

UNION COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2023

Tom McCobb opened the regular meeting at 7:02 PM with 20 members and 3 Guests present.

Attendance:

Chris Whitaker, AE4WS
Lisa Whitaker, KF4NYL
Julian Burns, K4WKP
Tom Finley, KN4SMF
Rick Lanier, N4RCL
Kathryn Ladd, KO4WKL
Gary Pincus, KY4QH
Jeff Weiss, K4EVT
Todd Edwards (G)

David Keever, KV4N
Dwayne Stone, KC4NHW
Alfred KoKoszczyński, KC3GZI
Jeffrey Weiss, K4EVT
Paul Corso, KK4PIB
David Kurtz, KM4ZDK
Gorden Lyman, W4ZD
Richard Harn (G)

Tom McCobb, K3TCM
Karen Stone (G)
Andy Kabasakalian, WB2WZC
Gary Pincus, KY4QH
David Ladd, KO4WTD
Gary Stone, KO4NZU
Hans VanHeule, KQ4KAN
Stefan Neikes (G)

1. Tom McCobb, K4TCM opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.
2. Tonight's meeting is being held at Siler Presbyterian Church, Wesley Chapel, NC.
3. Tom introduced himself as the new President and those in attendance identified themselves with call sign.
4. Tom reviewed the meeting minutes for October 19, 2023. Minutes Approved.
5. David K. provided the Treasurer's Report. Current Balance of \$ 4,876.24.
 - a. Reported income of \$ 288 with a \$ 543.67 expense for repeater maintenance.
 - b. The treasurer's report was approved.
6. Tom announced that:
 - a. Saturday breakfast is this Saturday, November 18th.
 - b. The Holiday dinner will be held on December 7th at the Asia Buffet in Matthews at 6:30 PM.
 - i. Chris W will follow up with the restaurant about our reservation.
 - c. We do not have an update for OOTA.
 - d. Amateur Radio Volunteers needed for the Concord Christmas parade this Saturday, November 18.
 - e. On the weekend of November 11th and 12th UCARS set up a display at the Warbirds over Monroe show.
 - i. Attending: Andy Kay, Kevin Moderow, Jeff Weiss, Paul Corso, Gary Pincus
 - ii. Saturday weather was miserable, but attendance was still good.
 - iii. Sunday weather was much better with Sunshine. A lot of traffic came to look at the telegraph keys and talk radio.
7. Tom mentioned the results of Summer Field Day. Results are in the December QST Magazine under 3A.
 - a. UCARS score showed 3,046.
8. Query made if there is interest in Winter Field Day. On January 27th and 28th.
 - a. Tom explained what Field Day is for the guests.
 - b. There is casual interest in participating in Winter Field Day.
9. Request to see if there are club members that are interested in CW.
 - a. A sign-up sheet was passed to those interested in adding their name.
 - b. Andy Kay mentioned that he was aware of a group that used the local repeaters to send CW for practice and training.
 - c. Tom mentioned that we have a 6-meter net that would be ideal for practicing CW.
 - d. Andy Kay will be setting up an event where QSOs are made on 6 meters, 2 meters and 10 meters to compare signals and how well operators can hear each other.

- e. Jeff Weiss mentioned CW Abbey has CW classes in January and February, registration is open now. These are classes presented via ZOOM, with homework assignments. CW assignments conducted via an FM repeater is acceptable in the class.
10. Relay Kelly Lambe message of missing the members and hope to see all soon.
 11. Chris Whitaker gave a program about AUXCOMM.
 - a. AUXCOMM is a public safety organization created by Homeland Security at the Federal Government level.
 - b. AUXCOMM is a group of “trained “communicators to assist with emergency communications and support during disasters.
 - c. The goal is to prepare community members to deliver communications but not limited to amateur radio, training for internet, other communications networks, we are focusing on amateur radio.
 - d. Difference between ARES and AUXCOMM, ARES is sponsored by the ARRL. ARES requires no formal training. There is suggested training but not required.
 - e. AUXCOMM is different and is part of the National Incident Management System, better known as NIMS. NIMS was created after the 911 incident due to lack of coordination.
 - f. North Carolina has incorporated AUXCOMM into the Emergency Management System.
 - g. Training Classes for AUXCOMM are free and on-line. Available at <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>.
 - h. To qualify you complete 4 courses: ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 700 and ICS 800. Upon completion you receive certificates.
 - i. Provide these Certificates copies to the local AUXCOMM coordinator and he will place them into the AUXCOMM database.
 - j. Additional ICS classes 300 and 400 are two classes taught in the area in a classroom, usually twice a year. The classes are two-day classes.
 - k. For AUXCOMM a working knowledge of Winlink Express is needed. Winlink is a free software program where you register your call sign. With Winlink you may send messages by Internet, VHF and UHF radio.
 - l. Winlink Express has the ICS forms built-in to the database.
 - m. At the activation of AUXCOMM you may be requested to send messages to assist with local communicators due to overload, loss of internet, telco facilities and at long distances.
 - n. There are forms (ICS forms) that are used to request supplies or messaging on Winlink that would be used in these cases. Method of transmission is up to the AUXCOMM communicator.
 - o. Union County AUXCOMM has a room at the new EOC that is equipped with the necessary radio equipment provided by the county that is necessary.
 - p. Chris gave some examples of activities that may occur.
 - q. Location of the new EOC and where the AUXCOMM equipment is located is 2258 Concord Ave adjacent to County Health Department.
 - r. Chris explained how to sign up for Winlink Express and what you can do with the software.
 - s. Tom, K3TCM mentioned that EMCOMM runs exercise monthly/bi-monthly that you may participate.
 - t. Chris provided a recap of what is needed to join AUXCOMM.
 - u. AUXCOMM group has a seat on the LEPC, Local Emergency Planning Committee for Union County. Chris and David attend those meetings that occur quarterly.
 13. Tom announced that a VE exam will be held January 20th at this location, Siler Presbyterian Church.
 14. Dues reminder
 15. There was discussion about the repeater failure.
 16. Paul Corso, KK4PIB expressed thanks for the help he received at Warbirds over Monroe when he had a medical issue.
 17. David Kurtz spoke about CERTS and how you can become involved. He gave examples of how CERTS can serve the community. There will be an information meeting on Wednesday, January 3rd at Stalling Town Hall.

18. 50/50 Drawing was held for \$ 27.00. Gary Pincus was the winner. \$ 27.00 was donated to the club's treasury.
19. Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 PM.