



MINUTES OF MEETING: JANUARY 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 11:31 by Scott, W7SLM in the training room at Mullis Fire Station.

Introductions:

ATTENDEES:

Peter WA7FUS	Dave K9MRQ	Hoop K9QJS	Paul N7TZW
ED KD7TUN	Kenny KU7M	Larry NM7A	Alan KJ7BFC
Brian K7BLS	Scott W7SLM	Dan N6AU	Jessica McCullough
Budd WB7FHC	Bill KF7KND	Basil N7NIX	JoelKJ7BVE
Wayne WA6MPG	Steve N8GNJ	Clare KE7WQY	Mike N7TLL
Greg AE7EL	Bryan K7UDR	Ken K7KCA	Bill KI7QBI
Laura Jo KF7KNA	Steve KI7WOG	Robin KJ7BFD	Howie N7FBC

MINUTES:

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

Officer's reports:

• President's report:

Scott told us more about projects with his new 3D printer. He passed around a case for a frequency counter and a puzzle locked container which he printed. He challenged us to figure out how to open the puzzle container.

He said that according the ARRL report, the FCC is not processing applications during the government shutdown as of January 3. He said also, that there is a public notice on the FCC web site talking about what they may be

doing during the lapse in funding. The FCC ULS system will be retired in March and will be replaced by the CORES system. There is a new iPhone app called Morse-it. Costing only 99 cents it has a bunch of good features.

Scientists at the Georgia Institute of Technology have developed an origami based system for designing radio filters. He also announced launching of 2 new satellites carrying DSTAR repeaters.

- **Vice President** – Ed said that he would entertain a discussion of meeting locations later in the meeting. There are several months each year when Mullis is being used for fire fighter training and the Oar House is no longer available because the operators of it have retired.

- **Treasurer:**

Dani provided a complete analysis of SJCARS 2018 financial activity. Bryan presented a synopsis of it and will post the complete report in the SJCARS confidential area of the web site.

A brief discussion of the option of subscribing to SJCARS dues with PayPal and an explanation of how to do it and where to find it on our web page.

Clare asked us to acknowledge the hours that Dani has spend being our treasurer and to thank her. Agreement and applause followed. Thank you Dani!

- **Secretary** – Peter thanked Larry, NM7A for subbing as secretary at the December meeting which he was unable to attend.

Committee Reports:

- **EMCOM & WhiteBox:** Hoop announced that county's Auxiliary Communications group will be having a face to face working session meeting on Friday February 15th in the old Friday Harbor Fire Station. Contact Hoop for details.

- **Repeaters:** Ed reported that a power supply at the Cady Mt repeater site failed about a month ago. He ordered, received, and installed a replacement unit and will work on repairing the failed unit so that it can be available as a spare in case needed. The new power supply cost about \$360. The Cady repeaters have been fully restored and are fully functioning. A motion was made and passed to reimburse Ed for the new power supply.

Wayne reported that the Vusario (Orcas Island) packet digi-peaters and BBS's with their new batteries and power supply survived their first outage test just fine. His 224.54 repeater and GMRS repeater did not fair so well though during an outage due to a malfunction of the solar charging system where they are located. Repairs will be made ASAP.

- **Calendar:** Scott introduced the current edition of our SJCARS internal and external 2019 calendar of activities. He had a few paper copies and shared it on the screen. Included on the internal calendar are the dates for meetings, picnics, VE sessions, and or Christmas Feast. The external calendar currently includes the dates of a number of ham radio events and activities which could be of interest to club members. These calendars will be made available for use and viewing on our web pages. On the topic of our internal calendar Scott said that it could be again time to

visit the subject of having some of our meetings and activities on Saturdays. He said that he received comments from some folks that they could have come to our Christmas Feast if it had been held on Saturday rather than on Friday. This could be the same for our Orcas and Lopez picnic meetings. With Mullis not being available for our currently scheduled February, March, and April meetings alternate locations and/or alternate days will be sought. This could turn out to be on another island or maybe on Saturdays. Research and surveying will be done. Scott reviewed many of the currently listed items on the external calendar which he had put together and invited input. Amongst the activities discussed was the annual light house weekend QSO party. With four lighthouses in San Juan County Scott wondered how many of them we might be able to activate.

• **New Business:**

Laura Jo – KF7KNA asked, on behalf of her Red Cross activities, how many San Juan Island had emergency power for their radios. A short discussion followed with suggestions for powering radios without commercial power. Laura Jo said that she would return with more questions regarding this at an upcoming meeting.

Greg, AE7EL made a motion, which was seconded, that the club roster containing personal contact information be posted in the files confidential area of our web site rather than in public view. Members present agreed and a short discussion ensued. Bryan said that he would put the club roster, with contact information, in the confidential area of the web site. Scott said that we will re-visit the format of the club roster at the next meeting.

