

SJCARS

San Juan County Amateur Radio Society

Minutes of Meeting: 13 March 2020

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Menozzi (KE7KDR), SJCARS
Secretary

[Minutes of Meeting: 13 March 2020](#)

[Call to Order](#)

[Attendees](#)

[Summary of Motions and Votes](#)

[Previous Meeting's Minutes](#)

[Publicity Budget](#)

[Topics Discussed](#)

[Presentation\(s\)](#)

[Calendar of Upcoming Events](#)

[Stories From the Shack](#)

[Meeting Close](#)

Call to Order

A brief business meeting was called to order at 11:30 by Scott (W7SLM) using the virtual conferencing service, Zoom, to connect members located throughout San Juan County. The meeting was recorded.

Attendees

Elizabeth KE7KDR	Budd WB7FHC	Monte N7TAU	Geoff KJ7FVG
Scott W7SLM	Henry AE7HP	Peter WA7FUS	Mary-Brooke W7TZW
Greg AE7EL	Kenny KU7M	Dani K7TLE	Paul N7TZW
Alan KJ7BFC	Mike KI7YU	Larry NM7A	Robin KJ7BFD
Molly KJ7HOD	Basil N7NIX	Dave K9MRQ	Habib KJ7KJC
Dan N6AU	Hoop K9QJS	Ed KD7TUN	Mark N6CSM
Bill K7UTX	Bob K7NHE	Brian K7BLS	Brenda KJ7BUV

Summary of Motions and Votes

Previous Meeting's Minutes

The minutes of the February meeting, as posted on the SJCARS web site, were approved with no changes.

Publicity Budget

Motion put forward by Greg AE7EL. Seconded by Hoop. (see notes for more details)

Topics Discussed

- Committee Reports
 - Treasurer
 - Previous balance
 - Current balance
 - Increase due to new memberships

- Appropriated expense for Cady Mountain repeater have not been included.
 - Vice President had nothing to report.
 - Secretary had nothing to report.
 - President
 - Spammers spammed our SJCARS website by joining and then sending emails to members impersonating Scott and asking for gift cards.
 - New D-Star out there for physics exploring dark matter.
 - Electromagnetic pollution is in the news again.
 - COVID-19 news links shared by Scott
 - SARS-CoV-2 is the virus, COVID-19 is the disease:
<https://medium.com/@edwardnirenberg/sars-cov-2-and-the-lessons-we-have-to-learn-from-it-e2017fd5d3c>
 - The Math Behind the Threat:
<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1236095180459003909.html>
 - Coronavirus Lecture With Dr. Amesh Adalja:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhYcbo7rqEQ>
 - Why does soap work so well on SARS-CoV-2?:
<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1236549305189597189.html>
 - Chris Martenson Daily Virus Updates:
<https://www.peakprosperity.com/tag/coronavirus/>
- Habib shared: Here's the County's "case count" page. Currently 0 confirmed, but 9 open tests.
<https://www.sanjuanco.com/1682/COVID-19-SJC-Case-Count>
- Greg shared: The most balanced daily news source I have found is the John Hopkins Center for Health Security Mailing List :
<http://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/newsroom/newsletters/e-newsletter-sign-up.html>
- Elizabeth shared: anecdotal story about someone on SJI who has pneumonia but has not yet been tested for COVID-19. Many stories of people not being able to get tested for variety of reasons. Possible good news that Candians have isolated the disease:
- EmComm update: Good turnout for the white-box drill and lots of learning going on.

