



WAARC MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

February, 28, 2014 Faith Baptist Church

The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were; Jerry KC0WWV, Ben KD0RUU, Scott WR0U, Eugene N0WDB, Galen KD0YUY, Howard NN0O, Earl N0CHN, Lee KD0IF, Tom N9RPQ, Kevin AD0CI, Mark AB0DX, Craig KC0YHU, Melinda KJ4SKK, and Bill KJ4SKL. The meeting was presided by Mark, AB0DX.

Minutes – The minutes were presented and approved. A motion was made to accept by Earl, N0CHN; 2nd by Ben, KD0RUU. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – The treasurer's report was presented and approved. The motion to accept was made by Howard, NN0O; 2nd by Kevin, AD0CI. Motion passed.

Ongoing Business:

- **Winter Field Day Report** – Craig, KC0YHU; gave a preliminary report. Scores have not been finalized yet by SPAR. 51 contestant entries have been submitted so far. Currently our score is 13th place overall and is made up of 13 multipliers, 126 contacts and 2000 bonus points. Overall we had 3 less multipliers than last year due to no CW contacts. Antennas used were a Hustler Vertical, homebrew vertical ¼ wave on 20M, G5RV at about 25ft and for digital PSK a magnet mount 10M and Hamsticks for 15 thru 80 Meters were used on top of KC0YHU's pickup.
- **Field day** – Mark, AB0DX; reports a decision needs to be made as to where to have Field Day this year. Last 2 years we have setup on grass area in front of Walmart; it's not available due to construction. Ideas were discussed about where we could setup and how to setup antennas. Behind the Washington Middle School in empty lot off of E Jefferson St or different 'Green' areas around town were discussed. Lake Darling was tossed out. Several people have poles to get an antenna or wire up with. As you are out and about, be looking for spots in which we could do Field Day from. We would like to stay in Washington County.
- **Repeater update** – There was a high SWR issue. Kevin, AD0CI; and Mark, AB0DX; spent a few nights troubleshooting and found an inline SWR meter was bad and it was an intermittent problem. 14.3 to 1 SWR reading. And power was down on the Repeater. Arrangements were made to take it to Exline Signal LLC for maintenance.
 - Exline Signal LLC worked on it and found it had lead-free solder on the PA, which had had thermal runaway and the solder had flowed away. Jim cleaned it up and silver bearing soldered it back together.
 - Due to our high dust location all air ducts were plugged up with gunk, contributing to the thermal runaway. Jim suggested on the bottom, to cut a hole in cover and put a muffin fan on to blow directly on heat sink. Different people suggested putting filters on fans; on radio and on the cabinet.
 - Another suggestion was put a repeater grade amplifier on the repeater and run the repeater at low power.
 - The repeater will be back on-the-air this weekend; check out the range of it while on your mobiles.
- **440 Repeater** – Mark, AB0DX; mentions the repeater has a really hot receiver on it. It is easy to over modulate it. Do not talk too close to your mike. We will make adjustments when possible.

New Business:

- **Dates of Events** – This weekend, March 1st, 2nd is the ARRL SSB DX Contest.
 - Saturday March 8th is a VE Exam at the Aliant Energy Office, Registration at 10 AM, testing to start at 10:30 AM.
 - March 9th spring your clocks ahead for DST.
 - March 15th Oskaloosa Swapmeet starting at 8 AM.
 - March 17th, Weather Spotter Training at the Washington Public Library from 6:30 to 8:30 PM; upstairs meeting room. Wapello County – Ottumwa March 11th 6 PM Indian Hills Community College. Mahaska County – Oskaloosa March 13th 7 PM ISU Extension Office.
 - March 29th, 30th is the CQ World Wide WPX Contest on SSB.
 - April 19th, Demon Dash Event. Run and walk from High School to the north side of town and back. We have been asked to provide communications again. Meet at High School at 8 AM; event starts at 9 AM. Ham radios only; no GMRS, family radios. 2 M Repeater for net, 440 Repeater for talk around. Club has 440 HT's for those who do not have one. Who can do it? A conflict exists; DMRAA Hamfest is the 19th; most members will be in Des Moines. Decision is, to our regret, is to not participate in the Demon Dash Event, due to operators being gone.
 - DMRAA Hamfest is April 19th. 8 AM open, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Elwell Family Center, Des Moines, IA.

- Mark, AB0DX; mentions that people have noticed on the 146.550 simplex frequency what sounds like a repeater. After checking into it, it was found that Marshall, W00TM; is using it for testing an AllStar Link node. Marshall is a developer with the AllStar system.
 - Scott, WR0U; has an IRLP Node which is on 146.565 simplex, 100Hz tone. Node # 3835.

Next Meeting – will be March 20th @ 7:00 p.m. Location: Washington Public Library, Washington, IA.
Food – Frontier Family Restaurant – 112 N Iowa Ave at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Craig, KC0YHU; 2nd by Jerry, KC0WWV. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Rose, KC0YHU
Secretary, Treasurer – WAARC