

Hillsdale County Amateur Radio Club

Club Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2016

In attendance: President Don Gambill KC8WAU, Treasurer Joseph Gosla KD8UJS, Board Member Dan Sprow KC8RYF, Members Bill Hicks WB8FFO, Jerry Jordan KA8IEC, Mark Seevers KC8QVX, Jim Spencer KD8YDD (7 members, 7 total).

The meeting was held at the North Adams Coffee Shop and was called to order at 0900.

Membership Report

Don reported membership was 18 as of the last regular meeting on November 19. No new members and six renewals since. Five members renewed at the start of this meeting. Membership at the start of the meeting stood at 18. 12 members have renewed for 2016.

Determination of Quorum

Seven of 18 members being present, a regular quorum (1/3) was present but a constitutional quorum (1/2) was not.

Meeting Minutes

Don read minutes from the October 15 meeting. One typo was noted. Bill moved to approve with correction, Jerry second, motion passed.

Don read minutes from November 19 meeting. Joe moved to approve, Jim second, motion passed.

Don read minutes from special meeting held December 11. Joe moved to approve, Jerry second, motion passed.

Treasurers Report

Joe presented the treasury report for October with an ending balance of \$1,158.87. Mark moved to approve, Jim second, motion passed.

Joe presented the treasury report for November with an ending balance of \$1,156.52. Bill moved to approve, Dan second, motion passed.

Joe presented the treasury report for December with an ending balance of \$1,205.62. Jim moved to approve, Dan second, motion passed.

Board Meeting Update

Board met on December 2 and January 6. Meeting business was routine. Minutes available.

Past Events

December 5 Ham Breakfast at Blue Rooster: Seven attendees. Breakfast was rescheduled from December 12 to avoid conflict with the Christmast Party.

December 5 Fulton County Winter Hamfest: Jerry attended, said he enjoyed the hamfest but did not buy anything.

December 11: Special club meeting, seven attendees.

December 14: Christmas Party at Fayette Street Church of Christ, 14 attendees.

Ongoing Business and Reports

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN – SKYWARN training presented by the NWS Northern Indiana office will be held on March 14 at Hillsdale College Phillips Auditorium. Registration required. Details on club website.

Contesting – No reports.

DX – Jerry said that he continues to make contacts in Panama Canal Zone and also in the Shepherds Islands, and also has been making some contacts in South America and made a contact with a battleship in San Diego.

Equipment – Jerry bought an Ameritron AL-811H amplifier. Joe bought a Signal Link external sound card. Jim bought a Heil head set.

Hillsdale County Emergency Management – Mid-winter dinner will be held January 16 at North Adams Coffee Shop. Next siren test and meeting is March 7.

FCC License Database Activity –

11/24/15 N8BFD, BOWERS, MILTON L, license renewed

12/02/15 KD8CRF, Delaney Jr, Edward, license renewed

12/03/15 KE8CLE, Fogarty, Edwin, upgraded to General

Net Reports – Net certificate contest started January 4. Bill had some problems Monday because it seemed like someone had an open mic on the repeater. May have been a band opening. Anyone interested in being net control should contact club leadership.

Newsletter – January newsletter first to use new name Hillsdale Communicator.

PRB-1 Update – HR 1301 now has 116 cosponsors. Senate bill 1685 still has 3 cosponsors. All in attendance at meeting have already signed letters to Michigan's senators urging their support of S1685.

Repeaters – No reports.

Traffic handling – No reports.

Volunteer activity – No reports.

Website – Four downtime events since last regular meeting for 48 hours and 96.3% uptime. Don set up an free account with Uptime Monitor that will report when the club website goes down.

Unfinished Business

Leadership elections: No nominations for vacant Secretary position.

Name The Newsletter Contest: Winning entry Hillsdale Communicator was submitted by Bill Ona KA8WBR. He was awarded a \$20 gift card at the Christmas Party.

New Business

Membership dues for 2016 are due. Rates are unchanged from last year. Grace period ends March 31.

Board recommends that we donate \$50 to the Hillsdale First United Methodist Church for use of the facility for monthly meetings. As this is a major expenditure it must be approved by a vote of the club membership. Bill made the motion, Jim second, motion passed. Don directed Joe to send a check and thank you note to the church.

As incoming Vice President, Dan has been asked to take responsibility for planning programs for the club meetings. Please refer any ideas to him.

Club member Don Playford WB8CCK is getting some RFI and has complained to Consumers Energy and the FCC. Dan Romanchik KB6NU, who visited Don's shack in August, said that he "thinks that it's something in the factory (near Don's house). It is very strong and quite wideband, leading me to think that it's very close. I can certainly see some piece of machinery creating that kind of noise. I think that to isolate the problem someone is going to have to do some snooping with a small AM transistor radio or maybe something like the R3500D radio direction finding (RDF) receiver." Looking for someone to take the lead in helping Don. No takers.

News

ARRL is conducting year-long National Parks on the Air contest to celebrate National Parks System 100th anniversary.

Former club member Don Cook KC8PRM from Quincy is moving to the Upper Peninsula.

Microsoft Windows 10 upgrades continue to be free until July 29.

ARRL dues increase to \$49 annually went into effect on January 1. Don and Jim renewed early and took advantage of the lower rate.

Upcoming Events

January 24 – Hazel Park W8HP 50th Annual Swap

February 3 – Board Meeting

February 21 – Livonia ARC's 45th Annual Swap & Shop

March 14 – NWS SKYWARN Training at Hillsdale College Phillips Auditorium

Next Club Meeting

The next club meeting will be Saturday, February 13 at the North Adams Coffee Shop. The meeting will start at 8:45am or after the club breakfast is over, whichever is later.

Adjournment

Jim moved to adjourn, Joe second, meeting adjourned at 0942.

Respectfully submitted by KC8WAU