

# SJCARS

San Juan County Amateur Radio Society

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## Minutes of Meeting: 9 October 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 11:32am by Scott (W7SLM) via Zoom.

## Attendees

Elizabeth KE7KDR	Scott W7SLM	Ed KD7TUN	Clare KE7WQY
Basil N7NIX	Bill K7UTX	Bryan K7UDR	Dani KE7TLE
Budd WB7FHC	Clark K7LRK	Dan N6AU	Dave K9MRQ
Chris KD7PKE	Kenny KU7M	Greg AE7EL	Habib KJ7KJC
Wayne WA6MPG	Mike KI7YU	Jim KJ7BJT	Michael KI7PJP
Brian K7BLS	Tom W7SUA	Peter WA7FUS	Rod KI7ZI
Steve N8GNJ	Larry NM7A	Paul N7TZW	Mary-Brooke W7TZQ
Mike KJ7NRP			

## Summary of Motions and Votes

### Previous Meeting's Minutes

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

## Topics Discussed

- Introductions
- Approval of Minutes
- Officers Reports
  - Treasurer
    - Current balance is \$4,853.09
    - Expenses since last meeting included VE printer, post office box rental, and HamWAN 3 pack
  - Secretary -- no report
  - Vice President -- no report
  - President

- The FCC Orders Amateur Access to 3.5 GHz Band to "Sunset"
  - The FCC Grants a waiver for high speed data transmissions when supporting emergency communications (Fire, Hurricane relief)
    - The FCC has granted ARRL's request for a temporary waiver to permit amateur data transmissions at a higher symbol rate than currently permitted by section 97.307(f) of the FCC Amateur Service rules.
    - The FCC acted to facilitate hurricane and wildfire relief communications within the US and its territories.
  - George Stone AC7AI is the newly appointed WWA Section Traffic Manager - He is a long-time traffic handler, and responsibilities in the position include:
    - Establish, administer, and promote a traffic handling program at the section level, based on, but not restricted to, National Traffic System networks.
    - \* Cooperate and coordinate with the Section Emergency Coordinator so that traffic nets and emergency nets in the section present a unified public service front.
    - He will be working with and supporting the traffic handling volunteers in the section, assisting new volunteers to become a part of the traffic handling community and as requested provide talks to groups interested in traffic handling
  - Ham radio was the original social networking platform
- Committee Reports
  - EmComm
    - Email received from Ed Gorse VE7ED in Canada about packet radio issue
    - SJCARS group found continuous communication between Corky's house and Chris's house, but Corky wasn't home.
    - Were able to shut it off without breaking into Corky's house.
    - Going to put a timeout in all gateways.
    - Kenwood has a 3min timeout backout.
  - Repeaters

- Haven't been able to get up to replace batteries yet.
- VE Team
  - No testers that anyone knows about at this time.
  - Hard to find a time that works with the holidays coming up.
- Elections
  - Clare and Dave presenting a slate of officers this month, confirmed next month,
    - President: Hoop
    - Vice President: Ed
    - Treasurer: Dani
    - Secretary: Elizabeth
  - If you are interested in running for any of these offices, please let Clare know.
- [Calendar](#)
- Old Business
  - HamWAN
    - 3-pk ordered with minimal complications
    - Shipping was more expensive than expected, and order has not yet arrived.
    - Notified that HamWAN Dishes are shipping today.
  - Salmon Run QSO
    - Scott made a contact
    - Ed made a few contacts, the longest distance was Alaska. Thought it was fun.
    - Budd thought it was more fun than field day. He was able to work all but 2 counties.
    - Dan was making 90 contacts per hour at some points. Fun to be a sought after contact. He got a YouTube from someone in Portugal showing his transmission coming out of the radio in Portugal running 5 watts.
    - If you participated, let the club know that you did and how many contacts you made. Scott would like to keep track of that information.
- New Business
  - Spectrum use and defense
    - Important to all ham radio operators, even if we're not using them.
    - Bryan mentioned contributing to the Spectrum Defense Fund, but they haven't been clear about what they do with the money.
    - Bob is encouraged with the new leadership and thinks they are being more proactive about spectrum defense.

Encourages members to take the threat of spectrum defense seriously and encourages donating to the fund.

- ARRL has a page for spectrum defense fund:  
<http://www.arrl.org/spectrum-defense-fund>
  - Steve mentioned that the spectrum being removed is prime spectrum for wireless and isn't that useful for hams. Important to pick the right battles. Need to focus on protecting the really good spectrums for ham radio operation.
  - Suggestion made for the club to make a donation to the spectrum defense fund. Scott will add it to the agenda for the next meeting.
  - Bob says he will match whatever the club puts in.
  - Steve mentioned (via chat) that "An interesting meeting by Amateur Radio Digital Communications (Net44) is happening tomorrow (Saturday) beginning at 10:00. Here's the info:  
<https://www.ampr.org/community-meeting/>"
- [Presentation\(s\)](#)
  - [Stories from the shack](#)

## Presentation

### Origin and Development of Q Signs

Scott W7SLM

Key points:

- Q Signs aka Q Codes aka Q Signals
  - Standardized collection of 3 letter codes all starting with the letter Q
  - Is a "brevity code"
  - originated with commercial radiotelegraph comms
  - Have 2 meanings - can be read as either a question or statement
- First in use circa 1909, formally adopted in 1912
  - 45 Q codes in first publications
  - Designed to facilitate international comms

- Q has been excluded from all call sign prefixes worldwide
- Q codes were modified over the years
- By 1970 there were over 100 published Q codes
- Q codes assigned by service
  - QAA to QNZ assigned by the International Civil Aviation Organization
  - QNA to QNZ are also used by ARRL
  - Other organizations assigned to QMA through QZZ
- QN code was created in 1939 to facilitate comms in Michigan Net
- Other related codes
  - Z code originally CW for commercial use, later military and NATO
  - 92 code is Wester Union's telegrapher's number code
  - QRR became QRRR so that it wouldn't be confused with railroad distress call
  - CQD became NC and then SOE and eventually SOS

Scott will provide link to presentation via the SJCARS Groups.io

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming club events:

- Tech session on October 23rd
- No VE sessions scheduled
- November meeting will be on 11/13
- December feast and general meeting tentatively scheduled for 12/12 (Saturday)

Upcoming external events:

- Rookie Roundup coming up on 12/20

## Stories From the Shack

- Budd shared that Trevor and Steve have launched a Pico balloon over Richmond and they are currently racing with other balloons that have been launched.
- Ed was concerned about wind stress on his dipole and has been doing some research to figure out how many steps he needs to survive an 80mph wind. Discovered that the schedules published

in the ARRL handbook are not correct based on the research he did.

## Meeting Close

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37pm.

The next club meeting will be Friday November 13, 2020 via Zoom.

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

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