



MINUTES OF MEETING: FEBRUARY 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 11:41 AM by Scott, W7SLM in the training room at Mullis Fire Station

Scott asked those present to introduce themselves.

ATTENDEES:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Peter WA7FUS | Dan N6AU | Clark K7LRK | Paul N7TZW |
| Ed KD7TUN | Alan KJ7BFC | Bryan K7UDR | Wayne WA6MPG |
| Ken N6LOQ | Scott W7SLM | Budd WB7FHC | Basil N7NIX |
| Mike N7TLL | Paul WB6CXC | David KJ7KJC | Patti KJ7PRW |
| Kenny KU7M | Robin KJ7BFD | Corky AF4PM | Jeff N7OSS |
| Dave K9MRQ | Brian K7BLS | Hoop K9QJS | Mary W7TZW |

MINUTES:

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

Officer's reports

• President's report:

- A software developer in Uganda developed a "Shazam" like program for experimental purposes and a ham in Spain focused it toward digital mode identification and a wiki site. See these interesting articles <https://hackaday.com/2020/02/11/name-that-unknown-rf-signal-with-a-little-fft-magic/>
- All electrically small antennas are either dipoles or loops and the planar golden S antenna is the antenna in most HT's and laptops these days.

- Scott found and forwarded to us via SJCARS.groups.io a novel idea for windshield mounting an HT in a car using a toilet plunger and two rubber bands just for laughs.

•Treasurer's report:

Our current treasury balance is \$5969.47.

44 members are participating in the annual membership renewal program through PayPal. In addition to those members 18 have submitted dues payments in January and the first half of February totaling \$540. Our only expense since the last meeting is our annual \$10 yearly State of Washington non profit registration. The bill for the approved purchase of new repeater site batteries has not yet been submitted.

Dani also sent us the treasurer's annual report summary for 2019 which Bryan presented. We currently have about 60 members.

• Committee Reports

Repeaters –

Ed talked to us about power supply and battery needs and considerations for our 2 meter and UHF repeaters on Cady Mt. He showed us his calculations and projections of needs for sustaining repeater operations throughout multi-day power outages. After defining the physical and electrical requirement for the equipment and the site he has decided on the correct 4 batteries to purchase to replace those currently there. The delivered cost will be about \$1200. He is still researching charging systems for the batteries during extended power outages.

- Bryan reviewed with us some of the history of SJCARS repeaters including where they are located and where repeaters could be located in San Juan County for optimal coverage. He said that when he joined the club our VHF and UHF FM repeaters were located on Vusario, a hill site near Eastsound on Orcas Island. With the goal of improving their coverage an opportunity to locate them to their current site on Cady Mt was accepted. As is the nature of hams and ham radio we are always looking forward to additional coverage improvement opportunities.

- Bryan also reported the our Echolink node will soon return to operation. He and Ed will host it in Ed's new shop/lab/garage. Basil will check out the node and ready it for installation.

- **EMCOM**

Hoop reported on the WA State 5th Saturday EOC-to-EOC events which SJ as well as other counties participate in throughout the year. He said they have been interesting training events which have utilized Winlink and other means for accomplishing exercises designed by State EOC. Hoop posted a document in the SJCACS io.groups site which describes the upcoming 5th Saturday exercises and a communications event which will accompany but not be directly connected to the next Cascadia Rising exercise (which will not include ham radio this time). Hoop also reported that the room in the Mullis EOC which houses the ham equipment is going to undergo some modifications and reorganization.

- Bryan said that his recent experience completing the 2.5 day ICS300 course was interesting and worthwhile. He said that the course was mostly attended by professionals. There are pre-requisites to this course. Those who have serious interest in situation management during emergencies might want to check it out.

• **Calendar** -[SJCARS](#)

Click on the above link to view our internal calendar which includes meeting dates and meeting locations. Note that most of our non-picnic meetings have been confirmed to be held at Mullis. Dates are under review for our two Saturday picnic meetings due to popular non SJCARS event scheduling. Mullis is not available for the planned Saturday date for our Christmas Feast and annual elections meeting. Details for this meeting date and location are being worked on.

