

# SJCARS

San Juan County Amateur Radio Society

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## Minutes of Meeting: 8 May 2020

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Menozzi (KE7KDR), SJCARS  
Secretary

[Minutes of Meeting: 8 May 2020](#)

[Call to Order](#)

[Attendees](#)

[Summary of Motions and Votes](#)

[Previous Meeting's Minutes](#)

[Topics Discussed](#)

[Presentations](#)

[Making Front Panel Labels Using a Photo Printer](#)

[Adventures with Replacement H/T Battery Packs](#)

[Calendar of Upcoming Events](#)

[Stories From the Shack](#)

[Meeting Close](#)

## Call to Order

A brief business meeting was called to order at 11:36am by Scott (W7SLM) in the training room from his house on Orcas Island via Zoom.

## Attendees

Elizabeth KE7KDR	Scott W7SLM	Bill Dunn	Dave K9MRQ
Greg AE7EL	Rod KI7ZI	Bud WB7FHC	Daniel Drath
Ed KD7TUN	Peter Dahl	Kent Howell	Alan KJ7BFC
Corky AF4PM	Jeff N7OSS	Pattie Wickham	Hoop K9QJS
Brenda KJ7BUV	Brunkow	Bryan K7UDR	Ken Burtness
Monte Midkiff	WA6MPG	Clark	Tomr
Brian K7BLS	Larry NM7A	Robin KJ7BFD	Jim KJ7BJT
John Stimpson	Habib KJ7KJC	Audry Wakefield	Larry Nutting
Basil N7NIX	David WA6PXX		

## Summary of Motions and Votes

### Previous Meeting's Minutes

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

## Topics Discussed

- April Minutes approved
- Officer's Reports
  - Treasurer's report sent via email to the board.
  - No report from Secretary or VP
  - President brings our attention to "Murder Hornets" as something to be aware of if we're outside this summer.
- Committee Reports
  - EmComm (Hoop)
    - San Juan Island Marathon has been cancelled

- At home white box drills have been proceeding successfully.
- Paul N7TZW has been attending the Tuesday OPS-1 Nets.
- Saturday EOC to EOC activity will be on 30 May. Anticipating an at-home version this month. All welcome to participate.
- Peace Island Medical Center got radios. Dan N6AU and Bill KF7KND have been staffing that location, but are transitioning out of these roles. Volunteers needed.
- Red Cross Net is also ongoing.
- Repeaters (Ed)
  - Batteries and cables are still at Ed's place waiting for the all-clear for a volunteer crew to work together to install.
  - Everything is running.
- VE report
  - No training or test session in May on Orcas.
  - June date for Lopez, but they will make a decision on that next week.
  - Greg will send email about evaluation of online testing.

## Presentations

### Making Front Panel Labels Using a Photo Printer

Larry K7KSW

Key points:

- Uses open office draw to create templates.
- Uses glossy photo paper and makes them a bit bigger than the face and uses an exacto knife to cut labels down to the right final size.
- Uses the stars to help align labels around the cut-outs for the dials.
- Has a RotaCutter and several tools for cutting out the holes.

# Adventures with Replacement H/T Battery Packs

Scott W7SLM

Key points:

- Sometimes there are too many choices
- Decided on BP-173xxe
  - Won't recharge over 9.25 volts
  - Operating time w/o XMT very disappointing, totally drained
  - Tracked charge levels, time, volts
  - Set it back for testing and replacement
- Questions/comments:
  - Habib interested to hear about what happens with replacement. Has not found those to be reliable in his experience.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Club Calendar
  - Picnic on Orcas was cancelled. Jim is looking to get a refund or to apply fees to another date.
  - June will be another online meeting (12 June).
  - VE session on Lopez currently scheduled for 13 June. Final decision will be made in about a week (one month out).
  - ARRL Field day on 27-28 June.
- External Calendar
  - MicroAMS Conference is happening this weekend online.
  - SJI marathon and triathlon support cancelled.
  - Lighthouse and lightship weekend to be coordinated at a future meeting. If you would like to participate, let Scott know.
  - If there are other events that the club should be aware of and that should be added to the calendar, let Scott know.
- Old Business (Field Day)
  - Thank you to Bob for offer to host on Stewart. Unfortunately, we won't be able to make it work due to COVID restrictions this year.
  - Field Day is the 4th full weekend in June
  - Objectives:
    - Operate outside on emergency power
    - Picnic and party

