



MINUTES OF MEETING: MARCH 8, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 11:30 by Scott, W7SLM in the downstairs meeting room in the Friday Harbor Key Bank.

Introductions:

Scott recognized there were some new folks present so we did introductions.

ATTENDEES:

Peter WA7FUS	Dave K9MRQ	Hoop K9QJS	Paul N7TZW
ED KD7TUN	Kent KF7VDD	Kenny KU7M	Budd WB7FHC
Monte N7TAU	Scott W7SLM	Alan KJ7BFC	Basil N7NIX
Bryan K7UDR	Clare KE7WQY	Andy WA2TND	Robin KI7BDF
Paul WB6CXC	Carol N7LHY	Greg AE7EL	Wayne WA6MPG
Bob KC0SO	Mike N7TLL	Bill K7UTX	Rob KJ7HFC
Dani KE7TLE			

MINUTES:

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

Officer's reports:

• **President's report:**

Scott reported that he had received feedback and suggestions on a number of topics which he hopes that we can touch on and begin to discuss at the April meeting. He then asked for others to share ideas and/or goals for the club for 2019. Bryan said that the topic of alternate power sources had come up recently in EMCOM discussions with

Brendan Cowan. Scott said that something that he would like to see is a repeater system status report including inventory, age of equipment, site ideas, new systems desired. He also wondered about format ideas for reviving the CW net. He asked if there is any interest in a club newsletter. Ed commented that maybe most anything that would have been posted in the Dummy Load might now be posted in places online so maybe a newsletter is redundant.

Scott reported that ARRL has received strong demand for their Introduction to Emergency Communications course. He suggested that Hoop might touch on this in his report later in the meeting.

ARRL has started a new podcast called "So now what?". He said that first episode didn't contain much but that it would be a continuing series which is aimed toward new hams. He suggested that we check it out.

Scott began investigating insulators last month and plans to give a presentation on what he learned at the April meeting. He used his newly acquired 3D printer to print various sizes of insulators which he brought to pass around and share. The material he used is called PETG (Polyethylene Terephthalate Glycol). He welcomes feedback regarding them. Budd asked him if the layers tend to pull apart. Scott responded yes, that can be an issue. He initially tried someone else's design and was not satisfied with it, for that and other reasons, so he created his own design to avoid the layer separation issue, and add other design improvements. We'll hear more about this and his other research on insulators at our April meeting.

•Treasurer's report:

Dani reported that the treasury balance is \$5088.15. Our income was \$65 minus the PayPal service fee of \$2.49. Currently we have 49 members.

Dani also reported that our full contact roster has not yet been posted since a method of securing personal information had not yet been determined. Bryan proposed that the roster be available in the confidential area of our web site as a password protected PDF file. This idea was received with approval. Dani brought a few printed copies and she offered to email the file in several formats upon request from individual members. It was also agreed that it was not necessary for Dani to post, on the web site, the basic listing of paid up members and then be responsible of updating it as members paid.

She also reviewed our PayPal option for paying dues. We can sign up through PayPal for a 5 year membership subscription. Each year PayPal will send a reminder that dues are due and that they will bill us for the year's dues.

There is an option included in the reminder allowing modification of the subscription. Modifications to member contact information can be entered on the form in the membership area of our web site.

• **Committee Reports**

VEC: At the last meeting Bryan gave a presentation on various VEC's including the Laurel VEC. There was a request that we investigate SJCARS becoming a Laurel VEC. Since Kenny was already a Laurel VE and one of his work colleagues is the lead VE for Laurel in both Seattle and the Northwest Kenny took the lead and set up a testing team and deputized Basil and Bryan and they did a trial testing session a couple of weeks ago at Friday Harbor Labs. They invited other VE's to observe. The session went well with only a couple of minor issues that they were able to correct on the fly. They have had all positive feedback on the session so far. Kenny has now signed up nearly a dozen VE's on San Juan and Lopez islands and look forward to organizing a group on Orcas. Bryan said that have been contacted by the San Juan County Conservation Group which is a group of 60 people including a youth conservation corp. They would like to get them involved in amateur radio. Bryan and Basil talked about methods and techniques they use for ham license preparation classes. Laurel VE team leaders, Bryan, Basil, and Kenny will put together license session kits for Lopez and San Juan so that they can conduct sessions independently. Mike, N7TLL, a member of the our ARRL VE team observed the testing procedures and with enthusiasm for the program, has registered himself as a Laurel VE too.. Kenny and others agreed there are some procedures to learn but it will work well. Examinees will be taking test test at no charge (compared to \$15 per test attempt with ARRL) and will have their license within 24 hours of passing the test.

