

# SJCARS

San Juan County Amateur Radio Society

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## Minutes of Meeting: 13 November 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 11:30 AM by Scott W7SLM via Zoom.

## Attendees

Bud WB7FHC	Dave K9MRQ	Peter WA7FUS	Greg AE7EL
Scott W7SLM	Mike KJ7NRP	Paul N7TZW	Hoop K9QJS
Elizabeth KE7KDR	Bob K7NHE	Dan N6AU	Corky AF4PM
Ed KD7TUN	Brian K7BLS	Clare KE7WQY	Robin KJ7BFD
Wayne WA6MPG	Jim K7CEX	Michael N7TLL	Habib
Larry NM7A	Kenny KU7M		

## Summary of Motions and Votes

### Previous Meeting's Minutes

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

### Motion to Support ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund with \$200

Motion made by Hoop K9QJS and supported by majority of club members attending via show of hands. No opposed.

## Topics Discussed

- [Presentation](#)
- Officers Reports

- Treasurer
  - Club financial update
    - Current balance: \$4,952.33
    - Income since Oct: \$99.24 (membership)
    - Expense since Oct: \$6.39 (Ed Kelm bought a power strip for Cady Mtn.)
  - Accepts nomination to continue in the role of club treasurer in 2021.
- Secretary -- nothing to report
- Vice President -- nothing to report
- President
  - ARRL filing comments in opposition to the \$50 licensing fee. Members are urged to add their voices and file their comments here:  
<http://www.arrl.org/FCC-Fees-Proposal>
  - Frequency measurement test yesterday.
  - David W7D GK (club member) has been laid up due to hip fractures and is back on Orcas. He is making improvements and feeling good.
- Committee Reports
  - Elections (Dave K9MRQ)
    - No one has indicated that they are stepping down from nominations last month
      - President: Hoop
      - VP: Ed
      - Secretary: Elizabeth
      - Treasurer: Dani
    - If anyone would like to run or nominate someone before our election in December, please contact Dave.
  - Repeaters (ED KD7TUN)
    - Batteries are replaced on Cady Mtn repeater.
    - Robin did an excellent write up about that. You can check it out on the website and/or groups.io
  - VE Team (Kenny KU7M)
    - VE group on San Juan is going to have a testing session on 12 December at the Mason's hall in Friday Harbor.
    - Three VEs on site, one tester (or household of testers) at a time.
    - Can process about 6-7 tech exams, depending on if anyone is going for extra or not.
  - EmComm (Hoop K9QJS)
    - Sending out emails via SJCACS groups.io

- Sign up if you want updates
  - Tech Seminars (Dan N6AU)
    - Some new speakers coming up
    - Friday, Nov 27 11:30A will be Software Defined Radio
      - Software Defined Radio (SDR) has taken over the industry and yielded great improvement to our equipment.
      - Ria Jairam/N2RJ, ARRL Hudson Division Director, will discuss "SDR and its impact on DXing".
    - Meeting in December moved to 4 December because the 4th Friday of December is Christmas Day. Friday, Dec 4 11:30A
      - RFI Solutions with Bob Brehm AK6R, Chief Engineer of Palomar Engineers, who will present "Quick and Easy Solutions to RFI".
      - Learn how to keep your transmitter from affecting electronic devices in your own house or your neighbor's house. Find solutions so you can have more time to operate and enjoy ham radio.
      - Alternatively, Dan Drath will present an early evaluation of the impedance measuring tool, Nano VNA, a relatively inexpensive tool that is very useful in the tuning of antennas.
- [Calendar](#)
- Old Business
  - Spectrum Defense Fund
    - Multiple offers to match funds donated to Spectrum Defense Fund
    - Donation form at <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-donation-form>
    - Scott has received 2019 financial statement from ARRL
      - 35% of assets are donor restricted (p5)
      - 55% of 2019 expenses went to programs and services (p5)
        - 53% going toward salaries, compensation, and benefits (p7)
      - 66% of gifts/contributions were restricted (p28)
        - Defense is the largest of restricted at 58% of funds received
        - Comment from ARRL that "spend on defense far exceeds this amount every year"



- Board of directors is responsible for coordinating with FCC and some rule making
- Audited statements were all without comment, assets increased, and business expenses were decreased.
- Considers the future of ARRL to be very bright
  - There are younger people getting involved, but the majority of recent additions are people who have completed their careers and always wanted to get involved.
  - There are some issues with the FCC and the frequencies available to ham radio operators, but he doesn't think that we'll ever be without frequencies to operate on.
- Q&A
  - Scott W7SLM asked if Jim considers there to be a service side to the hobby that's important, and to say more about spectrum defence.
    - Service side like emergency communications. We've taught the customers how communications work and now they're doing it for themselves. We will always be there to help them (forest service and DNR as examples), but we're seldom called anymore.
    - There are other things we can do, like working with police and fire departments. Jim's club helps set up landing zones for helicopter evacs during floods, for example.
    - He does not believe we will lose spectrum for emergency communications. Supporting the spectrum defense fund is good, but the best support is operating on those frequencies. If they aren't being used, there isn't a case for keeping them.
  - Dan N6AU asks about making the DX contest more challenging.
    - You could ban openings being favorable.
    - With the advent of digital modes it's becoming easier.
    - He doesn't know what might work except possibly raising the bar.
  - Bob K7NHE asks about the "revolving door" of CEOs and about the division between what seems to be a "progressive" side of the board and a less progressive side.
    - There has been a revolving door of CEOs.

- Needed to decide if they wanted a business manager or a contestor. They agreed they wanted a business manager.
- However, there was a change on the board and some folks thought Tom wasn't a "real ham" even though he was active on 6m and in his local club. No one would clarify what they meant by "real ham" and Tom decided to retire.
- The next CEO was also questioned about being a "real ham." His hobby leaned more toward circuitry, and the board started changing substantially with a bent toward contesting.
- Board has been accused of having "secret meetings," but they were not having secret meetings. There have been political differences, but there is an election going on now. He suspects that it will improve after this election.
- Current CEO is too new to tell if the position may be stabilized now.
- Paul N7TZW asks what's behind the \$50 license fee.
  - Didn't surprise him, and it's probably not going anywhere.
  - FCC is looking wherever they can to find money.
- Scott W7SLM asked about what sort of education Jim is doing right now.
  - He taught at the Comm Academy, but is retiring from all that to spend more time with his granddaughter and family.
  - If people are interested in teaching, he encourages them to step up because they are always looking for people.
- Scott W7SLM asked how the ARRL organization has evolved and where it is going in the future.
  - Jim is optimistic about the future of the organization.

## IC-705 First Impressions

Budd WB7FHC

Key points:

- Not a technical presentation. Only had it for a few weeks. Still learning about it.
- Ordering the radio was delayed from March to October. Didn't know the cost when he reserved a spot on the waitlist for \$35.
- Radio turned out to be \$1400 dollars. Credit card company flagged it as potential fraud, so the transaction was declined.
- Sales person asked a lot of questions to make sure that this radio was a good fit for what Budd wanted it to do.
- It's a QRP radio and there is no antenna tuner.
- Great choice for a second / portable radio. It's a "get out and go" radio. Probably not a good choice for a home radio.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Club Events

- SJCARS tech sessions on 27 November and 4 December
- Christmas feast club meeting and election on 11 December

External Events

- Rookie Roundup on 20 December

Scott will create 2021 events calendars and make them available at next month's meeting.

## Stories From the Shack

- No stories this month -- ran out of time for this segment of our meeting.

## Meeting Close

The meeting was adjourned at 13:34 PM.

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

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

Elizabeth Menozzi

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