

SJCARS

San Juan County Amateur Radio Society

Minutes of Meeting: 10 April 2020

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Menozzi (KE7KDR), SJCARS
Secretary

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Call to Order

A brief business meeting was called to order at 11:34am by Scott (W7SLM) via Zoom.

Attendees

Elizabeth KE7kDR	Dan N6AU	Brian K7BLS	John Bellinger
Brenda KJ7BUV	Mike KI7YU	Scott W7SLM	Ed KD7TUN
Rod KI7ZI	Ward Silver NOAX	Mary Brook W7TZW	Clare KE7WQY
Wayne WA6MPG	Peter WA7FUS	Paul N7TZW	Geoff Schussler
Corky AF4PM	Robin KJ7BFD	Jeff N7OSS	Peg KI7PJS
Howie N7FBC	Michael Sear	Larry NM7A	Habib KJ7KJC
Nancy KG4UEX	Kenny KU7M	Hoop K9QJS	Greg AE7EL
Basil N7NIX	Alan KJ7BFC	Dan K9WRP	Dave K9MRQ
Bob K7NHE	Michael Hurwicz		

Summary of Motions and Votes

Previous Meeting's Minutes

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

Funding for D-Star Equipment

Motion approved to support purchase of a Raspberry Pi and associated equipment up to \$100 (estimated cost ~\$80) to replace old PC being used for D-Star Gateway at Larry's house (NM7A).

Topics Discussed

- Officers Reports
 - Treasurer: nothing to report
 - Secretary: should probably talk about the website in May or June when Brian is less busy
 - Vice President: nothing to report
 - President: nothing to report
- Committee Reports
 - EmComm: nothing to report
 - Repeater: waiting for Stay Home order to be lifted to install the new batteries
 - VE Team: nothing to report
- Old Business
 - D-Star Gateway Update from Larry NM7A
 - Conversation has shifted and it sounds like we're less worried about reliability (withstanding power outages) because it's not an emergency service.
 - Running on a 20yr old PC that could die at any time.
 - Recommending we move to a Raspberry Pi set up. Equipment would cost about \$80 and would be something Larry could set up himself at home.
 - Scott made a motion to support this expense up to \$100
 - Seconded by N7NIX
 - Vote
 - Raised hands in Zoom (too fast to count)
 - None opposed
 - Note: not sure how vote correlates to club members
 - Motion approved.
- New Business
 - May meeting will be online on Friday, 15 May 11:30am-1:30pm
 - Orcas Picnic will be rescheduled
 - Field Day 2020 offer to host from Bob on Stewart Island (pending social distancing restrictions)

Presentations

Ward Silver, N0AX: Introduction to the Yasme Foundation

Key points:

- Yasme is the name of a boat (three actually) spanning from 1954 to 1963
 - From "yasume" which is Japanese for "to make tranquil"
 - Owned by Danny Weil, G7DW then VP2VB (died Oct 2003)
 - Operated from 31 different island countries, many on the air for the first time
 - "Pioneer of the world-wide DX-pedition" (K4IIF)
 - More than 100,000 QSOs
 - CQ DX Hall of Fame #5
- Foundation founded in 1959
 - Originally to raise funds for YASME III and DXpeditions by Danny
 - Closed after YASME III sold
 - Revived by the Colvins in 1964
- The Colvin Expeditions activated 169 countries over almost 30 years
 - More than 1 million QSOs
 - All QSOs were answered and more than 750k cards were filed and alphabetized and shipped to Documentary Archives Radio Communication in Vienna, Austria
 - Lloyd died in Istanbul, Dec 1993 of a heart attack and Iris died in 1998
 - Bequest to the ARRL established The Colvin Award
 - The Colvin Family Trust established the current Yasme Foundation Endowment
- The Yasme Foundation Today
 - DXpeditions are no longer funded by the Yasme Foundation
 - Self-funded, no donations or subscriptions, Private Operating Foundation
 - Eight Directors (Ward is President and a Director): W6RGG, W6OAT, OH2BH, K3ZO, PB2T, K4ZW, N6VI, and 9V1YC
 - Give out supporting grants, excellence awards, plaques and trophies

- Yasme Grants
 - One time awards to support project costs, operating costs, and travel expenses
 - Grants to other charitable organizations (ARRL and FAR for scholarships, WRTC and YOTA, NCDXF for the International Beacon Project)
 - Applications are not solicited
 - Examples:
 - S. Sudanese representation at African IARU
 - Supported purchase of software tools and radios for the NCDXF beacon network
 - Supported substantial upgrade of systems and software for worldwide spotting network
 - Rebuilding club station after massive flooding in Thailand destroyed equipment
 - Donation to support [YOTA](#) activities and expenses
- Yasme Foundation Tomorrow
 - Update the awards programs
 - Continue supporting grants and excellence awards
 - Support the opening of ham radio around the world
 - Help develop new infrastructure and technology
 - Promote on-the-air activity everywhere
 - Remember that ham radio is made up of individuals
 - Carry the spirit of "DX Is!" into the 21st century
- Questions:
 - K9QJS asks: What are the estimated total annual grants?
 - Have to spend ~\$40k
 - Give out 8-10 grants each year of about \$5k each
 - Scott asks about Yasme stories that are meaningful to Ward
 - Related question from W7TZQ & N7TZW: What approaches have been most successful to excite youth interest in ham radio?
 - Grants of equipment and money, plus mentorship to a club in Ethiopia to help them get on the air that has been really successful.
 - If you want to get youth on the air, it has to be something they own, not something that's just for scoring points with adults.
 - Bob asks: Is your group rated on Charity Navigator?
 - Not sure.
 - They don't solicit donations, so they may not be listed there.

- Brenda KJ7BUV asks: As women's business ventures have expanded around the world, has ham use come along with it?
 - Yes.
 - Starting to see higher percentages in participation from women (closer to 50/50) with the YOTA and the Ethiopian club.
- For more info go to yasme.org
- Quote of the presentation: "It's not a real adventure if you're enjoying it while you're having it!"

Dan N6AU: Antenna Tuners

Notes:

- It was shown why antennas are needed and the mathematics of how they work.
- The analog and digital forms were explained.
- The advantages and disadvantages of each form of tuner were explained.

Recommendations:

- When buying an automatic tuner, read the specifications carefully for load impedance range.
- Find used variable L and C components at swapmeets or on eBay for low cost tuners.
- Be careful using high power with digital tuners
- Before buying a digital tuner, ask about the voltage rating of the tuning capacitors.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Latest Club calendar [can be found here](#).

Club events

- Orcas Picnic for May will be cancelled and replaced with an online meeting on May 15th (aka KE7KDR's birthday).
- Greg and Kenny are trying to figure out if they are able to run an online test. If they can figure it out there will be a class. TBD.

External events

- Many conventions have been cancelled
- MicroHAMS Digital Conference update coming soon. Should be available on their website after our meeting.

Stories From the Shack

- Scott did some RadioSport on Sunday. It got him out of the house and walking up the hill. Yay for RadioSport!
- Greg made about 10 contacts in the Spring contest. Good signal up to coast down to Whidby
- Bob welcomes two off-island visitors (Rob and John) to our meeting. Played with antenna location for aircraft reception. There's a whole lot less in the air right now than usual.
- John Bellinger just wanted to thank Bob for inviting him and for letting him join our meeting today.

Meeting Close

The meeting was adjourned at 13:22.

The next club meeting will be Friday May 15, 2020 online via Zoom.

Please send additions, corrections or comments to:

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