

UNION COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2024

Tom McCobb opened the regular meeting at 7:04 PM with 23 members present.

Attendance: See Last page

1. Tom McCobb, K3TCM opened the meeting at 7:04 PM.
2. Tonight's meeting is being held at Siler Presbyterian Church, Wesley Chapel, NC.
3. New members were introduced: George Hanosh, KO4PRU and a returning member Darrell Marsh, KN4TTJ.
4. Meeting minutes for the April meeting was made available for review. Motion made by Julian Burns to accept the minutes and seconded by Todd Edwards. Minutes approved as written.
5. The treasurer's report was made available for review. Motion to approve by David Humphries and seconded by Norm Beasley.
6. Tom announced that there are still no results shown for Winter Field Day.
7. David K. reported that the Yaesu repeater that was sent to Yaesu for upgrade has returned, is to be tested before reinstalling. The plan is to install the repeater and operate it on the main channel and not to send the second repeater in for upgrade until we have evaluated that the loss of transmit issue has been resolved.
 - a. There was discussion about alternating between VHF and UHF on the Nets to compare service between the two bands. Due to poorer coverage on the UHF the Nets remain primarily on VHF.
 - b. Discussion about the need of keeping the UHF repeater in operation allowing a single band antenna to be installed that would allow a commercial antenna installation. Currently dual band antennas are amateur grade.
8. Tom mentioned there is some interest among some members of the use of WIRES-X which requires access to the internet. Discussions will be held to determine if this is possible.
9. UCARS received an email from Karl Pueschjel, Chair of the local Scouting America district inquiring if UCARS would like to participate in Jamboree on the Air in October. Tom has responded requesting additional details.
10. It was announced there is a tab on the NC4UC web site called "**UCARS STORE**" that will take you to **Lands End** and **JSE Custom Embroidery** where you may purchase items customized for UCARS.
11. Announced that in addition to the UCARS 6 Meter net on Tuesday on 50.250 MHz there is another 6-meter net at 50.295 MHz at 9:00 PM nightly. The net is called the **Carolinas Six Shooters Group**.
12. **Cable and Connectors Class** to be held on Saturday Mmorning at the Red Cross in Monroe has received very little response. Depending on your response this evening the class may be cancelled.
13. Dave Kurtz, Field Day Chairman gave an update on Field Day plans.
 - a. Have had planning meetings, a visit to the Field Day site and bi-weekly meetings.
 - b. Dave has sign up sheets for those that wish to participate as operators. Sign-up will also be sent out for electronic sign-up.
 - c. Ther will be a club lunch for members and their families at 1:00 PM on Saturday June 22. The menu being worked and will depend on the number that signs up.
 - d. Local politicians have been invited including the Sheriff, Stallings Police, Stallings Mayor and others to have them see what the club is doing for Field Day.
 - e. Operation will be 2A, meaning two stations.
 - f. An **antenna build** will be held the morning of June 1 to evaluate antennas and determine which to use at Field Day. Everyone is invited to the antenna build event.
 - g. At the June meeting we will have an operations review of the two radios we will be using. A FT-450 and an Icom 756-Pro donated by John Griffin.
 - h. The club has Bandpass filters and on loan a tri-plexer not purchased with club funds.
14. Andy Kabasakalian, WB2WZC gave the presentation for the meeting on antennas and baluns.

- a. Andy focused on End Fed and OCF antennas to keep it simple.
 - b. These are antennas that can work multiple bands.
 - c. Recommendation is if you can, build a resonant dipole for the band you are operating.
 - d. You can build an **EFHW antenna** (EFHW) yourself for \$85 from ARRL plans or already built for \$160.
 - e. Palomar Engineering has a web site that provides information about baluns.
 - f. Andy explains how to build a 4:1; 9:1 and 49:1 balun.
 - g. Explains all the types of antennas you can have and encourages the use of tuners.
 - h. Andy explains the importance of matching impedances of the transmit source and the antenna.
 - i. Explanation of how impedance matching is accomplished.
 - ii. The use of a balun is to transform the impedance of the line source to the antenna's impedance.
 - i. An OCF impedance is approximately 200 ohms. It then requires a 4:1 balun to match 50-ohm impedance. Depending on the length of wire with EFHW antenna (450 ohm or 2000-4000 ohms), the matching impedance changes and requires the 9:1 or 49:1 balun.
 - j. The biggest challenge in building baluns is the acquiring of parts, which can take days whereas building the balun may only take an hour.
 - k. Andy demonstrated some items created by Rick Lanier to house and be able to string multiple lengths of antennas.
 - l. Andy created kits that has all the parts to build your own balun. Instructions included even showing how to wind the toroid.
 - m. A word of caution, do not spin the wire or twist the wires together as that reduces inductance and the effectiveness of the balun.
 - n. The balun produced from the kits were passed to the members for review.
 - o. Andy cautioned that not all information on the internet is the best.
 - p. It was emphasized that baluns are not difficult to build.
 - q. Explanation of the antenna lengths for the different bands explained and how they can be used for multiple bands.
 - r. Andy has the balun kits available on the back table.
15. 50/50 Drawing was held for \$ 33.00.
- a. Julian Burns was the winner of the 50/50 drawing. \$33.00 was donated to the club's treasury.
 - b. A second drawing for a UCARS hat was won by David Humphries.
 - c. The third drawing for the UCARS Cup was won by Julian Burns.
16. Gordon Lyman has a Dell Laptop that he wishes that someone would take. It does have some issues.
17. The meeting was Adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Member Attendance:

Tom McCobb, K3TCM
 Andy Kabasakalian, WB2WZC
 Julian Burns, K4WKP
 Kevin Harbin, K4KII
 David Brown, KE7OVG
 Joshua Rierson, KQ4NZL
 Ed Stemborowski, KJ4VLI
 Dwayne Stone, KC4NHW

David Keever, KV4N
 David Kurtz, KM4ZDK
 Hans VanHeule, KQ4KAN
 David Humphries, W4WAX
 Todd Edwards, KQ4NYL
 Ray Rising, K4LWJ
 Mal Speer, WA2TWA
 George Hanosh, KO4PRU

Alfred KoKoszczyński, KC3GZI
 Gary Stone, KO4NZU
 Paul Corso, KK4PIB
 Gordon Lyman, W4ZD
 Tom Finley, KN4SMF
 Norm Beasley, KO4CB
 Peter Gulish, K1NEM