business:

Jim Ludden was asked what the status was of plans to activate one of the local islands for Salmon Run. Jim reported that no progress had yet been made on that project.

Due to the absence of our President, and unknown status of other old business, old business items were not discussed further. Primary other old business item is the ongoing investigation of possible new meeting locations, and arrangement of trial visit to the Elks to check out their breakfast.

New business – Eric passed around a survey form for people to note their comments regarding their Field Day 2008 experience and opened the floor for discussion of Field Day 2008.

David Freidman, KE7GOY, expressed that the Red Cross had been ignored both prior to and during Field Day and that there were some hard feelings about it among some of the people at the Red Cross. According to David, the feeling had been expressed at some point, apparantly on behalf of the club, that "The Red Cross had no place at Field Day." Bob Gudgel K7IQ pointed out that one aspect of Field Day is practicing operating under emergency conditions and another is informing and demonstrating to the public the capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service. Since Red Cross is all about helping out in emergencies and disasters, and Red Cross is one of the agencies that amateur radio is supposed to serve, the general consensus seemed to be that Red Cross certainly does have a place at Field Day.

Bob also pointed out that having a good working relationship with local government and organizations like the Red Cross could make the difference between being able or not being able to get a repeater site at some point in the future.

Jim Ludden KD7RHI put forth the idea that seeing Red Cross there would confuse the general public as to what was going on. A couple of people countered that a lot of folks might be inclined to come over and see what was going on just because they saw Red Cross there.

Eric AD7BF expressed his feeling that the perceived message was probably misinterpreted – that the only thing he had heard prior to Field Day regarding Red Cross was that the club did not want to rely on them for materials or equipment for Field Day this year, never that they were not welcome to be there and to participate.

David KE7GOY expressed that he felt the board should take the Red Cross Matter up at the next board meeting.

Eric AD7BF asked if everyone was aware of the club's Sunday Evening Net. Everyone in the room was aware of it except for two new hams (who were then duely informed). Eric also asked whether anyone in attendance would be interested in becoming a net control, either as part of the regular rotation or as a sub. Both Rob Salsgiver KE7IJT and David Friendman KE7GOY said they'd be interested in doing this. Eric suggested that since Grant is spread so thin and often cannot make the net, maybe Rob could take over his slot if Grant didn't mind. Rob said he thought Grant would be happy to be relieved of net control duty and Eric said he would talk to Grant about it. Eric explained that the optimum number of net controls is right around five to seven, if there are too many, people either get rusty or forget by the time their turn rolls around again and, if there are too few, it becomes a burden to those who are doing the job. He also asked that if anyone decided they'd like to be a net control they please contact him.

Announcements: none

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rob KE7IJT and seconded by Bob Wheeler KC7QT.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 A.M.

Presentation immediately following the business meeting was a video of the US Navy carrier USS Oriskany in its current resting place 200 feet below the surface in the ocean 22 miles south of Pensicola, Florida. Frank N7WUB served aboard the Orkney and Frank's son was one of the divers in the video.