External Calendar

Both our internal and external calendar in the files section of SJCARS groups.io We discussed events and their dates which we wanted to be included on the external calendar. Bryan will post links to various amateur radio activities on our web site.

• **Old Business -**

- Scott reported the San Juan County Proposition 1 (updating county radio communications systems) was approved by voters.

New Business

- Picnics and Holiday Feast dates: May 9 conflicts with Microhams Digital Conference. It was suggested that we change the Orcas Picnic to May 16 instead. Scott will check this out and report back. September 12 conflicts with Summer Gathering and TAPR DCC so it was suggested that our Lopez Island Picnic be changed to September 19. Mullis is not available on Saturday December 12. Alternate sites and alternate dates for our Christmas Feast will be researched to be reported on at a meeting soon.

- Scott suggested that we look at Jackson's Beach for future club radio operating and/or picnic events. Others agree and will look into possibilities.

- Publicity budget: Scott received a question/suggestion regarding a publicity budget need for SJCARS. Members present who had dealt with requesting free publicity for ham activities said that there are an abundance of possibilities for this. Since the member who asked for this discussion was not present the topic will be brought up again at another meeting when he can attend.

- Ham radio publications in libraries: Brian K7BLS said that he has given a copy of the new ARRL magazine, "On the Air", to the Lopez Library. He also donated a copy of the ARRL Handbook to them. Paul WB6CXC asked if there may be opportunities to donate books to the high school library too.

- VE report -

Kenny and Bryan reported that VE sessions are planned for March 21 in Friday Harbor and May 30 on Orcas Island at Orcas Landing. A class will be held during the week prior to the May 30 VE session on Orcas. Details will be announced.

• **Presentations –**

- **DSTAR Linking Commands – Kenny KU7M**

Since a number of club members are acquiring DSTAR radios lately gave a short talk on how to program linking and repeater control functions into their radios so that they can begin to make more use of the resources available to them on the DSTAR networks. He explained the composition of linking and unlinking commands and briefly told us how to talk to the world from on DSTAR from low powered radios and our internet connected DSTAR repeater. He tried to demystify these commands saying that most of them involve a 7 or 8 space formatting.

He also talked about some of the reflectors which we can connect to on DSTAR, some of their characteristics and how they have evolved.

During his talk there were questions/discussions regarding command formatting, linking protocols and repeater etiquette.

Here is a link to Kenny's presentation slides and some links which he provided for us.

[Kenny's slides](#)

- **QSL Cards – Scott**

Scott gave a brief talk on QSL cards and their history. Some folks brought part of their QSL card collections to display. Hoop described the operation of incoming and outgoing QSL bureaus. After the meeting adjourned folks looked at the QSL cards which had been brought to display.

• **Stories from your shack:**

- Dave shared that he had recently acquired a new Kenwood TH-D74 HT with DSTAR which he was learning to program and use. His first use of it was talking to our DSTAR repeater from the ferry in Anacortes. It worked! He had a conversation via REF001 with a ham in New Orleans.

- Ed told us that he had RFI in his new shop from his fiber to ethernet converter box until he reconfigured his internet installation there with double shielded cable (CAT6) jumpers. He is glad that he had used that cable for all of the in-wall infrastructure and just had to change out the jumpers to squelch the RFI. He said that now he has to figure out what to do about the same converter in his house since he does not have shielded CAT6 in the house.

- Budd announced that Andy, WA2TND recently became a silent key.

- Habib KJ7KJC said that he had recently got a T-Mobile CellSpot which connects to his fiber internet making a sort of cell tower equivalent for him since he lives in a cell dead zone. He asked if anyone else had one of these and if so if they had noticed and RFI from it on ham radio frequencies.

Next meeting – Bryan will give an update on SJCARS internet based digital communications including website, groups.io, and MailChimp.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

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

The next club meeting will be Friday March 13, 2020 at Mullis