



STATIC

A monthly publication of the Starved Rock Radio Club Vol. 74 Issue 4

April 2004

Monthly Meeting....

Tom, KC9EGB

Minutes of the April 3rd, 2006 Starved Rock Radio Club Meeting

Meeting started at 7:03 pm.

Member introductions. 21 members are present. Four new hams are present, Clint, KC9IZR, Linda, KC9IZQ, Tim, KC9IZM and Sue, KC9IZP.

Minutes of March meeting passed out.

Treasurer's Report: Bill, KA9FER reads report. Mark, K9ZQ is absent.

Deposits for the month: Dues, \$140, Hamfest, \$35, Interest, \$9.10.

Expenditures for the month: Telephone and Internet, \$65.53, Equip. Insurance, \$322, Liability Insurance, \$325, Tom, KC9EGB furnace valve, \$47, Electric, \$61.45, Gas, \$205.11

Ending balance for March: \$8910.06

Frank, KF9NZ motion to accept Treasurer's Report. Kurt, KB9RKU seconds. Ayes carry.

Bill mentions that April 1st is cutoff for renewal of dues. Anyone who hasn't renewed by tonight will have to pay the \$5 initiation fee with dues. Jerry, N9ZJK is on the bubble about that, but renews, Yeah!

Bill asks Frank about the proposed constitutional amendment. Frank explains that since no "Static" was published this month so the vote will have to be put off another month. Bill asks to table the amendment until next month. Jerry asks and makes motion to publish it on the reflector. Rich, N9OUW seconded. Ayes carry and Frank will put the corrected proposal on the reflector.

Activities: Kurt mentions IL Repeater Assn. Meeting on April 22nd. Tom, KC9EGB is going to meeting along with Cecil, KB9LNK and Pat, KC6VVT. Streator Hobby Show is coming up and needs hams to put up a display. Have to get with Keith, KB9VFX about the show. Galva Hamfest is April 30th. Sandwich Hamfest is May 7th. SRRC Hamfest is June 3rd+4th. 6 Meter Club Hamfest is June 11th. FRRL is July 9th. ARRL contests coming up: April 4th-9th is DX YL NA, Montana QSO Party and QRP QSO Party. Advanced Weather Spotting class at Fermilab on April 8th. Joe, KB9EZZ mentions that 200 volunteers are needed for IL National Guard exercise on April 8th. Weather spotting classes coming up at Amboy and Pontiac.

Static: Keith not present

Building and Grounds: Antenna at back of building is breaking away from building. Kurt will have work party this Sunday.

The members have read meeting minutes. Greg, KC9HVV motion to accept, seconded by Eldon, KB9PZA. Ayes carry.

Field Day: Joe asks if anyone has looked at rules for this years FD. Joe mentions that we have an elected official (Sue, KC9IZP) for FD.

Training: Joe says 17 people took the license test and 14 passed and Jim, KC9FGU upgraded to General. Had VE last Saturday and two more new hams.

Hamfest: Matt, KB9VZH sent e-mail about hamfest. Sold 30 total advanced tickets, 14 tables and have Chicago Surplus and AT Recycling. Kurt asks for Hamfest chairman. Tom says he'll be co-chairman. Phone at clubhouse will be used for next year's hamfest. Question about putting info for convention on 2007 flyer. State convention for 2007 should be at different location next year. Tom will have mailing for convention and could do it again next year if necessary

Membership: Kurt has two copies of proposed membership booklet to pass around for comments. The front section will be club info and the second section will have ARRL and other useful info. Frank would like a vote on the book tonight. Discussions about using 3 ring binders or have them comb-bound or even make a download version. Tom mentioned ways to cut cost of binders. Bill says check out the two books so it gets voted on next month. Bill acknowledges Ron Johnson, K9BGD a visitor to the club. Ron got his license in 1960 and was active for many years. He has renewed his interest in ham radio and came to our meeting to see what we are about. Bill and the group thanked him for coming tonight.

Repeater Monitor: Rich says the repeater is working though there is a slight problem with the squelch tail. Rich says the problem seems to have gone away, but Bill says we took some sort of hit on the repeater and a backup unit is temporarily in its place. The tail was set to prevent dropout with mobile units. Jerry mentions someone was rude over the repeater. Bill, as president apologizes for that gaff, but we as a club have to remember to use the repeater in a polite and respectful manner.

