

UNION COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Meeting Minutes for March 25, 2021

Chris Whitaker, AE4WS opened the regular meeting at 7:03 PM with 13 members and 1 guest present.

Members in attendance:

Alfred KoKoszczyński, KC2GZI	David Keever, KV4N	Chris Whitaker, AE4WS
Bill Turner, W4WNT	Rick Lanier, N4RCL	Jeff Weiss, K4EVT
Michael Segersin, KN4CQA	Mike Williams, K4IC	Paul Poloniewicz, KO4MDB
David Ladd, KO4WTD	Gordon Lyman, N4YTM	Brad Slusarczyk, KO4DQP
Ricardo Fisher, KM4QJO	Reid Matthews, KO4NGA (G)	

1. Chris Whitaker (AE4WS) opened the meeting at 7:03 PM.
2. Tonight's meeting is being held via ZOOM.
3. Chris reviewed the meeting minutes for February.
4. Introduced New Club member: David Ladd, KO4WTD and Brad Slusarczyk, KO4DQP
5. Introduced Reid Matthews, KO4NGA who is joining the club tonight.
6. Meetings have been held by ZOOM which has impacted attendance, looking forward to in person meetings to have higher attendance.
7. David K reported Treasurer's report of 149.40 in receipts for dues with a balance of \$2,956.82.
8. New business:
 - a. Field Day
 - i. Field Day to be held at Siler Presbyterian Church
 1. Chris described what Field day is.
 - ii. FD Committee to be appointed to decide:
 1. FD class to run,
 2. To be outside to give social distancing.
 3. Antenna locations
 4. Equipment required.
 5. Need volunteer to lead committee.
 6. Andy gave an outline of what we can do at the church and suggested a meeting on site to discuss. Andy is volunteering to assist.
 7. Gordon mentioned that class of operation will be the highest licensed person on site. We always have an Extra Class licensee in control.
 8. Alfred advised that he has two canopies owned by the club.
 - b. VE Sessions
 - i. Siler Presbyterian has tentatively given permission to hold test sessions at the church.
 - c. Club Meeting location
 - i. Siler Presbyterian is considering the use of facilities for club meetings.
9. Chris announced that Tim Allen (Last Man Standing Program) is having Special Event stations this week. There will multiple stations using the same call sign with suffixes. Certificates will be awarded.
10. Chris announces he has been working with the latest "Ham Clock Application" from "Clear Sky" operated with Raspberry Pi. It is a monitor program that give time, Sunspot information, satellites, gray areas etc. Will run on various versions of Raspberry Pi. Chris will be giving a presentation in the future on the "Ham Clock."
11. Bill Turner, W4WNT gave an update presentation on "FT8."
 - a. This is an updated on the presentation given a year ago. The previous presentation in in the NC4UC.org website under "Useful Links".
 - b. Bill gave a history of the founding of FT8 which evolved from Dr. Joe Taylor's astronomical work working with very weak signals.

- c. WSJT derives its name from “Weak Signal Joe Taylor.”
 - d. There were several modes developed, JT 65 and QRA64 but the most popular and in use by Amateurs is FT8. Named after Steven Frank and Joe Taylor.
 - e. WSPR was developed to let you know where you are heard around the globe. Transmit with a lower power (5 watts) it reports where you are heard.
 - f. A description of FT8 is shown in the presentation on the NC4UC.org web site.
 - g. Bill described the FT8 screen operation.
 - h. Wide Graph and JT Alert screens were shown and described.
 - i. Recommended that all settings be stored using the Windows Snipping tool or similar in the event settings are lost.
 - j. New version 2.4.0 will be introducing Q65 for VHF scatter modes.
 - k. There is FT4 and FST4W for LF & MF, transmits a shorter transmit cycle than FT8.
 - l. Programs can be downloaded at:
 - i. <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/index.html>
 - ii. Current version is 2.3.0
 - iii. Time Sync software: (Windows)
 - 1. Dimension4: Thinkman.com
 - 2. Meinberg: www.meinbergglobal.com/english/sw/ntp.htm
 - iv. PSK Reporter
 - 1. <https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>
 - v. JTAlert:
 - 1. Hamapps.com
 - m. Additional information is available at:
 - i. Facebook
 - ii. FT8/FT4/FST4WJT9: WSJT 2-Way Narrow Band Modes for Amateur Radio
 - iii. WSJT Community
 - iv. Yahoo: WSJT Group
 - v. Ian Wade: G3NRW.net/IC-7300 and TS590 family of radios
 - vi. Gary Hinson, ZL2IFN
 - 1. www.g4ifb.com/FT8_Hinson_tips_for_HF_DXers.pdf
 - n. Gorden asked what is the current status of FT4 over taking FT8 in popularity?
 - i. Bill responded with the frequencies in use for FT8, FT4, JT65
12. Chris opened for any comments.
- a. David K mentioned that there is a special call sign for Field Day, **K4N**
 - b. Chris noted that digital contacts are counted as two point for each contact versus 1 contact for voice.
 - c. Chris will be sending out an email about Field Day and will be looking for a committee leader and interested parties.
13. Chris closed the meeting at 8:02 PM