



MINUTES OF MEETING: MARCH 9, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 11:40 by Scott, W7SLM in the Oar House at Friday Harbor Brewing Company.

Introductions:

ATTENDEES:

Peter WA7FUS	Andy WA2TND	Corky AF4PM	Mike N7TLL
Budd WB7FHC	Robert KF7VOP	Hoop K9QJS	Basil N7NIX
ED KD7TUN	Dave K9MRQ	Craig AE7NA	Paul N7TZW
Scott W7SLM	Bryan K7UDR	David KK6WQ	Kenny KU7M
Dan N6AU	Eric KJ6TKU		

MINUTES:

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

Officer's reports

• President'a Report:

- ARRL is promoting a plan to add more HF privileges for technician licensees. Look for discussion of this on their web site and various other places
- Scott saw articles containing discussion that ham radio may have been used in some political intrigue.
- Scott's son brought his attention to an interesting video presentation on Quantum Fields by David Tong. You can search find it on YouTube. https://youtu.be/zNVQfWC_evg
- Scott now has his VE credentials.

• Treasurer:

Bryan reported the treasury balance is \$5907.87.

• **Community Outreach:**

- Hoop reported that he and Bob, AD6K had given a presentation to middle school age students at Spring Street International School. Hoop titled it "Invisibility, Magic, and Secret Codes". He said that he introduced them to the science of radio waves and illustrated various uses of parts of the spectrum with a large strip chart. Bob made and brought a wooden Morse key with a sounder. They projected a chart illustrating the dots and dashes for International Morse characters. They passed the key around the classroom, letting the students send "secret" words for the others to decipher. He said that the students were fascinated with this and were interested in learning more. Hoop and Bob have been invited to return. Bob and Hoop will create kits so that the students can assemble their own keys with sounders and learn/practice code. Following their visit they received thank you notes from they class which were written mostly in dots and dashes (Morse Code). Hoop passed them around for us to see.

Scott entertained a motion that the club reimburse Hoop and Bob up to \$100 for their expenses in creating the key-sounder kits. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

• **Calendar**

Internal Calendar

VE Session April 7

SJCARS meeting April 13 at Mullis Fire Station

External Calendar

Mike and Key Swap Meet

Communications Academy

MicroHams Digital Conference

Sasquatch Stomp

Old Business:

Scott – Field Day plans so far include stations on San Juan Island and Lopez Island. No plans have been made to activate a club FD station on Orcas this year.

Bryan – Our club insurance policy will be renewed prior to Field Day

Hoop- San Juan Island's club FD station will again be set up at the Cattle Point Interpretive Center

New Business

-Scott informally surveyed the club's interest in contesting and other on the air activities. Members mentioned various activities including Lighthouse weekend, Islands on the Air, and SOTA. It was again mentioned that permission has been secured to operate from inside of the Patos Island Lighthouse

-Bryan announced that the club's DSTAR repeaters are once again linked to other remote DSTAR repeaters via the internet. The cure for the malfunction was reseating the Raspberry Pi's SD card.

Presentations:

Bryan – HamCation – Orlando, Florida

Since Bryan's responsibilities in his booth at HamCation did not allow him to actually see and participate in most of the rest of the event he reported mostly on the area where HamCation is held. He also told us about some interesting national climate and weather survey materials generated by an Alaskan weather enthusiast.

When asked how things went in his booth he reported that he had previewed a new product which he will introduce at Dayton. Basil displayed and discussed the latest version his communication appliance which he as sometimes referred to as his "Crappy Laptop". Corky contributed information and thoughts ARDOP with Winlink.

Ed – Square Beam Project

Responding to being challenged by Hoop to develop a better 20 meter antenna for Field Day than the rotatable dipole which they had previously used Ed is developing a square beam. He shared with us his research and rationale for deciding upon a square beam design over various yagi, hexbeam and cubical quad designs. Computer modeling of his square beam design told him that there would be relatively small performance differences between the more complex, costlier, and more labor intensive previously mentioned antennas and the much simpler to build and deploy square beam.

The 4 spokes/spreaders will be 12 foot collapsible fiberglass fishing rods which they found a good source for. The antenna will be made from flexible, non-kinking insulated stranded wire and it will be fed in the center where it connects to the mast so that the feed line will not weight down the spokes and the antenna. Ed said that he will report back with performance test results.

Stories from our shacks

Scott – A switching power supply which he tried using to charge a battery worked for a short time then stopped working. Robert KF7VOP suggested that it is always a bad idea to use switching power supplies to charge batteries and should not be done without a diode/circuit in between. The transistors are at particular risk from this kind of load. Scott offered the dead power supply for free to anyone interested. Ed KD7TUN found the price was right and took it home.

Mike - N7TLL just returned from New Zealand. Mike reminded us that ARRL has made a proposal to the FCC to which would greatly expand the operating privileges of technician class amateurs to nearly those of the General class with no additional exam. He feels that we need to consider whether or not this is a good idea.

Craig – Checks into a morning net daily which also has EchoLink connections so that Bob Brunkow and others can check in from out of the area.

Hoop – Continuing to make contacts and observe DX stations on FT8.

Bryan – Having now licensed a dozen of so new hams recently through training and exam sessions in conjunction with UW Friday Harbor Labs a frequently asked question is: “What should I buy for my first radio?” Ideas like charging a small fee for the class and exam so that a new programmed radio could be handed to new licensees have been discussed. Craig suggested that just as with the local pilots association, newly licensed pilots are awarded a dues free first year of membership, SJCARS could award newly licensed hams with a dues free first year of membership. It was instantly moved, seconded, that all newly licensed hams in San Juan County, beginning in 2018, will receive the offer of a complimentary year of membership in SJCARS. The motion was unanimously approved.

Scott - continuing to go over SJCARS constitution and bylaws and will report his findings and suggestions at an upcoming meeting. Anyone with suggestions should chat with Scott.

Dave – We should all encourage our fellow members to upgrade their license class.

Budd – Reported that he has been working a lot with other Whatcom County hams running digital text modes on Raspberry Pi computers with UDRC sound cards. Their primary modes include FSQ and Xastir. He had been needing a way of switching modes without major effort since the two modes require different types of software

modems. This week he was handed a Raspberry Pi image which will allow the mode changing from an onscreen menu.

Mike – told us that he hands out eyeball QSO cards to new hams encouraging them to contact him in order that he can be an “Elmer” for them and get them started on the air.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

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

**The next club meeting –April 13 2018
at Friday Harbor, Mullis Fire Station**