

UNION COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Meeting Minutes for September 21, 2023

Christopher Whitaker opened the regular meeting at 7:05 PM with 25 members.

Attendance:

Chris Whitaker, AE4WS
Lisa Whitaker, KF4NYL
Kevin Harbin, K4KII
Ed Stemborowski, KJ4VLI
Norm Beasley, KO4CB
Tom Finley, KN4SMF
David Kurtz, KM4ZDK
David Ladd, KO4WTD
Reid Matthews, KO4WOT

David Kever, KV4N
Dwayne Stone, KC4NHW
Mike Williams, K4IC
Gordon Lyman, W4ZD
Andy Kabasakalian, WB2WZC
Jeffrey Weiss, K4EVT
Paul Corso, KK4PIB
Kevin Moderow, WA9VFD

Tom McCobb, K3TCM
Karen Stone
Julian Burns, K4WKP
Alfred KoKoszczyński, KC3GZI
Ray Rising, K4LWJ
Peter Gulish, K1NEM
Kathryn Ladd, KO4WKL
Will Johnson, KQ4KAC

1. Christopher (AE4WS) opened the meeting at 7:04 PM.
2. Tonight's meeting is being held at Siler Presbyterian Church, Wesley Chapel, NC.
3. Chris reviewed the meeting minutes for August 17, 2023.
 - a. Reviewed changes to PayPal account and how members may pay by PayPal.
 - b. Discussed who attended Shelby Hamfest.
 - c. Barn now has concrete floor, no more sawdust.
 - d. Vendors were not as many this year.
4. Kevin Moderow gave an update on ARRL that he received from ARRL President in Huntsville.
 - a. Currently lifetime membership is frozen.
 - b. Lifetime memberships will be reactivated but fees will be by age.
 - c. QST paper copies will cease in January unless you pay \$25/year for copies.
 - d. Concern of advertisers of not having paper ads.
5. David K. provided the Treasurer's Report. Current Balance of \$5,038.91
6. Announced Holiday Dinner on first Thursday on December 7th. (No December meeting)
 - a. Have had dinners at Asia Buffet but looking for alternative as cost is becoming an issue,
 - b. Asking for suggestions for a dinner location. Advise Chris if you have a suggestion.
7. Andy Kabasakalian (Election Committee Chairperson) announced the following candidates for Officers.
 - a. President-Tom McComb
 - b. Vice President- David Kurtz, Dwayne Stone, Peter Gulish
 - c. Treasurer-David Kever
 - d. Secretary-David Kever
 - e. Assistant Secretary- Ed Stemborowski
 - f. Presentations-Kevin Moderow, Richard Lanier, Gary Pincus
 - g. Net Director-Tom McCobb
8. Announced the Heritage Festival for Saturday morning September 23 at the Union County Agriculture Center.
 - a. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is available.
 - b. Ed Stemborowski provided details for the 5K Heritage Run.
 - i. 2 Volunteers will be placed at the Start, 1K, 2K, 3K, 4K and Finish.
 - ii. Volunteers will report to Net Control of activity and need for transport if necessary.
 - iii. Extra volunteers will be used as rovers.
 - iv. Ed provided a map of the racecourse and detailed instructions for the event.

- v. A count of runners will be maintained throughout the race to ensure that no one is lost.
 - vi. Runners will have RFI Chips on their Bibbs this year.
 - vii. Directions given for various starting points.
 - viii. Setup will be at 7:00 AM
 - ix. Shirts are available.
 - x. Chris, bring a 10 X 20 tent.
 - xi. Kevin will provide CW station with key for use by visitors.
9. Peter Gulish showed and described the construction and operation of his 6-meter Squalo, short for Square Halo.
 10. Announced that UCARS will have a site at the Warbirds over Monroe to be held November 11 and 12 at the Monroe Airport.
 11. Tom McCobb presented the "Magic" of APRS.
 - a. An APRS device sends your location from your radio to a repeater (iGATE) to the internet.
 - b. On the internet the data is sent to a site (aprs.fi) that will map the location.
 - c. Unable to send packets from the meeting room but on the outside, it works as designed.
 - d. You can send text messages via APRS.
 - e. Requirements- an APRS enabled radio. A lot of radios come equipped with the feature including a GPS receiver.
 - f. Radios that are not equipped with APRS can be used with an external adapter. A Boateng radio can be used with a TNC.
 - g. One option is a Digi-rig for around \$150 that can be used with non-APRS equipped portables.
 - i. A cable is connected between the Digi-rig to the audio/PTT connections on the portable.
 - h. Demonstrated the use of a Boateng with the Digi-Rig.
 - i. The rig is controlled by your cell phone with an app that connects by Bluetooth to the Digi-Rig
 - j. Demonstrated the ability to use the cell phone to control the APRS TNC.
 - k. On Boateng there are two adjustments that must be made. No 35 & No 7.
 - i. No 35 modifies the squelch tail.
 - ii. No 7 is dual channel receiving (turn off)
 - l. A log is available to show all messages received.
 - m. A set up how often beacons are sent.
 - n. Smart Beacon can be used to show movement above a specified parameter a position packet will be sent.
 - o. Another feature is the capability to send Messages to groups.
 - p. Described that Winlink can be used on cell phones with various apps.
 12. Kevin Moderow announced that if you have a Baofeng radio and can afford a PI-O you have an alternative to the Digi-Rig. Email Kevin and he will program the PI-O to access the wi-fi in your house. It will allow you to track your mobile locations.
 13. 50/50 Drawing was held for \$ 26.00. Julian Burns was the winner. \$ 26.00 was donated to the club's treasury. Secondary Prize drawings were won by Paul Corso, Jeff Weiss, and Kathryn Ladd.
 14. David Kurtz announced that CERT will be sponsoring a CPR class on September 27th at 7:00 PM at Stalling's Town Hall.
 - a. The CERTS team has been invited by the Emergency Management Team to the new County EOC for a tour on Wednesday, October 18th at 6:00 PM. David Kurtz will investigate if UCARS members may be included.
 15. OTA Breakfast Club will meet Saturday, October 7th at 9:00 AM at Andrew Jackson State Park.
 16. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.