Bryan volunteered to create a page within in our web pages describing all of the ways of communicating between club members including mailing lists like mail chimp and groups.io.

Scott announced that he would survey the membership regarding their meeting place and day preferences. He and Ed will find a place for us to meet in February since it is one of the 3 months during the year when Mullis is not available to us. Scott said that while we have ideas of where meetings could take place if you have additional ideas please share them with Ed so that he can check them out for us. Discussions then ranged from the history of where and on what day SJCARS has met in the past to the possible responses of members and hame of the community to other time and place meetings. Scott will create and send out a survey and Ed will find a location for our February meeting.

Presentations:

- **Larry NM7A – KiwiSDR web SDR receiver**

Larry showed us his KiwiSDR receiver which he has installed at his home on Orcas Island with a long beverage antenna.

KiwiSDR is a software defined receiver running on a BeagleBone computer with a built-in web server. It has a GPS receiver included in it to maintain frequency stability. A ham in Hungary has set up a web site to consolidate links to all of the KiwiSDR receivers whose owners choose to register them with him. KiwiSDR receivers have been registered and made available for web use in many parts of the world. This makes it interesting and fun to check out the propagation on any frequency between 0 and 30 Mhz. There are more than 350 of these receivers listed on their web pages which are online and available for you to freely tune and listen to. Begin your web research of the KiwiSDR radio by going to their web page <http://kiwiSDR.com/> You'll find a wealth of fascinating information. To make this even more exciting, the KiwiSDR starter kit is only \$300. To locate receivers available to use go to <http://rx.linkfanel.net/> for a clickable map or <https://sdr.hu/?q=kiwisdr> to search for receivers by location. Listening to and tuning these online receivers with your computer requires simply an internet connection and a computer, smart phone or tablet with a web browser.

- **Volunteer Exam Coordinators – Bryan K7UDR**

Bryan gave us some background on the history of the Amateur Radio examination process. Many of those at the meeting today showed their age or at least the age of their license by saying that they had taken their General or higher class license exam at an FCC office. This was of course prior to the establishment of the Volunteer Examiner Program. Many of us did not know that there are more FCC certified Volunteer Exam Coordinator programs than just the ARRL and W5YI. In fact, there are 14 of them. Each of them is approved by the FCC to coordinate teams of Volunteer Examiners who have been certified to administer exams. Some of the VEC's including ARRL whose coordination we have used charge applicants \$15 to take the exam and they require that the VE's mail all of the papers used in each exam session to them before they forward passing test results to the FCC.

Bryan cited information on some of the 14 VEC's including fees, number of exams given, and pass/fail rates. This led up to our introduction to Laurel VEC, sponsored by the Laurel Amateur Radio Club in Silver Springs, Maryland since 1984. Bryan told us about this well established VEC which, since its inception in 1984, continues to charge no examination fees. Furthermore, they conduct their transfers of applications and exams electronically (via email) from volunteer examiners and in turn transfer this data directly to the FCC electronically making it possible for applicants to be licensed with their call sign within a day of passing their examinations. Laurel VE's (volunteer examiners) now conduct the amateur radio licensing exams at Hamvention in Ohio. Being in the same time zone as FCC headquarters, applicants can now take their test in the morning and have their license in the afternoon of the same day.

Interest was expressed in learning about the Laurel VEC by some of the examiners team on Lopez Island. Bryan took on the project of doing the research. Along the way he learned that club member, Kenny Richards was a VE for 3 VEC's, ARRL, W5YI, and Laurel VEC. Kenny was able to share information and experiences of being part of a Laurel VE team. Bryan will pursue this with the possibility of the establishment of a Laurel VE team in San Juan County. We had a good discussion and I think that a lot of questions were answered.

Here is a link to a lot of information about Laurel VEC [Laurel VEC information](#).

Stories from our shacks:

Budd showed one of the printed circuit boards that he had just received from company in China that produces them for him in just two days for a very low/reasonable price. In response to questions he described some of the process readying his projects for board creation.

Greg AE7EL told us about a small battery operated Seco printer which could allow printer during power outages.

Basil showed his blue tooth [Mobilinkd TNC](#) hooked to his TH-F6 and paired with his tablet. Scott suggested that this might be something for an upcoming presentation.

Ed gave a friend an RTL-SDR dongle for Christmas and is having fun learning how to use it and what it will do so that he can teach his friend. Ed may also give a program on this at an upcoming meeting.

Someone whose voice I didn't recognize indicated that he is having fun and success with the latest version of JS-8.

Next Meeting

• **Next Meeting – Scott will notify us on the web and via email where the next meeting will be held on February 8 since Mullis is not available for us to use that day.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30

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