



**MINUTES OF MEETING: JUNE 9, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 11:37 by K9QJS at Mullis Fire Station in Friday Harbor

**Introductions:** Attendees included two who had not attended a club meeting previously.

**ATTENDEES:**

Ed KD7TUN	Dan N6AU	Basil N7NIX	Monte N7TAU
Peter K2SPR	Scott W7SLM	Larry VE6VQ	Kenny KU7M
Carol N7LHY	Bob K7NHE	Poke KI7NEX	Brian K7BLS
Peter WA7FUS	Bryan K7UDR	David KK6WQ	Corky AF4PM
Hoop K9QJS	Tom KK7TX	Dave K9MRQ	Mike N7TLL
Peg Gerlock	Budd WB7FHC	Steve N4RVE	

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as posted on the web site.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Bryan reported for Dani that the treasury balance is \$5708.39. This includes the expense of \$300 for ARRL Club Insurance. The insurance policy includes coverage for members transporting members in their privately owned cars for club events.

Dani will send a \$60 check to the appropriate folks to reserve a picnic shelter for our Friday September 15 picnic meeting in Odlin Park on Lopez Island.

## **Announcements and upcoming events:**

- **ARISS project update:** Hoop reported that collaboration with the San Juan Island School District and Friday Harbor Elementary School to generate an application for a classroom to ISS teleconference is still ongoing. Currently they hope to submit their application in December.
  
- **Field Day:** ARRL Field Day is June 24 and 25 this year. SJCARS is participating as 3 separate entities this year with gatherings on San Juan, Lopez, and Orcas Islands. Basil reported that on Lopez they are emphasizing public outreach as the theme of their operations at the Lopez Island Public Market. They will set up 3 tables with stations for HF, CW demonstrations, and digital modes. Ed and Hoop will set up stations on 40 and 20 meters at the Cattle Point Interpretive Center on San Juan Island. Everyone is welcome to join them. The welcome mat is also out on Orcas Island where Larry, VE6VQ/W7 along with some other club members and long time members of a group calling itself WETNET will operate several stations on Larry's property on Spring Point, Orcas Island. In memory of Richard Ball the group on Orcas will ID as N7RIG. Larry's address and email address are available in the club roster which is posted in the file section of our web page. Bryan and his family will operate a QRP station in Lynden.
  
- **Upcoming meeting locations:** The results of the recent straw poll regarding preference of meeting location between Mullis Fire Station and the Friday Harbor Brewing Company were split. Hoop stated and others agreed that we don't have to be locked into just one location. Locations and meeting topics will be announced via email and web posts.
  
- **Lopez Island picnic:** Since a number of club members will be attending the APRS summer gathering at Valley Camp in Northbend on the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of September it was decided that our Lopez picnic meeting should be moved to Friday September 15. Several club members will be in St. Louis on that weekend attending the TAPR DCC event but this appeared to be the best compromise date. The Lopez Island gang will coordinate the picnic/meeting.
  
- Tentatively, the July 14 meeting will be held at the Friday Harbor Brewing Company and the August 11 meeting will be held at Mullis Fire Station. Confirmation of these meeting locations will be announced.
  
- **San Juan Island Marathon;** Bryan will coordinate this event again this year, using APRS for communication.
  
- Hoop announced that Jim Perez, KE7GAB, will be holding an emergency preparedness gathering for his church, at his home on Cattle Point, on Saturday August 5. He wants know if there might be a couple of club members willing to come by then with radios to demonstrate ham radio for them.

- ICS training opportunity: Brendan Cowan, Director, San Juan County DEM, had been scheduled to speak to us at today's meeting but instead, was called to Olympia. He will come to a meeting at a later date. He had intended to tell us about an opportunity to attend a two day ICS training session on San Juan Island on September 26-27.. Bryan provided background on ICS and the prerequisite courses required to attend the upcoming training.

- EMCOM updates: As San Juan County's EC, Bryan summarized some of the organization of EMCOM volunteering opportunities and participation in same in the county. Included were the "white boxes", ham radio at Peace Island Medical Center and MERT. He again defined the organization and history of San Juan Island Fire and Rescue's MERT (Major Emergency Response Team). Half a dozen MERT members have received ham license prep training and are now licensed and some SJI Fire Stations are now outfitted with VHF ham radio equipment. Bryan also mentioned that he had recently been contacted by the UW Friday Harbor Laboratory requesting inclusion in SJI amateur radio services. Bryan will coordinate amateur radio training sessions for interested members of that community.

**Presentation:** Dan, N6AU, recently returned from a trip to Germany. While he was there he got to visit the site of an old AM radio station. The Berlin Radio Tower/Funkturm is described in this web article: <http://www.nuberlin.com/things-to-do-in-berlin/berlin-radio-tower-funkturm/> You can also Google "Funkturm to learn much more. Dan described the tower as a very impressive engineering marvel/creation. It weighs more than 200 tons and is insulated from the ground. He said that it is periodically repainted requiring 9 tons of paint to help preserve it.

### **Stories from Your Shack:**

- **Budd:** He provided us an update on his keyer project which he told us about at a previous meeting. As we will remember, Budd designed a CW keyer controlled by an Arduino micro-controller and software which he wrote. He displayed several rev's of the circuit board which he designed and had produced. He also showed a version of his CW decoder which he modified for the CW demo table at the Lopez Island Field Day.

