



**MINUTES OF MEETING: FEBRUARY 9, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 11:32 by Scott, W7SLM in the Oar House at Friday Harbor Brewing.

Introductions: Members and visitors from Island and Skagit counties introduced themselves.

**ATTENDEES:**

Michael KG7HQ	Dan N6AU	Bill KI7QBI	Wayne WA6MPG
Paul N7TZV	Corky AF7PM	Brian K7BLS	Basil N7NIX
O J AD7DR	Glen KI7RAF	Jeff N7OSS	Craig AE7NA
David KK6WQ	Clare KE7WQY	ED KD7TUN	Dave K9MRQ
Jay; KI7WDQ	David WA6PXX	Richard WB6NAH	Peter WA7FUS
Hoop K9QJS	Scott W7SLM		

**MINUTES:**

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

**Officer’s reports**

**• President:**

Hams were first to know that the recent Hawaiian missile alert was not real.

Scott Tilley, VE7TIL (Roberts Creek, BC) located the, thought to be lost, NASA IMAGE satellite.

The first successfully deployed D-STAR cubesat “D-STAR ONE v1.1 Phoenix” was launched and placed in orbit on February 1 and has been confirmed to be operational.

**• Treasurer:** In absence of Dani, it was informally reported that the treasury balance is still more than \$5000.

- **DSTAR** – Dave K9MRQ reported that the VPN tunnel which allows our DSTAR repeater's gateway to utilize his LTE internet connection to communicate with other DSTAR systems went down during recently during power interruptions. Bryan will reconfigure it for us.

- **Calendar**

Mike and Key Swap Meet

MicroHams Digital Conference – All seats sold out but presentations will be streamed and archived for later viewing.

**Old Business:** Scott

Orcas Picnic has been confirmed and reservations for picnic shelter have been made. May 11.

Lopez Picnic has been confirmed for September 14. Basil will coordinate.

ARRL Books for libraries update: General opinion seems to be that the discounted book package offered to schools and libraries is not what libraries need. Donation of near current book by members was suggested and Ed suggested polling the membership to see what ham radio related books they would like to be able to find in their local library.

**New Business:** Bryan will conduct a second Technician License prep class at UW Friday Harbor Lab on February 20 and 22 and the SJCARS VE's will provide the exam session on Saturday February 24.

Scott mentioned that recently Tsunami warning was issued in Alaska following an earthquake. Locals with weather radios with SAME code alert programmed into them for our region said that their radios came alive and it was determined that there was no tsunami threat after all. Questions were asked about receiving various alerts on modern weather radios. Ed provided some explanations and also added that this false alert had set off his WX radio and awaked him early in the morning. It was also mentioned that there is a WX Alert app available for smart phones.

**Field Day:** With Field Day coming up in a few months Scott said that it might be time to start thinking about how individual island groups and the club in general want to participate. Scott said that he had enjoyed the FD on Orcas last year but no plans have yet been made to do it there again this year. Basil, on behalf of the hams on Lopez stated that they, again, want to have a public display/demo/public outreach of ham radio at the Lopez Island Saturday Market. Lopez extended others to join them. Hoop said that he and Ed had a good time setting up a station and operating on San Juan but said that it was sort of quiet. Dan said that he thought that some of the best FD's we've had were when there was one larger gathering with food and public display at Cattle Point. Hoop volunteered to lead the San Juan effort. Clare thinks that the individual island efforts may

be best for some since coordination with ferry runs is not required but also thinks that the SJ Island effort needs more participants.

Scott said that this was a good start of the conversation over FD and that subject will be on the agenda of upcoming meetings.

**Presentations:** Hoop, K9QJS: an introduction to FT8



Hoop presented a very interesting introduction to the WSJT mode FT8, created by K8UT for the South East Michigan DX Association. FT8 is another one of the suite of programs for ham radio fun and propagation study written by Princeton University. Nobel Laureate and emeritus physics professor Joe Taylor, K1JT. Since it was introduced to ham radio last July FT8 has had a huge following and it keeps being improved upon with each new software release. It is truly amazing to see how little signal is required to communicate around the globe with this very narrow bandwidth digital mode. Hoop's presentation prompted lots of discussion and questions. By searching on the internet one can find a lot of good information on FT8 including how to download and install the WSJT-X software, how to interface it to your radios, and how to operate this mode.

#### **Mike Sterba KG7HQ, Assistant Director to Jim Pace and a Technical Specialist for the ARRL NW Division**

Mike said that he likes to make visits to clubs and various amateur radio event to take a pulse of things. He fielded questions regarding League activities and current happenings. Dave complemented Headquarters service to VEC's. Mike left business cards for anyone desiring his assistance.

#### **Stories from our shacks**

Permission has been arranged from the BLM to operate from inside the Lighthouse on Patos Island during IOTA events.

Scott – Space-X has launched a rocket carrying a red Tesla Roadster as payload.

Basil – Showed his latest version of his “appliance” for digital text communications which he has dubbed, “My Crappy Laptop”. He has added a stand for the display screen and provision for running all components from a 12 V source.

Dan – Upon discovering that the ferrite beads which he had on his HF coax were very warm after he had been transmitting. This prompted him to research various baluns to aid in achieving a better match between his antenna the feed line coax. He has built, installed and experimented with several versions of home brewed baluns. The ferrite beads on his coax are no longer getting warm when he transmits.

Ed – said that he and Hoop are working on an antenna, similar to a hex beam, only with only four spokes which are made with 12 foot glass fishing poles. He said that it's essentially a two element yagi. It should be easy to transport and set up on site at events such as field day. Ed was asked questions about how this antenna may compare to a

moxon or a cubical quad. Ed also said that his name and call sign can be see in “The Doctor is In” column in the February issue of QST in conjunction with a matching solution for an antenna and discussions he had with them. Brian K7BLS – suggested a “Brewpubs on the Air” event

**Future meeting programs:**

Suggestions programs or special topics for meetings can be submitted to club officers. Ideas, suggestions, volunteer presenters and other such resources are always welcomed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

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 –March 9, 2018  
at Friday Harbor Marine Brewery – Oar House**