

# UNION COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2024

**Tom McCobb** opened the regular meeting at 7:00 PM with 22 members and 5 Guests present.

## Attendance:

Chris Whitaker, AE4WS	David Keever, KV4N	Tom McCobb, K3TCM
Lisa Whitaker, KF4NYL	Dwayne Stone, KC4NHW	Karen Stone (G)
Ed Stemborowski, KJ4VLI	Julian Burns, K4WKP	Alfred KoKoszczyński, KC3GZI
Andy Kabasakalian, WB2WZC	Kevin Harbin, K4KII	Mike Williams, K4IC
Gary Pincus, KY4QH	Rick Lanier, N4RCL	Paul Corso, KK4PIB
David Kurtz, KM4ZDK	Gary Stone, KO4NZU	Hans VanHeule, KQ4KA
Galen Stutzman, KC4AN	Paul Pownigwjc	David Humphries, W4WAX
Will Johnson, KQ4KAC	Stefan Neikes (G)	Todd Edwards (G)
Beth Golding, KN4RJY (G)	Matt Young, KK4HNL (G)	Joe Tennis, KJ0TEN (G)

1. Tom McCobb, K4TCM opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.
2. Tonight's meeting is being held at Siler Presbyterian Church, Wesley Chapel, NC.
3. Tom asks for Guests, Beth Golding, Gary Kirkland, Paul Poloniewicz and Matt Young were recognized.
4. Meeting minutes were made available for review. Motion was made accept and approval was received.
5. The treasurer's report was given by David K, Motion was made to accept, and approval was received.
6. Tom announced that the club had received a donation of an ICOM 746 Pro from John Griffin, W8JRG.
  - a. Plan to use the radio on Winter Field Day.
7. David Kurtz announced that CERTS meets the First Wednesday of the month at the Stalling Town Hall. CERTS is sponsored by the Stallings Police Department
8. Another Guest was recognized; Joe Tennis, KJ0TEN.
9. David K. representing the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society presented information about the upcoming Charlotte Hamfest on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the Cabarrus Areen in Concord.
10. Kevin Moderow will host an OOTA event on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 AM in Pineville at the James K Polk historic site in Pineville. Food is provided. Information is provided at [www.nc4uc.org/oota](http://www.nc4uc.org/oota).
11. Winter Field Day to be held on January 25 & 26 at Pleasant Plains Baptist Church in Matthews was discussed. UCARS needs participants and all are encouraged to sign up for the event. Tom will be sending out another request for volunteers. There will be a trailer to protect you from the weather.
12. An "Outreach" discussion on how the club can reach out to licensed or interested Hams in the area not participating with any clubs and promote their interest in Amateur Radio and with UCARS.
  - a. What is wrong with our club now that we want to promote an "Outreach" Program?
  - b. This was inspired by Andy Kabasakalian and his promoting Ham radio to a group of interested people at Hans home showing and explaining assets of Amateur Radio.
  - c. Tom proposes we do the same on a broader scale to the Union County Community. Calling it "Ham Radio 101" presentation. Have the presentation one or two times a year. The club would promote the gathering far enough in advance to ensure reaching all interested people.
  - d. Another idea is having a "Portable Information Booth". Locations could be at Farmer's market, community activities etc.
  - e. How do we as a club let the public know that UCARS is here?
    1. By email addresses from QRZ web site. Dave Kurtz has reviewed 350 call signs. email addresses are minimal. Volunteers willing to help being solicited.
    2. By Postal Mail, first impression it is expensive. Tom found printing companies will print a post card and mail for \$350-\$400 for 500 cards. If the club feels too expensive possibly some members would underwrite the costs. Club needs a card designer if this method is selected.

