

# SJCARS

San Juan County Amateur Radio Society

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## Minutes of Meeting: 14 August 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 11:31 by Scott (W7SLM) via Zoom.

## Attendees

Elizabeth KE7KDR	Scott W7SLM	Hoop K9QJS	Daniel Drath
Peter WA7FUS	Dave K9MRQ	Michael KI7PJP	Paul N7TZW
MaryBrooke W7TZW	Rod KI7ZI	Jeff N7OSS	Bryan K7UDR
Corky	Robin KJ7BFD	Dan N6AU	Greg AE7EL
John K7LVJ	Brenda	Ed	Clare
Mike N7TLL	Kenny KU7M	Peg KI7PJS	Bob Brunkow
Habib KJ7KJC			

## Summary of Motions and Votes

### Previous Meeting's Minutes

The updated minutes of the [June](#) meeting and the minutes of the [July](#) meeting were approved as posted on the web site.

Motion to approve expense of printers for VE testing.

## Topics Discussed

- Introductions and announcements
  - No new folks
  - No announcements
- Officers Reports
  - Treasurer
    - Up about \$275 month over month
    - Refund from SJ County Parks (~\$60)

- Question about how we are up so much with the only change being the refund.
    - Ed suggests that it is possibly due to PayPal dues collection.
    - Bryan will check with Dani and make sure that the report notes the reason for the increase.
  - Secretary -- nothing to report
  - Vice President -- nothing to report
  - President -- nothing to report
- Committee Reports
  - EmComm
    - Tuesday at-home white box drills are continuing to work well.
    - New Washington State 60 meter net on Saturdays that a few folks monitored and Wayne checked in.
    - Bryan commented that we get good participation on the at-home white box drills and suggests that we continue to include more stay-at-home options even after they are no longer required.
  - Repeater
    - Now have genuine outdoor echolink antenna, dual band tuned to 440
    - Going to be installing the new batteries sometime in the next few weeks, pending coordination with volunteers.
    - Scott asked about functional differences with echolink on 440.
    - Ed confirms that it should be no change unless the link is broken to 2m, but it is easy to switch back if necessary because it is dual band antenna and receiver.
    - Scott mentioned there was a lot of noise with radios on the Mt. Constitution repeater that was affecting all radio signals, including sheriff, etc.
    - Ed said there is some intermittent noise interference on Mt. Constitution, but it is unclear what is causing this.
  - VE Team
    - Last weekend there was another personalized testing session for 2 folks that came over from San Juan.
    - Both folks passed and their licenses were live by Monday morning (test was Saturday).
    - One of them checked into the net on Wednesday.

- If anyone knows anyone who wants to take a test, let the VE team know and they can set something up.
  - Kenny bought a printer to use during the testing because everything is print on demand, and he bought several small deskjet printers. He will deliver one to SJI for testing.
  - Motion proposed by Bryan to reimburse Kenny for the expense. Seconded by Ed. Approved by the club. No one opposed.
- [Calendar](#)
- Old Business
  - Website Update
    - Three levels of access
      - Public website
      - Groups.io forum that you can join, but no requirement for being a paid member of the club
      - Paid members get to vote
    - Main site
      - Static site with home page that talks about the club and invite to groups.io
      - Repeaters tab like we have now
      - Nets tab like we have now
      - Join tab which will be converted to an ecommerce site that will integrate the sign up form with the payment to streamline that process.
      - Contact tab with club contact information
    - Club blog, files, and photos will be moved to groups.io
    - Groups.io will have subgroups
      - There are currently two different groups, so Bryan will coordinate with Larry to combine the two groups and set up appropriate subgroups
      - There will be a general forum and an AuxComm forum at a minimum.
      - More subgroups can be added as needed.
    - Presentations can be posted to groups.io
    - Mail Chimp will be converted to groups.io main
    - Slack is not recommended to be used for official club business, but can be fun for casual users who want real(ish) time chat.
    - Responding to comments from Dan

- Current net information will be available on the static website tab.
- Need to have an assigned person to maintain the website.
  - Elizabeth proposed that we move the net preamble and check-in list to groups.io instead of having them available on the web. Could also link to Google Docs (or file on Groups.io) so that we don't have to be uploading files directly to the website.
  - Habib confirmed that the documents on Groups.io would be only available to people who are signed-in to the group.
  - Robin prefers having the roll-call and preamble on the website.
  - Brian mentioned that different levels of access can be set up so that.
  - Brain also suggested that we use the calendar functionality on groups.io for nets so that we can set up automatic reminders to be sent to members.
- Presentations can be posted on Groups.io
  - Videos can be posted to YouTube or Vimeo because they are larger files.
  - PDFs can be dropped into the presentations folder on groups.io
  - Robin suggests that we establish a YouTube or Vimeo channel and post links to presentations on our website.
  - Bryan reminds everyone that the author of the presentation owns the content of the presentation, so we would need permission from them for sharing.
- Hoop asks why the AxComm groups.io should be a subgroup to the main groups.io site and wants to make sure that we will retain the ability to approve members of that subgroup.
- Bob observes that the more we make the content of our club available to the public, the more it will encourage memberships.
- Elizabeth points out that we want the website to be as current and accurate as possible, while also being

easy to maintain. Updating the website shouldn't be a fulltime job for folks.