- Showing the public what amateur radio is all about
  - Give new operators and guests a chance to experience ham radio.
- It's not a contest, but you can get points for participating.
- COVID-19 Three Creative Approaches suggested (from article: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>)
  - One location: outdoors, social distancing within "1000ft circle"
  - Distributed locations: remote radio operation with multiple operators taking turns.
  - Distributed locations: hams participating from homes, as individuals, sharing number of contacts.
- ARRL will report club activity this year included with each participating ham's call sign. No aggregate club score will be published.
- Discussion:
  - Brenda likes the "at home" component and doesn't think it's a good idea to move people from station to station.
  - Basil is making his place available, pending people's feelings about COVID-19 and social distancing.
  - Scott reminds us about need to follow state's phased approach which may allow for small groups of up to about 5 people, remaining social distance protocols. Doesn't want to promote anything for the club that violates those state rules.
  - Dan says that phase three might be over by 6 July
  - Elizabeth says there is a concern about handing off microphones to other people. May be okay if people operate their own equipment and are not sharing.
  - Corky says actual dates of phasing are not set and there is a minimum of three weeks between phases and depends on markers that will need to be evaluated before proceeding.
  - Clark asks if the group would like to consider thinking "outside the box" and doing something over Zoom.
  - Elizabeth adds that maybe we can do something via live stream over YouTube to include the public.
  - Patti adds that moving between phases also relies on the county's ability to respond to an outbreak which is limited in our county.

- New Business (SJCARS website & communications)
  - Bryan K7UDR presentation
  - In the beginning there was a Yahoo Group. No public facing page.
  - SJCARS launched on Wordpress in 2010. First post was field day pictures.
  - Status today:
    - Public website
    - Mailchimp for push communications. Not sure who is using it.
    - Groups.io forums for SJCARS and the EmComm subgroup.
  - Proposed website cleanup:
    - Remove unused and redundant content like:
      - Forum (moved to groups.io)
      - Gallery function (better done elsewhere)
      - subscribe/follow double database
    - Merge the join/pay forms using e-commerce
    - New responsive theme that works better with mobile devices.
  - Working group
    - Bryan - team lead
    - Elizabeth - minutes
    - Dani - join/pay
  - Bonus question: ".io" stands for British Indian Ocean
  - Questions and Discussion
    - Scott still uses the Mailchimp for communications.
    - Elizabeth adds that this will add security for the website and asks about anticipated costs.
    - Bryan confirms there will be minimal, if any costs involved.
    - Ed would like to know about the use of Slack and how that fits into the club communications.
    - Bryan explains that Slack is more like groups.io but for real-time chat.
    - Elizabeth adds explanation for various platforms:
      - Mailchimp used for broadcast communications
      - Groups.io used for exchanging asynchronous communications between club members (works like email).
      - Slack has a lot of overlap with Groups.io, but is good for real-time conversations and chat.
    - Habib offers to help organize the website. (yay!)

- The club has two Slack channels which is kind of confusing. That needs to be cleared up.

## Stories From the Shack

- Clark has been out of town, but comments that the Zoom meeting is terrific and awesome for those who don't live on SJI. Would love to have a zoom option for in-person meetings when they resume.
- David WA6PXX has moved his permanent residence to SJI and is putting up an antenna at his house.
- Bob spent some time setting up a second station yesterday.

## Meeting Close

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04pm.

The next club meeting will be Friday June 8, 2020 via Zoom.

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**Please send additions, corrections or comments to:**

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