

UNION COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2021

Chris Whitaker, AE4WS opened the regular meeting at 7:05 PM with 11 members present.

Members in attendance:

Alfred KoKoszczyński, KC2GZI

Bill Turner, W4WNT

Michael Segersin, KN4CQA

Peter Gulish, K1NEM

David Keever, KV4N

Rick Lanier, N4RCL

Mike Williams, K4IC

Paul Poloniewicz, KO4MDB

Chris Whitaker, AE4WS

Jeff Weiss, K4EVT

David Humphries, W4WAX

1. Chris Whitaker (AE4WS) opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.
2. Tonight's meeting is being held via ZOOM.
3. January's meeting notes were reviewed.
 - a. Reminder that the Winter Field Day in January entries should be sent to Gordon, N4YTM.
 - b. Our next event will be Summer Field Day, too early to make plans as we do not know the status of the pandemic restrictions. Current trend is good in that new cases are continuing to decrease.
 - c. We will begin planning in the next couple months for Summer Field Day, will need to form a Field Day committee. Will wait until June to make final decision to have Field Day together or at home like last year.
 - d. Chris met with a new Ham, KO4KUG at Stallings Park in January. Began a beginner introduction class to Ham radio. The plan is to begin having these sessions regularly after exam sessions, the thought is to give exams on one Saturday and give an introductory class the following Saturday. The class is what Chris calls "The Now What Class". It would be focused on going over the basics, how to use the repeater, how to talk simplex how to check in a net, how to find repeaters and other aspects. Possibly an introduction to emergency communications like ARES.
 - e. UCARS has been receiving a lot of requests for test for licenses through the web site. Chris mention that no date is definitive when the new fees will be imposed for licenses. FCC has reduced the proposal for fees to \$35 for a license application, upgrade, renewal, or modification.
 - f. GMRS licenses were also reduced to \$35. There are GMRS repeaters and you can find those in the Repeater APP.
 - g. Kevin gave the presentation in January keeping with the theme of Parks on the Air.
 - h. Reminder of the FCC warning that was issued warning Hams to not use your radio for planning illegal activities.
 - i. Bill Foust joined the January meeting in January from Montana.
 - j. Chris is still working on a new program call Ham Pi, fond that there is a lot of stuff to do and learn. Has it connected to his radio and working? A presentation of its operation will be coming.
4. David K. reported treasury report of \$2,807.42.
 - a. Reminder that dues for 2021 that have not been paid are placed in an inactive state. HCOL discontinues announcements and information on inactive account.
5. Reminder that we do have Nets and the attendance has been waning over the last couple months.
 - a. Those that have digital capability there is a digital net on Wednesday's at 8:00 PM on 145.390 mhz.
 - b. A directed ARES Net is held on Thursday evening at 8:00 PM using FM on both repeaters.

6. Tonight's UCARS Club Presentation is about NANOVNA presented by David Humphries, W4WAX.
 - a. David had a problem accessing ZOOM using tiny URL.
 - b. Must connect directly using ZOOM.
 - c. David gave an "Excellent Presentation" on "Vector Network Analyzer."
 - d. He gave several personal experiences that highlighted his experiences.
 - e. He followed with numerous examples of how the NANOVNA can be used for antenna design and test.
 - f. His job gave him the incentive to learn about this analysis.
7. Chris and David K. attend the LEPC this past month via virtual video. Next meeting is in May.
 - a. Updates from the meetings will be passed to members. No drills planned at this time.
8. Still looking for someone to take on the UCARS/Union County Skywarn program. We would like to form Nets and get connected into the Skywarn backbone so that we can pass along weather information. If interested send an email to Chris.
9. Bill Turner reminded all that the NC QSO Party is coming on February 28th and March 1st.
10. Introduced Paul Poloniewicz, KO4NDB as a new member.
11. Chris closed the meeting at 8:14 PM