- Greg suggests that for folks who make presentations and care about retaining copyright they make that clear by using a Creative Commons type copyright callout on the title slide.
- 44 net
  - Routable internet space managed by Caleb for San Juan County
  - In San Juan County there is a Rock Island Gigabit Fiber Virtual LAN (VLAN)
  - Voice and Data
  - Available from Rock Island for \$10/month transport fee
  - Can't buy or sell an address, but Rock Island can charge a fee for maintaining it.
  - It is deployed!
    - Caleb, Basil, Bryan, Alan, and Ed have sites
    - Alan is using it for HamWAN
    - Ed and Bryan are using it for Echolink
  - Habib asked if this is like having our own internet within the county.
  - Bryan confirms that it is and explains that if you are on Rock Island Fiber, you have to buy a Ubiquity Edge Router and send it to Caleb to program it.
    - Once the box is set up, RI will take one of your ports on your router and change it to 44 Net.
    - From there you can use that port to connect whatever you need to it.
    - If you want it, you need to consider what you are going to connect to it.
  - Ed asks if the "Batphones" are now connected to 44 net
    - They are not because they reside with Larry and Larry is not on 44 Net.
  - Greg asks in the event of an outage, how is routing handled?
    - Kenny says he's not sure where Caleb is in the process, but thinks he is setting it up so that traffic can be sent over HamWAN. Would be hosted in both places and have failover.

- As far as we know there is no other county or entity that is doing this in the US.
    - There is another HamWAN site going up on Mt. Blyn on the peninsula at about 2000 ft. location of Blyn HamWAN site:  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/48%C2%B000'24.1%22N+122%C2%B058'21.4%22W/@48.0067,-122.9747887,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d48.0067!4d-122.9726>
    - The HamWAN folks have their own 44 net space
    - If you are interested, email [BHHoyer@gmail.com](mailto:BHHoyer@gmail.com)
  - NOTE that the club meetings are being recorded and posted on Vimeo by Scott. They are publicly available there, which means that folks both inside and outside the club can watch the club meeting.
    - If you have issues with this, please let Scott know.
    - We can add this as a discussion point for our next meeting if necessary.
- New Business
  - Our next meeting will be 11 September via Zoom
  - Club technical sessions proposal
    - Folks thought it would be a good idea to host a monthly Zoom seminar for technical topics.
    - Topics will be explored through presentations and conversations.
    - All club members are invited to suggest topics and/or present.
    - Current list of topics includes
      - How to build a VHF/UHF beam with hardware store materials for little money
      - The Link equation -- how much transmit power and antenna gain do you really need?
      - How to read the QST transceiver specifications
      - Arduino -- an open source hardware and software platform
      - Comparing Arduino and Raspberry Pi
      - Having fun in the WA State QSO Party
      - Fritzing
      - Long term emergency power from N7JN/R
      - Digital modes
      - CW -- why is it still relevant
      - Contests -- why
    - Suggestion to post list of topics on groups.io

- Question from Hoop about how this overlaps with presentations in the club meeting.
- Elizabeth suggests that this sounds like a technical discussion rather than a presentation.
- Scott says that he sees this as a working session for folks who are interested in a specific topic and want a more hands-on and project focused approach.
- Habib says that he sees these meetings as a good way to learn new concepts and ask lots of questions without the pressure of a meeting agenda.
- Greg would like to know how this may be handled in-person vs. virtual, and options for scheduling on weekdays vs. weekends. Suggestion for coordinating with the county's knowledge worker group that is trying to enhance knowledge worker environment in the county.
  - Dan thinks there are benefits to having this take place over Zoom, even after the pandemic restrictions are lifted.
  - Dan is open to thinking about a different time if that works better for people's schedules.
- First meeting will be August 28th at 11:30am. The topic for the first meeting is still under discussion and will be communicated by the Monday of that week.
- [Presentation](#)
- [Stories from the shack](#)

## Presentation

### ARRL Band Plan Update by Scott W7SLM

#### Key points:

- Presentation from Mike Ritz, ARRL NW regional director
- Meant to address concerns between Amateur Radio Safety Foundation and Winlink users vs. digital transparency
- Addressing pending FCC actions
  - RM-11828 "Technician class enhancement"
  - RM-11708 "Greater flexibility in digital communication"
  - RM-11831 "Amateur digital mode transparency"
  - RM-11759 "Realignment of the 80 meter amateur band"

- Scott will post the full presentation to the group

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Club events

- Lopez picnic will be cancelled and shifted to a regular club meeting instead.
- SJCARS tech session planned for 28 August, online meeting.
- Dan proposed adding monthly technical discussion sessions for the club. To be discussed further in "new business."
- VE session tentatively planned for October.
- October meeting is listed as in-person, but will likely continue to take place online.

### External events

- APRS summer gathering canceled
- Salmon Run WA State QSO party will be on 19-20 September, could be a really good event for folks to participate in.
- Rookie roundup (CW) will be in December
- If there are other events that we should add to the calendar, let Scott know.
- International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend on 22-23 August.
  - Dan plans to put Kettle Point for the Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. He will be online and will monitor 2m simplex on Saturday 22 August from noon to 1pm on 146.52
  - Ed will not be activating Lime Kiln for Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.
  - Bryan suggests that he could fly over and make contacts from the air, but Ed comments that you may not be able to get that close. Bryan thinks he will try it anyway.
  - Greg suggests that he will go with Elizabeth to activate Patos Island for ILLW.
- US Islands QSO party is 29 August.
  - You can participate from home.
  - Bob and Hoop both plan to participate.

## Stories From the Shack

- Ran out of time for this component of the meeting.

## Meeting Close

The meeting was adjourned at 13:30pm.

The next club meeting will be Friday 11 September 2020 via Zoom.

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

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