

MINUTES for UCARS February 2016 Meeting

Bill Foust, KB4NET, opened the meeting at 7:10 PM with 10 Members and 1 Visitor

Members attending:

Bill Foust KB4NET	Chris Whitaker AE4WS	Norm Beasley K04CB
David Keever K8IP	Alfred KoKoszczyński KC2GZI	Paul Corso KK4PIB
Andy Kabasakalian WB2WZC	Craig Sharp KD6B	Jim Tompkins KF4TOM
Ray Rising K4LWJ		

Visitors attending: Jim King KK4AWQ

Treasurer's Report: Current Balance \$ 1,717.00

- 1) Bill opened the meeting with an Introduction of our visitor Jim King, representing Boy Scout Troop 46.
 - A. Jim is attending the meeting tonight to provide information about the upcoming Boy Scout Camporee that UCARS plans to attend with an Amateur Radio demonstration.
 - B. The Camporee is to be held at Cane Creek on Saturday April 16.
 - C. Boy Scouts will begin arriving on April 15 at 6:00 PM
 - D. UCARS is being requested to set up an Amateur Radio Station for Saturday for operation between 1 – 6 PM which is the Scouts Free Time which will give them time to visit the stations(s), ask questions and participate in the hobby.
 - E. The Boy Scouts will be participating in different games but will have plenty of time to visit with UCARS.
 - F. A location for UCARS to set up was provided.
 - G. There is restricted parking and UCARS members must park away from the demonstration area.
 - H. UCARS will provide their own power for the Radio Station. Public power is not available at the radio site.
 - I. Porta John facilities will be provided.
 - J. This will be a one-day activity for UCARS.
 - K. Jim asked that we provide as many operations as possible, but we are restricted by antennas and interference between bands.
 - L. There was discussion about having prearranged contacts to ensure that we would have communications during the Scouts Free Time.
 - M. Jim announced that Scout Troop 46 will be attending the Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, NM next Summer.
- 2) Bill reviewed the Minutes from the last meeting.
- 3) Bill reminded the members that we have Badges available for members that we have pictures for. Badges are stored in the UCARS equipment cabinet in the meeting room.
- 4) The NC QSO party to be held Sunday, February 28 between 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM at the Red Cross Building. Formal plans are not in place but those that are planning on attending should bring equipment. We plan to use the existing antennas on the Building. The Tri-bander and tower will not be installed this year.
- 5) The UCARS April meeting will be held at the Siler Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM in Wesley Chapel, NC.
- 6) Alfred KoKoszczyński gave an update on the National Parks ARRL event.

- 7) Alfred also made available CW study packets that included quick learn charts and CDs with CW practice tutorial to anyone interested.
- 8) Alfred if there was interest in having a "FOX" Hunt again. There was interest but no formal date was decided on.
- 9) Bill introduced our Program for the evening that would include demonstration of a Packet Radio station using commercially available equipment and a demonstration of self-constructed kits that will support Packet Communications.
 - a. The Packet Station was shown how it connected to another station
 - b. Basic Commands and their meanings were shown
 - c. Explanation of how Packet communications works
 - d. The equipment required and different options
 - e. This was an introduction to Packet and a more detailed presentation will be given at a later date
- 10) Chris Whitaker showed his equipment that he uses for Packet.
 - a. He had two different versions
 - i. An Arduino processor based packet controller
 - ii. A sound card based packet interface
 - iii. His projects are less expensive than purchased TNCs
 - iv. Aimed more at the hobbyists who like to construct and learn more about how it works.
 - v. Chris will return at a later date with a more detailed presentation of different methods.
- 11) Tonight was an introduction to Packet to see if there is interest.
- 12) The 50/50 drawing was held. Donation to the UCARS Account of \$6.00 was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

The next Regular meeting will be **March 17, 2016** at the Monroe Red Cross.

The next UCARS breakfast is **Saturday April 9, 2016** at the Monroe Golden Corral at 9:00 AM

The March UCARS Breakfast conflicts with the Charlotte Hamfest and will not be held.

REMEMBER: The April Club Meeting is at SILER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in WESLEY CHAPEL.