Mike complimented Dave on his excellence as our lead ARRL VE and thanked him for all of his service.

Bryan made a motion which was seconded and approved that SJCARS officially adopt Laurel VEC's as sanctioning their operation. We will now be listed as an official sponsor of Laurel VEC's testing.

Hoop will pass his collection of ARRL introductory materials to Bryan to use as handouts for the newly licenses hams. Hoop confirmed that Kenny had collected email address for all of the testing applicants.

• **Calendar**

- Our April meeting will be on Friday the 12th at the Town Fire Hall in Friday Harbor

- Our May meeting will our annual Orcas Island picnic. It will be on Saturday May 11th at Cascade Lake in Moran State Park on Orcas Island

-June, July, and August meetings will be at Mullis Fire Station

- Saturday September 14 – Lopez Picnic
- October and November meetings will be at Mullis Fire Station
- Our Christmas Holiday Feast and election meeting will be on Saturday December 14 at Mullis Fire Station.

Here is a link to the SJCARS Google Calendar: [SJCARS](#)

Both our internal and external calendar in the files section of SJCARS groups.io

External Calendar

International Light House weekend

Mike and Key Swap Meet in Puyallup

Microhams Digital Conference

TAPR DCC September 20-22

Comm Academy April 13-14

• Old Business:

There had been discussion of having some of our regular meetings on Saturdays and/or on islands other than San Juan Island. After doing research Scott reported that the ferry schedule lends itself best to having folks from other islands come to San Juan for meetings. It appears also that meeting rooms, at least free or low cost ones are more available on Fridays than on Saturdays.

At the February meeting Scot conducted a graphic matrix ham radio interest survey with the small group present (due to the snow). The small sample group seemed to validate the theory that we are a group which has a wide range of ham radio interests and activities Scott interpreted.

• New Business

Event support – Scott said that we need a larger group of people present to discuss this topic further. We can make a small group of folks with radios available top short duration events but we do not have the people resources to field large numbers of volunteers for extended duration activities.

Presentations:

- **Hoop K9QJS** gave an update the San Juan County Auxiliary Communications Services meeting which he hosted on February 15th. He also gave us an introduction with some background history of ACS and how it evolved from ARES. Hoop is the newly appointed ARRL sanctioned , San Juan County EC (Emergency coordinator). Here are his presentation slides. [SJACS slides](#)

• **Bryan K7UDR** – Bryan told us about the DRAWS product that Northwest Digital Radio has been developing and is currently shipping. DRAWS stands for Digital Radio Amateur Work Station. Describing DRAWS and all of it's capabilities in a few words is impossible. Based upon the Raspberry Pi computer and the linux operating system DRAWS is a multi-functional computer-radio interface which is capable, with open source software, of facilitating the operation of a tremendous number of different modes of operation on HF, VHF, and UHF amateur bands.

Bryan's presentation lead to discussions of local uses of some of the modes DRAWS, with a radio, could be used for in our local EMCOM activities. The group talked about some developing modes of data and message transfer associated with Winlink including ARDOP and ALE.

Bryan had some equipment set up on a table in the front of the room for display and demonstration following the meeting..

Here are the slides for Bryan's presentation. [Draws presentation slides](#)

Stories from the Shack

- **Hoop** reported the Craig AE7NA has returned home following double knee replacement and is doing well and is beginning his recovery.

- **Paul WB6CXC** – told us that continuing his plan to develop systems for unattended buoy telemetry he has begun to experiment with using the mode JS8call for data packet communication. It is similar to FT8 but also includes the facility to send free form messages. He has set up 2 receive only JS8call gateway stations in the 30 meter band as part of his research and development. One is in California and one is in Friday Harbor. They report into PSK Reporter and can gateway APRS formatted messages containing such information as position reports and telemetry. He says he's getting pretty excited about the results so far. He described the current hardware and had some of it on display for us to look at. He also said that in a month or so he'd be willing to give us a more detailed presentation on the project.

Mike N7TLL said that he has been “elmering” a ham friend in Kirkland, setting up a 80 and 20 meter dipoles for him and hopes to set up a contact schedule with him.

Greg AE7EL said that he brought some things for folks to look at following the meeting.

- **Next Meeting** – The April SJCARS meeting will be held on Friday April 12 in the second floor meeting room of the Friday Harbor Town Fire Hall. Scott’s meeting announcement on the Monday prior to the meeting will provide detailed location and program information.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35

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

**The next club meeting will be Friday April 12
in the second floor meeting of
the Friday Harbor Town Fire Hall**