Hillsdale County Amateur Radio Club
Club Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2017

In attendance: President Don Gambill KC8WAU, Vice President Dan Sprow KC8RYF, Treasurer Joe Gosla KD8UJS, Members Bill Hicks WB8FF0, Jerry Jordan KA8IEC, Tommy Palmer KD8WWW (6 members, 6 total).

The meeting was held at the Hillsdale First United Methodist Church and was called to order at 1900.

Membership Report
Don reported that membership stood at 15 as of the last club meeting. No activity since. Current membership is 15.

Determination of Quorum
Six of 15 members being present, a regular quorum (1/3) was present but a constitutional quorum (1/2) was not.

Meeting Minutes
Don read the meeting minutes from the April 20 club meeting. Noted one typo. Dan moved to approve with correction, Joe second, motion passed.

Treasury Report
Joe presented the treasury report for April 30 with an ending balance of $1,076.02. Bill moved to approve, Dan second, motion passed. Joe presented the treasury report for May 31 with an ending balance of $1,076.02. Bill moved to approve, Dan second, motion passed. Joe presented the repeater fund report for April 30 with an ending balance of $400.00. Bill moved to approve, Dan second, motion passed. Joe presented the repeater fund report for May 31 with an ending balance of $400.00. Bill moved to approve, Dan second, motion passed.

Board Meeting Update
Board met May 3 and June 7. Meeting business was routine. Minutes available. Next Board meeting is scheduled for July 5.

Past Events
May 7 CROP Walk: Don, Joe, Tommy and Dan volunteered, monitoring the walkers on the route.

May 13 Ham Breakfast at North Adams Coffee Shop: Eight amateurs attended.

May 19 CAA Head Start Picnic: Wayne Jones N9UGT and Brett Smith KC8ZDA volunteered, directing attendees to parking areas.

May 19-21 Dayton Hamvention: Several from Hillsdale County attended including Anne Burchardt N8VIF, Don Gambill KC8WAU, Joe Gosla KD8UJS, Deb McCloud KE8BPS, Roy McCloud AB8RM, Tommy Palmer KD8WWW, Mark Seevers KC8QVX, Dan Sprow KC8RYF and Ed Trombley N8DCC.

June 3 Fulton County Amateur Radio Summer Swap: No report.

June 3 IRA Hamfest (Hudsonville): No report.

June 4 Chelsea ARC Swap: Tommy, Mark, Dale Smith W9LKI and Ed attended.

Ongoing Business and Reports

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN: No updates.

Contesting: No reports.

DX: Jerry reported making a contact in Tenerife, Canary Islands on 17 meters. He said that band conditions have been poor lately.

Equipment: No reports.

FCC License Database Activity Since Last Meeting:
05/18/17 WB8WKA, KING, ROBERT J (Jeff), address updated to out of county
05/19/17 KE8GZP, Peter, Tracy A, new licensee Technician

Great Lakes HamCon: The Great Lakes HamCon had a booth at the Dayton Hamvention. The hamfest will be held at Michigan International Speedway on October 7 & 8. Ticket prices are $17 in advance and $20 at the gate. Each ticket is good for both days. Children under 12 are free with a paid admission. A child's ticket must be requested when purchasing adult tickets. Currently, there is a limited time promotion that gives you $1 off your advance purchase of tickets. Camping spaces are $35 without electric and $50 with electric for Friday and Saturday nights. Flea Market spaces are available for purchase by phone only. Spaces are $40 for a 12x20 foot space on pit road. Adjacent spaces may be obtained only by ordering the spaces at the same time. Call 888-905-7223 between 9am and 5pm, Monday through Friday.

Hillsdale County Emergency Management: Next siren test and volunteer meeting is July 10, rescheduled from July 3 due to the Independence Day holiday.

Legislative Update:
Federal PRB-1 HR 555, no update.
Michigan Distracted Driving HB 4466, no update.

Net Reports: Net is running on repeater again as of June 5. The net ran simplex mode for 8 weeks.

Newsletter: No updates.

Repeaters: 146.07 repeater was repaired on June 3. Mark replaced the power supply and a section of feed line, and Joe repaired some faulty cooling fan wiring.

The IRLP computer from the Bundy Hill receive site is still out for repair. It has been down since November 18.

Traffic handling: No reports.

Volunteer activity: CROP Walk and CAA picnic as detailed above. Dan volunteered at the Bike 101 Lakes charity bike ride in Angola, Indiana on May 13. Deb and Roy McCloud also worked the event.

Website: Four downtime events since last meeting for 33.83 hours and 97.48% uptime. Year to date uptime is 99.15%.

Field Day

Field Day is June 24-25. Club is not sponsoring an event this year.

Unfinished Business

Leadership elections for vacant positions: Don opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. No nominations. Don opened the floor for nominations for Board Member At Large. No nominations.

Repeater fund savings account was opened at County National Bank. Mark expects only expenses for repeater repair to be for some connectors. Power supply and feed line were donated.

New Business

Mark suggested at the Board Meeting that we review our emergency simplex frequencies. Currently we are using the repeater output frequency of 147.06 MHz, 146.550MHz and 147.420 MHz. The repeater output sometimes gets interference from other repeaters and is defined as a repeater frequency and not simplex. 146.55 MHz is often in use by local amateurs. Dan will get with Hillsdale County Emergency Manager Doug Sanford N8WFB to discuss options, as this will impact SKYWARN procedures.

News

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder proclaimed the week of June 19-25 as Amateur Radio Week in Michigan. Don read the proclamation.

Michigan State Parks on the Air event started April 1. The Michigan State Parks system as a whole will be 100 years old in 2019. Some parks actually began operation in 1917, so the event will continue through 2019.

Upcoming Events

June 18 – Monroe Hamfest
June 24-25 – Field Day
July 7-8 – ARRL Michigan Section Summer Family Outing
July 8 – Ham Breakfast
July 16 – Van Wert Hamfest
July 29 – CMARC "Outdoor" Hamfest (Holt)
August 12 – Angola Hamfest

Next Club Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for July 20, possibly at Hi-Lex in Litchfield.

Adjournment

Dan moved to adjourn, Joe second, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1953. Don provided refreshments.

Program

Tommy presented a program on Software-Defined Radio (SDR), using a SDRplay unit that he bought for about $150 and SDRuno software. Dan provided an antennae and assisted with the setup.

Respectfully submitted by KC8WAU