Repeater Maintenance: Frank says it has been a fun month working on the repeater. Everything done took much more time than expected. Bill and Frank spent a few days trying to hook the controller to the new unit, but it seems the controller had some problem that required it be sent in for repair. Jerry asked about the repair cost and Frank said he would have more info by next Monday's repeater meeting. Pat mentioned the need to keep a repeater up as much as possible.

Bill asks for the time. Its 7:50 pm so lets have a ten minute break.

Meeting resumes.

Old Business: Joe says Extreme Race will need 52 volunteers over 18 hours. The race starts at 2 am. Tom reads correspondence. Rose Keith sent a nice thank you note to the club. A ham club that lost its clubhouse and equipment in Hurricane Katrina asks for donations to rebuild it. Ink Well Printing sent a thank you for being their good customer.

New Business: Kurt wants to change certain by-laws to improve cash flow of club since the hamfest income has dropped. These proposed changes would be put on the reflector and in the "Static".

Delete Section 29 that reimburses a member who passes a CCE exam (EmComm) and waives the initiation fee for persons who pass the license test at a VE session sponsored by the SRRC. Kurt motions and Frank seconds it.

Delete Section 28 that reimburses a member the VE test fee for upgrading his license. Kurt motions and Frank seconds it.

Amend Section 25 that sets the dues at \$20/ \$25 family to \$24 regular/ \$29 family with honorary membership still free. Kurt motions and Jerry seconds it.

Delete Section 20 that states procedure for Hamfest Dinner. Kurt motions and Jerry seconds it.

Amend Section 13 that sets \$25 as the amount for a memorial contribution or floral tribute for the death of a member, member's spouse, child or parent. Change to: Upon the death of a member, member's spouse, child, parent or grandparent; the Club shall memorialize the passing by means of: A. Observing a moment of silence at the next club meeting following the death. B. Send a memorial card signed by all the club members to the family. Kurt motions and Jerry seconds it.

Amend Article 2, Paragraph E, and Section 1 of the SRRC Constitution that specifies a \$5 initiation fee with prorated dues to eliminate the fee and still prorate the dues. Kurt motions and Jerry seconds it.

Frank mentions that Section 19 of the By-laws that cover the prizes awarded to the hamfest workers should be downgraded from a radio to a less expensive gift. A discussion of what would be appropriate. Decide on prize at next meeting.

Kurt changed door code. Members will need to get with him to get copy of new code.

Cecil bought a heavy-duty surge suppressor outlet strip for club. Gene, N9MRG motions to have club reimburse Cecil the amount of \$24.95 for the item. Kurt seconds it. Ayes carry.

Bill asks if any more new business to discuss. Frank motions to adjourn meeting. Rich seconds it. Ayes carry.

Meeting ends at 8:15 pm.

Recorded by Tom Chromzack, KC9EGB

Constitutional Amendment... Frank, KF9NZ

HEREWITH the proposed constitutional amendment which has been hanging around waiting to be published. Hoping it will also be re-published in STATIC. I did make a couple of minor wording changes to clarify things from the previous wording, but without changing the intent.

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Article IV shall be changed to read as follows:

A. Nominations

Nominations for all offices and Directors for the following calendar year shall be made at the regular meeting in November of each year. Nominations must be seconded, and the member may decline if present. At least three members shall be nominated as Director. Members not present may be nominated only if a written signed acceptance is presented at the meeting. Members may only be nominated for one office. If nominated for more than one office they must decide which to decline, or be removed from the lower ranked office.

B. Method of Balloting

1. The slate of Officers and Directors shall be distributed to all members in a timely fashion. It may be published in "STATIC" or otherwise by electronic methods, or by U.S. Mail.

2. At the December meeting prepared ballots with the names and calls of themembers nominated shall be distributed to all members entitled to vote. Members will vote for three candidates for Director The ballots shall then be collected and the vote counted and tallied.

3. A member eligible to vote may request an absentee ballot from the Secretary. The voted ballot will be returned in a sealed envelope plainly marked BALLOT, and retained by the Secretary until the votes are counted.

