

UNION COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2024

Tom McCobb opened the regular meeting with 20 members and 8 guests present.

Attendance: See Last page

1. Tom McCobb, K3TCM opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.
2. Tonight's meeting is held at Siler Presbyterian Church, Wesley Chapel, NC.
3. Guests were introduced: Gregory Lesko, Bob McGovern, Gayle Bohlen, Dennis Connell, Shaun Golden, Chris Greene and Craig Magee.
4. The VE Exam for Saturday October 19th was announced. 17 have registered for an exam.
5. There will be an Amateur 101 class on October 26th at the American Red Cross Building in Monroe, NC. The class will focus on antennas, their operations, construction information and a class project to build your own antenna.
6. Ballots for Club Officers were not distributed due to lack of applicants. In the interim current officers will remain active. Club needs an Activities Director.
7. The Treasurer's report was distributed. A query for any questions was made with no response. Motion to approve by Julian Burns and seconded by Mike Williams. Treasurer's report approved as presented.
8. Meeting minutes for the September meeting were made available for review. Motion made by Chris Whitaker to accept the minutes and seconded by Julian Burns. Minutes approved as written.
9. A location for the annual Holiday dinner has not been determined. Looking for suggestions. Quincy's in Monroe and Jonathon's in Matthews were mentioned, no decision was made.
10. A Poll of members to determine interest in "Winter Field Day" was made. Several members indicated interest. Question posed by a visitor, "What is Winter Field Day". A discussion of what Field Days are, when they are held, their purpose and how they are good learning platforms. No definitive decision or location was determined. Kevin Moderow is a strong supporter of Field Days and will help with Field Day, he says we need operators, which is the club's weakest area in Field Day.
11. Tom spoke about the amateur radio activity performed for the Helene hurricane that ravaged western North Carolina. He gave honorable mention and thanks to the Mt Mitchell repeater operators that handled traffic, announced area conditions and the relaying of information about family status. Health and Welfare traffic was the main focus. Most communications in the area were not in service and the Hams had stepped in not only relaying information but received positive recognition and praise by the communities for Amateur Radio was heard.
12. Chris Whitaker spoke briefly about his work this past week with Samaritan Purse in the Old Fort area. Chris also spoke on the need for communications to be established in different venues in Union County, while AUXCOMM is an EOC affiliated platform many other areas of communications may be needed. The club needs to research those needs. He mentioned cooperation with local radio stations by agreeing to place a Ham operator at the studio so that real time information may be received and transmitted to the public over standard broadcast. Other areas mentioned for communications included Hospitals, Red Cross, Schools and the list grows as the possibilities of need during emergencies. CERTS is building a platform of volunteers aimed at having CERTS groups in every neighborhood in the county to provide assistance permitted and having communications is a necessity.
13. Kevin Moderow gave a non-presentation about Hotspot units. How you could use a Hotspot that would allow you to use your DMR, Fusion or DSTAR radio to listen and talk worldwide. He explained how the Hotspot is integrated into your operation. Taking your portable radio signal into the Hotspot where it is digitized and sent via the internet to platforms that allow you to listen and talk to all over the world. Kevin donated DMR radios and Hotspots to the club to be loaned to members as requested. To be able to use the Hotspot you must have 3

things: (1) A DMR ID (2) Amateur Radio Call Sign (3) a Portable digital radio, preferably DMR. Kevn has volunteered to program your radio and the Hotspot with your information.

- 14. 50/50 Drawing was held for \$ 31.00. Gayle Bohlen was the winner of the 50/50 drawing. \$31.00 was donated to the club's treasury.
- 15. Announcement was made that there are some flea market items on the back table.
- 16. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Member Attendance:

Tom McCobb, K3TCM
Lisa Whitaker KF4NYL
Julian Burns, K4WKP
Mike Williams, K4IC
Gary Stone, KO4NZU
Ray Rising, K4LWJ
Peter Gulish, K1NEM
Bob McGovern, KN4JLY (G)
Shaun Golden (G)
Dennis Connell (G)

David Keever, KV4N
Kevin Moderow, WA9VFD
Alfred KoKoszczyński, KC2GZI
Will Johnson, KQ3KAC
David Kurtz, KM4ZDK
Marcos Bilbao, K3MJB
Karen Stone (G)
Gayle Bohlen (G)
Chris Greene (G)

Christopher Whitaker, AE4WS
Dwayne Stone, KC4NHW
Joshua Rierson, KQ4NZL
Rick Lanier, N4RCL
Norm Beasley, KO4CB
Hans VanHeule, KQ4KAN
Greg Lesko, AF4CS (G)
Keith White, KQ4WBY (G)
Craig MaGee (G)