3. Julian Burns stated that the Ashe County club puts messages on their repeater repetitive for club meetings and events.
4. Concern expressed what to expect from soliciting by email or mail.
5. Kevin Moderow that not to not try to solicitate for members but to become a more active club. He does not believe we have provided support for new Hams. This points to a lack of activities.
6. Several years ago Alfred KoKoszczyński sent out cards to Hams in the area inviting them to an event. There was no response.
7. Paul Corso commented we have opposition in that the FCC has lowered cost for GMRS licenses and potential Hams are going that route due to licensing requirements.
8. Kevin M. feels that HF is the attraction for Amateur Radio and an effort should be made to expose new hams to that spectrum and its activities.
9. The need is to promote activities and not business meetings to get people involved.
10. David Humphries, W4WAX, noted that he never heard any announcements from UCARS that we are having a presentation during the Nets as other clubs in the area do. He mentioned that as a teacher he created a video that was not Ham radio related but he put at the beginning a sign off of a QSO he was having with an Italy station. He received more responses from the younger crowd. His thought is having a way for people to see what is happening that will generate interest.
11. One member stated that an obstacle he has is we talk about equipment and terms that he has no knowledge of. He feels we should dumb down at the presentations and discussion and give talks about the different items we discuss. Identify equipment and what it is.
12. Female member echoed that we do not place emphasis on membership but involvement in activities.
13. Chris Whitaker mentioned we had good attendance for the road race but as soon as it was over all left but a few to run the booth for the remainder of the day.
14. A member mentioned we need to know the day even is to happen so members can place on calendar as Ham Day. Need advance notice early as known.
15. Chris Whitaker we appear to be a Social Club, try to get people together for a training/educational activity and a few show but mention breakfast or food and the members show.
16. A new member wants to be involved but does not know how or what to do. He is looking for guidance. He believes there are other members in the same situation.
17. Andy Kabasakalian stated we have multiple events each year that we do not set up an HF station. We should do that and have New Hams or potential Hams get on the air to experience HF. This provides encouragement.
18. A member said that trying to learn FT9, Echolink on the internet is difficult for them.
19. Gary Stone told his experience on ten meters that helped him a lot.
20. David Kurtz spoke about a group being receptive to new people. He mentions that has not happened in this club, all have been friendly and welcoming him. He spoke of his showing for Field Day unannounced and welcomed to join in. He liked that information was provided when to come and no experience needed. He mentioned that he had not thought about announcements on the Nets.
21. Mention that he is not hard of hearing but hard of understanding, as an example with POTA the other party replies to information fast and hard to comprehend.
22. Kevin Moderow mentioned that he is considering going electronic logging that may solve some of the issues of operators writing down contacts. He mentioned that his outings are "Pass the Mike", and it is known to other operators that they can stay on that site and receive multiple contacts as operators change.
23. Gary Pincus mentioned a website that will tell you where people are activating. That will assist in recognizing call signs.
24. Mike Williams spoke about a recording of a Vietnam Fire Fight he plays at events that has five conversations going at the same time along with noise of explosions and machine gun fire. He can

pick out the conversations along with other Vets where the average person cannot identify the conversations. This is a skill that is developed over the years. Takes practice.

25. Dwayne Stone spoke about field activities, having a script and having a buddy to assist in hearing the call and logging.

26. Member spoke of using hearing protection from outside noise to help in understanding radio traffic.

26. Paul Corso spoke about hearing and the use of hearing aids that assist in the loss of certain frequencies that affect understanding words.

27. Tom stated that we will begin announcing activities and events on the Nets. Also, activities will be announced on the Club's email server.

28. Member reported that they listen to the Nets and is disturbed that there is no information and wonders if the club does not participate in the Nets.

13. Tom announced that we have been occupants of Siler Presbyterian Church for years. Request that we make donations to the church for use of their facilities. If so, how much. Discussed reducing club dues to \$25/year. After thought, keep the dues at \$30 and donate the difference to the church for the use of the facilities. We will discuss it more at the next meeting. IOF members have an alternate suggestion please make it known.
14. Hans Vanhuele and Andy Kabasakalian gave a presentation on hoisting an antenna to a high height (tree) and have the capability to lower and raise the antenna as needed. They showed and demonstrated the harness they built to solve his problem.
15. Tom announced that UCARS received an anonymous donation of \$500.00.
16. 50/50 Drawing was held for \$ 52.00. Todd Edwards was the winner. \$ 26.00 was donated to the club's treasury.
  - a. Second drawing for a Bazooka Antenna, won by Julian Burns
  - b. Third drawing of a walkie-Talkie antenna, Hans VanHuele
17. The meeting was Adjourned at 8:16 PM.