4. A member must receive a majority of votes cast to be elected as an Officer. If no one receives a majority, additional balloting between the members receiving the highest number of votes will be conducted at once. Candidates for Director receiving the three highest number of votes will be elected as Directors. Additional balloting will be conducted in case of three way tie.

5. In case of disputed ballots, or ballots where the intent of the elector are not apparent, and which may decide an election, the Chair will at once appoint three members to retire and render a decision.

6. In case of vacancy of any office other than Director, nomination, publication, balloting and election shall take place in the same manner at the next two meetings after the vacancy occurs. Vacancy in the position of Director will not be filled unless two or three positions are vacated.

D. Assumption of Office

Members elected at the general election in December will take office at 12:01 AM, January 1 of the following year. Members elected to fill a vacancy will take office at once. In case of failure to elect for any office held by an incumbent, such incumbent will continue to hold office until a successor is elected.

E. Removal from Office

Any Officer or Director may be removed from office by vote of the membership. A motion to remove specific Officers or Directors must be made, seconded and passed, and a vote with written ballots conducted at the next meeting. A vote of three-fourths of the members in favor of removal will be required to cause the removal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Nights
7pm
SRRC Weekly Net
147.120 (+) 103.5 PL

May 2, 2006
7pm
Monthly Club Meeting
SRRC Clubhouse, Leonore IL

Repeater News...

Frank, KF9NZ

Finally the SRRC Repeater is in full operation. That is not to say that all work on it is finished, but it is in full, final operating condition. Listening to it over the last week it seems like it is working beautifully. In any event, no changes in equipment or adjustments are going to be made in the near future.

However, I would like to tell the members about some of its features.

As you know by listening to it, it ID's two ways. The first way, called the initial ID is by voice. It says "WHISKEY NINER MIKE KILO SIERRA REPEATER" followed by the time. The initial ID is only sent if the repeater has been idle for about 20 minutes. The regular ID is in Morse "W9MKS". If the repeater has been idle for more than twenty minutes, it will transmit the initial ID as soon as the first incoming transmission ends. So, if someone 'kerchunks" it, it will do the initial ID. If you, say for example Elmer Ham W9XYZ, key up and say "W9XYZ Listening", as soon as you stop transmitting, the repeater will immediately send the initial ID, then send the "courtesy" tone, and drop. As long as it is keyed up and down with no pauses over twenty minutes, it will not send the initial ID again. Instead it will send the regular ID at 9.9 minute intervals. (Well, this may vary a little since the ID is "polite" and won't send while someone is talking until it HAS to). So finally the repeater falls idle, 9.9 minutes after it last ID'ed, it will do it one more time. Then, after 9.9 MORE minutes it will time out, waiting to send the initial ID again.

A feature you have not heard yet is that the repeater has two "personalities" The regular personality is what you hear most of the time. However, when we have a weather net in progress, it will sound differently. The Morse ID's and courtesy tone will sound different, and a warning tone and DTMF paging number will be transmitted when the net is activated. More details on this feature later, since I am still testing and tinkering With the programming on this.

I have mentioned "courtesy tone" a couple of times. Let me go into details about that. When a repeater user keys up, talks, then unkeys, the carrier does not drop at once. There are a couple of reasons for this, but for now, just remember that it doesn't unkey - it "hangs". First, it hangs for one second, then it sends the courtesy tone, and continues to hang for four more seconds. The courtesy tone is there to tell listeners that the last user has unkeyed, and it's somebody else's turn to transmit. If there is no courtesy tone on a repeater, we should use "OVER" immediately before we unkey. This is especially true if we are handling important traffic.

In our case, we HAVE the tone, but we must remember NOT to transmit until We hear it! If you jump in and begin transmitting on the other guy's heels, you may "double", or get timed out. The W9MKS normal personality tone is a Morse letter "K". (See? Now all you no-codes techs know a little Morse anyhow). The Storm Personality is two dits - Di-dit, or Morse "I". Now you know two letters! Keep it up!

There are a bunch of other tricks such as a power off warning when the repeater is running on battery, building temperature warnings for too hot or too cold, and other cool features. I will try to get more information

in future "STATIC" editions. You could come to Repeater Maintenance Committee meetings too, and learn even more.

Trivia Question....

Francis, WB9VLW

If A is Alpha, B is Bravo, and C is Charlie, what would W be?

Answer is below.

A: W is Whiskey