

## UNION COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2024

**Tom McCobb** opened the regular meeting at 7:02 PM with 26 members and 7 Guests present.

### Attendance:

Tom McCobb, K3TCM	David Kever, KV4N	Alfred KoKoszczyński, KC3GZI
Kevin Moderow, WA9VFD	Andy Kabasakalian, WB2WZC	Mike Williams, K4IC
David Kurtz, KM4ZDK	Gary Stone, KO4NZU	Julian Burns, K4WKP
Hans VanHeule, KQ4KAN	Rick Lanier, N4RCL	Paul Corso, KK4PIB
Jeff Weiss, K4EVT	Kevin Harbin, K4KII	Tonya Opgenorth, KO4ZMU
David Humphries, W4WAX	Gordon Lyman, W4ZD	David Brown, KE7OVG
Matt Sexton, KN4VVS	Todd Edwards, KQ4NYL	Tom Finley, KN4SMF
Joshua Rierson, KQ4NZL	Dwayne Stone, KC4NHW	Christopher Whitaker, AE4WS
Lisa Whitaker, KF4NYL	Karen Stone (G)	Kent Halsten, KQ4OQU (G)
Beth Golden, KN4RJY (G)	Mike Ryan, N9JEQ (G)	Greg Stephans, K8GWS, (G)
Gary Williamson, KN4BRF (G)	Tim Fox, KF4PFA, (G)	Frank Charlonis, (G)

1. Tom McCobb, K3TCM opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.
2. Tonight's meeting is being held at Siler Presbyterian Church, Wesley Chapel, NC.
3. Visitors introduced themselves.
4. Meeting minutes were made available for review. Motion made by David Kurtz to accept the minutes and seconded by Christopher Whitaker. Minutes approved as written.
5. The treasurer's report was given by David Kever. Motion to approve by Julian Burns and seconded by Christopher Whitaker.
6. Members are reminded to indicate if you are an ARRL member on the sign in sheet. Necessary to determine UCARS ARRL status.
7. Christopher Whitaker gave an update of the progress for AUXCOMM in Union County, Detailing antenna order and remote antenna tuner required. Chris will be visiting Richmond County to assist with their AUXCOMM group.
8. Tom discussed the 2-meter simplex drill held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. He is working on overlay maps to show coverage from each participating location.
9. Winter Field Day Results have not been published; anticipate they will be available around April 1<sup>st</sup>.
10. Tom appointed a field day committee consisting of Kurtz, Kever, and Andy K. Anyone else interested in serving on the committee should contact David Kever.
11. In anticipation of Field Day Tom proposed that UCARS purchase an additional Band Pass filter for 20 meters and a triplexer unit to allow 3 transmitters to use the same antenna at the same time.
  - a. An additional Band Pass filter is \$155 and a Triplexer unit is \$255.
  - b. Discussion was held with the pros and cons of the proposal.
  - c. Vote was taken by show of hands to purchase the additional 20 meter Band Pass filter.
  - d. The Triplexer unit was voted down by show of hands.
  - e. Kevin Moderow said that we needed more area to reduce interference.
  - f. Motion to purchase 20-meter Band Pass Filter by Jeff Weiss and seconded by Kevin Moderow.
12. A discussion was held about the upgrade of software for the 2 UCARS Repeaters.
  - a. Upgrade is to minimize transmitter shut down, a known issue with the manufacturer and model that UCARS has.
  - b. The cost is \$45 per repeater plus shipping.
  - c. Discussion why is it necessary.

- d. Why can't we do the upgrade, not permitted by Yaesu.
  - e. One repeater would be shipped at a time allowing the VHF (145.390 MHz) to remain on the air during the upgrades.
  - f. Approval of up to \$600 for upgrade made by Andy Kabasakalian and seconded by Matt Sexton for both repeater upgrades.
  - g. Motion to upgrade Repeaters and shipping by Julian Burns and seconded by Hans VanHeule, approved.
13. Gary Stone suggested we purchase a new canopy for use at events. The existing leaks. Tom proposed that we try a sealant before purchasing a new one.
  14. Announced a CW Class presented by CW Academy via ZOOM on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Direction to the link for the class on [www.nc4uc.org](http://www.nc4uc.org) website homepage.
  15. Kevin announced that the next OOTA event will be on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Reed Gold Mine, emphasis will be on FT8 operation.
  16. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Red Cross Building in Monroe there will be a presentation at 9:00 AM, about Cables and Connectors, describing different cable properties and the installation of connectors used with Ham Radio.
  17. Looking for information for the use of tables at the Union County Farmers market in Monroe and the Waxhaw Farmers Market in Waxhaw.
  18. Tom proposed that Shirts, from Land's End with the Club emblem be made available to members for purchase. The wearing of Club shirts helps identify members and provides visibility to the public. Kevin Moderow has a site that also can provide monogrammed shirts. Tom announced that coming soon there will be a place on the Club's website where you may be directed to a vendor to order your club items.
  19. Tom proposed the club invest in a ZOOM account. It could be used for committee meetings and if there is interest presenting club meeting via ZOOM for those unable to attend. Yearly fee is approximately \$160.
    - a. Approved by a show of hands.
    - b. Tom received approval for reimbursement for \$160.
  20. Questions raised about WIRES-X. UCARS is unable to provide WIRES-X at this time due to lack of internet. Other options are being reviewed.
  21. Some discussion about the linking of the UCARS and JAARS repeaters. Currently there are no plans to link.
  22. Tim Fox from JAARS spoke of JAARS' plans to re-instate their HF facilities for use in their overseas operations where modern communications is not available.
  23. 50/50 Drawing was held for \$ 35.00. David Kurtz, KM4ZDK was the winner. \$17.50 was donated to the club's treasury. A second drawing for a UCARS Mug was won by Todd Edwards.
    1. The meeting was Adjourned at 8:02 PM.