- Mike: Mike gave a pitch for supporting the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. He also said that in August he will be hosting visitors ZL2US and his wife. They will come to our August meeting and will tell us about amateur radio activities in their club in New Zealand. Mike is also looking for a new custodian for club owned HF transceiver which had been part of the estate of the original holder of the call sign N7JN.
  
- Steve, N4RVE: He told us about an incident which he had assisted with on May 21. On his scanner he heard distress calls intended for Whidbey Island Search and Rescue from a member of the team of a fallen snowmobilers under whom an ice bridge had given way on Mount Baker. Steve recorded the communications and contacted authorities who coordinated the rescue. Steve has since met, in person and on Facebook the person who made the distress call and he has permission to publish the story.
- Bryan reported on the Raspberry Pi in ham radio workshop which he and others assisted with and participated in at SeaPac. He said that about 100 participated in the workshop. He also told us about a new Northwest Digital Radio product which they are calling the One Watt Spot. It is a radio transceiver hat which will sit on top a Raspberry Pi computer making possible various analog and digital modes which would have otherwise required an individual computer, sound card, and radio. Standby for further details.
- Bob N7NHE: Bob reported that his boat, Companionship is in SE Alaska for the summer. It's his 18<sup>th</sup> trip there. Having departed on May 3, his boat is currently docked in Wrangell. We can follow it on AIS. He said that when internet is available they update their blog: <https://bobbrunkow.wordpress.com/> He will return to the boat on July 3 when they will continue north to Juneau before heading southbound again. He is on ham radio as much as possible but that remains difficult since there are many devices on the boat which produce tremendous amounts of RF noise. Bob also commented that with the nearly endless daylight it is challenging to work very far on his favorite band, 75 meters. It requires staying up much too late.
  
- Tom KK6ATX: Tom described some of the challenges of getting personal communication out of the isolated water area of Alaska. Ham radio is much more useful than relying on the Coast Guard for personal communications.
- Dave is working restore his computer after a failure.
- Ed, realizing that the TH-F6 is EOL he found a good used on Ebay.
- Peg Gerlock: She looks forward to getting into ham radio. She has done lots of boating and enjoys tech challenges and knows lots of hams in the boating community.

- Scott, W7SLM: Asked about VHF and UHF stations on simplex on FD
- Dan N6AU: Rather than carrying a computer to the hospital for White Box checkins is working on the idea of a smart phone dumb terminal device for digital communications there.
- Carol N7LHY: still celebrating her new knee after 7 months since the replacement
- Larry VE6VQ/W7: busy with FD details and tower details
- Corky AF4PM: getting ready for FD and working on ways of measuring deviation without a service monitor (with a Raspberry Pi and an SDR dongle.
- Monte N7TAU: Went to SeaPac, working on Raspberry Pi , have a hotspot for use with TH D74 to enhance fun with DSTAR. Also working his 1920 Model A Ford which he bought when he was 14.
- Basil: continuing to support Winlink on unix following his presentation at SeaPac.
- Budd: Impressed with and appreciative of Basil's scripts for setting up and running Winlink on Raspberry Pi's. He has successfully set up a few of them for other folks and they run great.
- David: have lots of antenna plans and awaiting good weather
- Steve N4RVE: still growing into all of the capabilities of his TH D74. Making lots of use of it with his hotspot for DSTAR
- Kenny KU7M: Went to SeaPac where he got some Raspberry Pi /UDRC questions answered. Continues to make progress on building a new DSTAR repeater for installation on Cougar Mt soon.
- Bryan: Now that Dave has improved internet N7JN DSTAR will soon be linked again.
- Poke: Said that many of the topics discussed today were foreign to her, being a new ham. Hoop said that he, being only licensed for 6 years now was in the same boat and stated that lots of "elmers" had helped get him up to speed.

### **SJCARS 2017 Events Calendar**

- ARRL Field Day – June 24
- Island Rec 8.8K Loop Fun run, Saturday, Aug 19th, 2017
- International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend Sunday, Aug 20th, at Lime Kiln State Park Coordinating Ed KD7TUN <http://illw.net/>

- Lopez Picnic, Friday, September 15, 2017
- Salmon Run – Washington State QSO Party – September 16-17
- VE Session -October 28, SJI Library: Dave K9MRQ
- ARRL TAPR Digital Communications Conference: September 15-17 in St Louis
- SJI Safety Fare at Mullis (staff EOC from 10 am to 2 pm), Saturday, October 14th
- Christmas Party on Friday, Dec 8th, 2017, at Mullis Fire. Coordinating TBD

**Next meeting:** Friday July 14 Friday Harbor Brewing Company contingent on making arrangements: watch for details

Presentation ideas appreciated. One possible topic is solar propagation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10

Respectfully submitted by: Peter Dahl, Recording Secretary (additions, corrections or comments to Peter Dahl [WA7FUS@arrl.net](mailto:WA7FUS@arrl.net))

**The next club meeting  
will be held at 11:30 Friday July 14, 2017  
at Friday Harbor Brewing Company**