- Repeater update: batteries are waiting to be installed once Ed recovers from his cold.
- Echolink update: back on the air, currently at Basil's house.
- VE testing: Test scheduled on Orcas for May 30th at a time that aligns reasonably with the ferry schedule. May get cancelled, but hoping it can happen as scheduled. Training class will be held virtually. Contact Greg AE7EL for more info.
- Old Business: Publicity Budget
 - Prompted by considering how to advertise for upcoming VE testing session and desire to put something in the newspaper.
 - Proposing that the club maintains a modest budget (suggested \$200/year) for publicizing events of interest to the public like:
 - Potlucks
 - Field day
 - Free license classes
 - VE test sessions
 - Budget would be used for things like:
 - Advertising space in local print newspapers
 - Cost of printing flyers for events
 - Motion to accept as proposed by Greg AE7EL (details of motion are below). Seconded by Bob K7NHE.
 - Whereas, recruitment of new amateur operators and promoting the benefits of amateur radio are goals of the Society, and
 - Whereas, we have not in the past done an excellent job of advertising events of interest to the public, such as picnics, potlucks, Field Day, free license classes, and VE test sessions, and
 - Whereas, a significant portion of our target audience is likely to read their local newspaper or see posted flyers, and
 - Whereas, black and white advertising space in our local print newspapers (Islands' Sounder, Islands' Weekly, and Journal of the San Juan Islands) is priced at \$15.10 per column inch per issue, and
 - Whereas, there is a cost to printing flyers.
 - Therefore, we resolve the following:

- That the president shall be responsible for managing print publicity, or delegating it to one or more members at his or her discretion,
 - That the president shall have established a general use e-mail inbox at info@sjcars.org for receiving communications from the public, such as inquiries about events, training, and
 - testing, and may, at his or her discretion, establish additional e-mail accounts for officers, such as president@sjcars.org, treasurer@sjcars.org, etc.
 - That the secretary shall be responsible for managing public communications and replying to public enquiries,
 - That a budget of up to \$200/year be allocated to purchasing print publicity, including print ads and flyers.
 - Hands raised in support = 18
 - No opposed.
- D-Star Gateway
 - Larry concerned about the reliability of the end of the D-Star link that currently resides at his house. Old computer. Depends on power being available.
 - Option to replace computer and connect it to a UPS.
 - Alternative to push to cloud service like AWS.
 - Could be some concern about wanting to keep things local to the island in case we lose our connection to the mainland.
 - Greg asked for clarification about infrastructure
 - Additional hardware at Dave's house includes an LTE connection to T-Mobile through Rock Island. Periodically flakey with respect to the programs running on Raspberry Pie.
 - Repeater is powered by the battery bank on a trickle charge. Batteries will support until on-site generator kicks on if there is a power outage.
 - Two issues in question
 - Reliability based on power (okay on Dave's end, but no backup on Larry's end.
 - Desire to be self-contained on the island is supported on Larry's end, but not on Dave's end due to T-Mobile connection which would be vulnerable if we're cut off from the mainland.

- Brian sent an email to Rock Island to ask about LTE connectivity dependency.
- Greg clarifies if the goal is fault tolerance, maybe consider alternatives to LTE for Dave's end.
- Scott asks how important D-Star is to the club when the power goes out.
- Benefit is that it provides a link to other D-Star repeaters all over the world. Could be useful in an emergency.
- Upcoming Meetings / Gatherings
 - Suggestion to follow guidelines provided by the governor about when and how to meet during the pandemic.
 - Feedback from several members (Larry, Bob, Basil, Mike, and others) that the virtual meeting format works well and allows people who work that might otherwise have to take time off to attend.

Presentation(s)

No presentations this month.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Club events:
 - April meeting location is TBD pending pandemic status
 - May 16 confirmed for Orcas Picnic, to be discussed at next meeting to determine if we need to cancel.
 - May 25-29 will be the next technician class (online)
 - May 30 scheduled for VE test session on Orcas
- External events:
 - CommAcademy 2020 was cancelled (was scheduled for April 25-26)
 - MicroHAMS and Stanwood-Camano conference (both scheduled for May 9th) are still on as of yesterday.
 - Another good resource for HAM-related events: www.wa7dem.info/calendar

Stories From the Shack

- Bob: Added two new receive stations on the island, one at Bob's and one at Craig's house.

Meeting Close

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56pm.

The next club meeting will be Friday April 10, 2020. Location TBD pending progress of the pandemic and guidance from state CDC.

Please send additions, corrections or comments to:

Elizabeth Menozzi
elizabeth.menozzi@gmail.com