

Hillsdale County Amateur Radio Club

Club Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2017

In attendance: President Don Gambill KC8WAU, Vice President Dan Sprow KC8RYF, Treasurer Joe Gosla KD8UJS, Members Bill Hicks WB8FF0, Jerry Jordan KA8IEC, Mark Seevers KC8QVX, Richard Wolf KD8NSM (7 members, 7 total).

The meeting was held at the Hillsdale First United Methodist Church and was called to order at 1900.

Membership Report

Don reported membership was 15 as of the last meeting. One new member has joined since. Current membership is 16. Two members renewed since last meeting. Fourteen members have renewed for 2017. One member has not yet renewed and is in the grace period that ends March 31.

Determination of Quorum

Seven of 16 members being present, a regular quorum (1/3) was present but a constitutional quorum (1/2) was not.

Meeting Minutes

Don read the meeting minutes from the January 19 club meeting. Noted one typo. Joe moved to approve with correction, Mark second, motion passed. Don read the meeting minutes from the January 19 annual meeting. Noted one typo. Joe moved to approve with correction, Jerry second, motion passed.

Treasury Reports

Joe presented the treasury report for January 31 with an ending balance of \$1,296.91. Bill moved to approve, Dan second, motion passed. Joe presented the treasury report for February 28 with an ending balance of \$1,311.91. Dan moved to approve, Jerry second, motion passed.

Board Meeting Update

Board did not meet in February. Meeting originally scheduled for March 1 was postponed to March 8 due to Ash Wednesday services at the church. Meeting business was routine. Minutes available. Next Board meeting originally scheduled for April 5 is rescheduled to April 12 due to other events at the church.

Past Events

January 29 – Hazel Park ARC Hamfest: No report.

February 11 – Ham Breakfast North Adams Coffee Shop: Seven attendees.

February 14 – NWS Severe Weather Spotter Training Coldwater: Dan attended, about 20 total.

February 19 – Livonia ARC's 46th Annual Swap & Shop: No report.

March 11 – Ham breakfast Yesterday's Diner Litchfield: Five members attended.

March 11 – Lowell Amateur Radio Youth Club Hamfest: No report.

Don attended the Orlando HamCation on February 10.

Ongoing Business and Reports

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN: No SKYWARN training in Hillsdale County this year. Joe is planning to attend spotter training in Angola on March 23.

Contesting: No reports.

DX: Jerry made several contacts on 20 meters, including Panama, Italy, Dominican Republic, an Airbus at 36,000 feet. Belize, Switzerland, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Africa, Spain, Aruba and Hungary.

Equipment: Mark is looking for a Yeasu FT-857D to replace one that got hit by lightning.

FCC License Database Activity Since Last Meeting:

01/26/17 AC8GF, HENDERSON, FRED J, address updated within county.

01/30/17 KE8FXA, Smith, Mark J, new licensee Technician.

01/30/17 KE8FXC, Wilson, Jeffrey P, new licensee Technician.

02/01/17 KE8FXV, Bernath, Trever D, new licensee Technician.

03/15/17 KC8HEF, NEWSOME, GARY A, license renewed.

Great Lakes HamCon updates: Hamfest will be held October 7-8 at Michigan International Speedway. The parent organization of the hamfest is the Great Lakes Amateur Radio Association (GLARA). GLARA has obtained 501(c) (3) status from the IRS. The ARRL has designated the hamfest as the 2017 Great Lakes Division Convention. They have been assigned a booth at the Dayton Hamvention and are looking for volunteers to staff it. Hamfest window stickers are available from Larry Camp WB8R. The hamfest website is glhamcon.org. Those interested in volunteering can send an email to volunteer@glhamcon.org.

Hillsdale County Emergency Management: Tornado warnings were issued in Hillsdale County on February 28. First siren test of the year was held on March 6. Next siren test and volunteer meeting is April 3.

Net Reports: Don presented Bill with his Monday Night Net Exceptional Participation Award at the ham breakfast on March 11. Don has a certificate for Mark but forgot to bring it to the meeting.

Newsletter: No updates.

PRB-1 Update: HR 555 was introduced in the US House on January 13 and passed on January 23. Bill was sent to the Senate and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation..

Repeaters: IRLP computer has been down since November 18. Computer hard drive failed. Joe took the computer to Dave Parks WB8ODF in Ypsilanti for repair. Joe will keep Mark updated. Mark said that he needs to move the 147.06 repeater to another location within the mill in Jonesville. This will require a few hours of downtime.

Traffic handling: Monday night net handled 3 messages on February 13. Board discussed traffic handling at board meeting. Net controller will determine if anyone is available to take traffic. Emergency traffic will be handled at the beginning of the net. Priority, welfare and routine traffic will be handled at the end of the net.

Volunteer activity: ARROW Communication Association in Ann Arbor is seeking amateur radio volunteers to work at the Ann Arbor Marathon on March 26.

Website: No downtime since last meeting for 100% uptime. YTD uptime is 100%. 91 days since last downtime event.

Unfinished Business

Leadership elections for vacant positions: Don opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. No nominations. Don opened the floor for nominations for Board Member At Large. No nominations.

New Business

Board recommends that we approve the Great Lakes Amateur Radio Association affiliation agreement with a donation of \$250. As this is a major expenditure it must be approved by a vote of the club membership. After discussion, Bill made the motion, Dan second, motion passed. Don executed the agreement and gave to Joe to send to GLARA with a check.

Jerry asked if the club has ever considered moving the meeting date to coincide with the ham breakfast. He has a conflict going forward with another club that he belongs to.

News

Paul Kangus W4LLA became a Silent Key on February 28. He was host of the Public Broadcasting Service show Nightly Business Report from 1979 to 2009. He was born in Houghton, Michigan and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

32,552 new Amateur Radio licenses were granted in 2016, up by 1% over 2015, and this is the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses has exceeded 30,000.

Ajit Pai, a Republican member of the FCC, has been designated by the president to succeed chairman Tom Wheeler, who stepped down on January 20.

RadioShack has filed for bankruptcy for the second time in two years.

Upcoming Events

March 18 – Michigan Crossroads Hamfest.

March 19 – Toledo Hamfest.

April 8 – Ham Breakfast at Ray's Tavern Reading.

April 12 – Board Meeting (postponed from April 5).

April 15 – Michigan QSO Party.

May 19-21 – Dayton Hamvention.

Next Club Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for April 20 at the First United Methodist Church in Hillsdale.

Adjournment

Bill moved to adjourn, Joe second, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2018. Don provided refreshments.

Program

No program.

Respectfully submitted by KC8WAU