

Hillsdale County Amateur Radio Club

Club Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

In attendance: President Don Gambill KC8WAU, Vice President Dan Sprow KC8RYF, Treasurer Joe Gosla KD8UJS, Members Bill Hicks WB8FFO, Jerry Jordan KA8IEC, Tommy Palmer KD8WWW, Mark Seevers KC8QVX, Jim Spencer KD8YDD (8 members, 8 total).

The meeting was held at Hi-Lex Controls in Litchfield. Hi-Lex employees Joe and Tommy hosted. Members met in the parking lot and were escorted in at 1900. The meeting was called to order at 1904.

Membership Report

Don reported that membership stood at 15 as of the last club meeting. No activity since. Current membership is 15.

Determination of Quorum

Eight of 15 members being present, both a regular quorum (1/3) and a constitutional quorum (1/2) were present.

Meeting Minutes

Don read the meeting minutes from the April 20 club meeting. Noted a couple typos. Joe moved to approve with corrections, Jim second, motion passed.

Treasury Report

Joe presented the treasury report for June 30 with an ending balance of \$1,076.02. Jim moved to approve, Dan second, motion passed. Joe presented the repeater fund report for June 30 with an ending balance of \$400.00. Jim moved to approve, Dan second, motion passed.

Board Meeting Update

Board met July 5. Meeting business was routine. Minutes available. Next Board meeting is scheduled for August 2.

Past Events

June 18 Monroe Hamfest: Tommy and Ed Trombley N8DCC attended. Tommy said it was a nice hamfest.

June 24-25 Field Day: Club did not sponsor an event. Don visited the Branch County club site. Jim said he scored 185 points making seven contacts on 20 meters, his first HF contacts. Dan and his son Andy Sprow KB9YJH made 225 contacts from Andy's home in Fort Wayne.

July 7-8 ARRL Michigan Section Summer Family Outing: No report.

July 8 Ham Breakfast at Yesterday's Diner in Litchfield: Six attendees.

July 15 Great Lakes HamCon Founding Member Club Gathering at Michigan International Speedway: Several from Hillsdale County attended, including Don, Deb McCloud KE8BPS, Roy McCloud AB8RM, Mark, Penny Seevers KD8PKY and Dan. Attendees toured a hospitality suite on pit row, pit row, the winner's circle and track in the finish line area as well as one of the garages.

Ongoing Business and Reports

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN: No updates.

Contesting: No reports.

DX: Jerry reported making a contact in Barcelona, Spain. He said that band conditions continue to be poor.

Equipment: No reports.

FCC License Database Activity Since Last Meeting:

06/29/17 KE8HHM, Taylor, Jerry R, new licensee Technician

Great Lakes HamCon: The hamfest will be held at Michigan International Speedway on October 7 & 8. Ticket prices are \$17 in advance and \$20 at the gate. Each ticket is good for both days. Children under 12 are free with a paid admission. A child's ticket must be requested when purchasing adult tickets. Camping spaces are \$35 without electric and \$50 with electric for Friday and Saturday nights. Flea Market spaces are available for purchase by phone only. Spaces are \$40 for a 12x20 foot space on pit road. Adjacent spaces may be obtained only by ordering the spaces at the same time. Call 888-905-7223 between 9am and 5pm, Monday through Friday. Founding Member Club Gathering was held at the speedway on July 15.

Hillsdale County Emergency Management: July 10 siren test was canceled due to threatening weather. Next siren test and volunteer meeting is August 7.

Legislative Update:

Federal PRB-1 HR 555, no update. An identical bill Senate 1534 was introduced on July 12 and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Michigan Distracted Driving HB 4466, no update.

Net Reports: Bill has qualified for the 2017 Exceptional Net Participation Award.

Newsletter: No updates.

Repeaters: 444.825 MHz repeater at Bundy Hill was repaired last weekend. The IRLP computer from the Bundy Hill receive site is still out for repair. It has been down since November 18. Mark will have about \$30 in expenses for the 147.06 MHz repeater repair and will write up an invoice. As this is more than \$25, it is a major expenditure and requires approval of the club membership. Jim made the motion, Joe second, motion passed.

Traffic handling: No reports.

Volunteer activity: Joe made severe weather reports, including quarter size hail, to the Wilmington, Ohio National Weather Service office and the local emergency management office while camping recently in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Website: No downtime since last meeting. YTD uptime is 99.30%. 47 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.

Simplex frequency usages when repeater is down: Dan spoke to Hillsdale County Emergency Management Director Doug Sanford N8WFB and he said that we can select some new frequencies as we see fit. Don suggest that we continue to use 147.06 MHz simplex as the primary backup frequency for short term outages, but if the outage goes longer that a few hours or days we should use something else. Tabled to next Board Meeting.

New Business

Mark suggested for those who will be camping at Great Lakes HamCon to let him know soon so that reservations can be made and people can camp together. He also asked if the club is interested in having a flea market table. Consensus was no. He asked that if anyone is interested in reserving a table to let him know so that reservations can be made for the tables to be together. Mark said that county ham Anne Burchardt N8VIF and her brother Bob Hinkle KK8ZZ would have one or more tables. Don will follow up with email to county hams.

News

David Francis KA8HZU of Litchfield became a Silent Key on July 4. Bill said that he worked with David at the Jonesville River Fest canoe races many years ago. Club member Dave King KQ8R said that he knew David from astronomy events and that he liked double stars and had the nickname Double Dave. Tommy said that he knew David as a big Elvis fan.

Michigan State Parks on the Air event started April 1. The Michigan State Parks system as a whole will be 100 years old in 2019. Some parks actually began operation in 1917, so the event will continue through 2019.

Upcoming Events

July 29 – CMARC “Outdoor” Hamfest (Holt)
August 12 – Ham Breakfast at Ray’s in Reading
August 12 – Angola Hamfest
September 9 – Ham Breakfast
September 9 – GRAHamfest
September 10 – Findlay Hamfest
September 16 – Hoosier Lakes Radio Club Tailgate Hamfest (Warsaw, IN)
September 17 – Adrian Hamfest

Next Club Meeting

No club meeting in August. Next meeting scheduled for September 21.

Adjournment

Jerry moved to adjourn, Jim second, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1949.

Program

Tommy and Joe led a tour of the Hi-Lex plant that manufactures window regulators for many automobile companies. Joe distributed safety glasses to all. We saw several processes on the manufacturing floor and visited the sound and the metrology labs. Hi-Lex employee Kim Radebaugh KD8NOI accompanied us on some of the tour.

Respectfully submitted by KC8WAU