

WARC Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wantagh Amateur Radio Club

August 2003

Meeting Notice: The next monthly meeting of the Wantagh Amateur Radio Club will be held at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, August 8th, at the Wantagh Public Library.

Agenda: Various topics.

Minutes of the July 11th General Meeting

WARC MEETING MINUTES 7/11/03

Vince KD2EP opened the meeting at 8:05 PM.

All Officers were present except Jack KI2M.

The Secretary, Bill N2RRX, accepted prior minutes as read.

Treasurer's Report:

Chris KC2FBW reported the current balance as \$422.84.

Continued on page 2

A "Peaceful" QRP Day in the Woods

More and more hams are taking to the woods, parks, and recreation areas, carrying along their QRP rig, battery power supply and portable HF antenna. Our fellow club member Dan, KB2HTB, tried his luck while vacationing in Vermont last month, only to find things not as peaceful as he expected. He brought along his latest acquisition, an Icom IC-703 HF transceiver and enough accessories, including a W3FF BuddiPole antenna, for a full day of QRP fun. When I asked him to relate his experience he replied, "Yes I did take the 703 and Buddipole, but when you take it out and use it, it draws everybody to you!!!!. I tried to do some CW QRP, but people are fascinated that you are using Morse code. They ask a million questions, and you can't concentrate on the QSO. So I packed it up hopefully to find a less populated place to operate from!!!!!!."

It seems to me that ham radio and CW is not dead, evidenced by Dan's story of his experience with the all-inquisitive public. My only suggestion to Dan is to try a pair of headphones next time. — Frank N2RSO

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 General Meeting Minutes
- 1 QRP in the Woods
- 3 A Relaxing QRP Cruise?
- 3 Networking Your PCs
- 4 A Few More Field Day Photos

There was no DX Report.

A brief discussion ensued concerning the changing of the Friday meeting night. Ralph WP4KO reported that the library has no other free nights available.

FIELD DAY REPORT:

Vic K2IY Stated that we earned 1846 points. We had 329 QSOs plus 700 bonus points. Frank N2RSO was thanked for obtaining the auto shelter with donations from several members. A picture was shown with a happy crew in front of the shelter. It was seen from the park and led to more visitors than in the past.

The club presented a Certificate of Appreciation plaque to Chris KC2FBW for his outstanding service on field day, most notably for the use of his trailer to transport equipment, and for being a jack of all trades at the site.

New Business:

It was suggested that we rent out the Shelter for various events to raise money for the club. This suggestion was tabled for a future discussion.

Chris KC2FBW suggested that we might do a float for the next Wantagh July 4th parade using his trailer.

Possible programs in the coming months:

- A demo of EchoLink;

- Invite Sue Gaeta to return for a repeat of the second Tesla coil demo which was shortened due to technical problems.

- Invite the Salvation Army (SATERN) for a demo of a rig in a box.

Frank N2RSO did a demo on alternative power sources, e.g. ac inverters.

The meeting was closed at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bill N2RRX, Secretary

. . . and What About a Peaceful, Relaxing QRP Cruise?

This little snippet just came in from Diane K2DO over the LIMARC reflector as a follow-up to a prior message, which listed an operating schedule indicating when Norm, K2YEW, an avid QRP enthusiast, was to transmit from a cruise ship to and from Mexico. Her message was not a happy one.

“FYI:

Hi everyone,

We just heard from Norm K2YEW who is on a Celebrity Cruise to Mexico. The ship security officer confiscated his radio equipment. Not sure exactly what happened, but in the meantime don't look for him on the air. Hopefully he will find something else to do while onboard!

73, Diane K2DO”

If You're Planning to Network Your Home PCs, Read On

Last year I was an ardent reader of Newsday's *PLUGGED IN* column, which they published every Tuesday. It contained definitive information on various topics of interest for people who wanted to learn more about their PCs and the peripheral devices that make them more useful and/or fun to have. The articles were written by Lou Dolinar, a Newsday columnist with a penchant for describing in simple terms, how to solve those PC problems that plague even the most savvy users. Then it happened; the articles stopped, and other writers were filling-in for Lou, as he was reported to be on sick leave. Weeks and months went by, and I eventually stopped looking for Lou's column, as I feared the worst. I never expected to see another useful computer column in Newsday again.

Thankfully I was wrong. Lou returned several weeks ago and his columns are better than ever. He's writing a series of articles, all about networking your home computers, and describes in vivid detail all the pros and cons of hard-wired versus wireless network devices. I was, at first, disappointed that I had missed his prior articles, but upon surfing the Newsday website I was able to retrieve, save, and print the last several weeks of “missed” columns. I still don't know to which illness he succumbed, but I'm very happy to see that he returned.

If you wish to read his past columns, go to the Newsday website by clicking on this link:

<http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/health/ny-loudolinar,0,4010823.columnist?coll=ny-discovery-print>

I suggest that you do it soon, as newer columns may replace the earlier ones in the near future. I hope you find them as useful and as informative as I have.

Frank N2RSO

More Field Day Photos - Courtesy of Ralph, WP4KO



