

Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting held January 9, 2021 - Amended

A meeting of Twin State Radio Club was held via Zoom on Saturday January 9, 2021. The meeting opened at 9:05 AM.

Officers present: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Trustee.

Old Business

President's Report:

The round table discussion will be hosted today. With infrastructure wrapping up, there can be a redirection of resources.

Attendees, new and current, were introduced.

Vice President's Report:

The presentation today is the extended round table discussion on club activities, a "5 year planning" meeting.

Suggested future presentations for the February – March timeframe.

- Canned talks from various sources.
- Repeater system tutorial discussions: operations and connections.
- Annual antenna forum in April. Sharing of member rigs.
- Dave N1HAC on multiband antennas (also during the annual forum), OCF, large loops. Pluses and minuses.
- A talk on Sporadic E from HamSCI.
- Regular propagation primer.
- Joe Taylor – developer of low bandwidth, low noise, low bit rate modes (2 parts?). JT65, moon bounce propagation, WHISPR, FT8.

The Vice President is soliciting presentation suggestions. Get in touch with Dave N1HAC either by email or the repeater.

Treasurer's Report:

- Checking – \$ 1,334.67.
- Savings – \$ 47,422.54.

A motion was called for to accept the Treasurer's Report. So moved by Clyde KA1BSZ, seconded by Ted N1GMC. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Secretary's Report:

Scott KC1LDI detailed the amendments to the submitted the December 12, 2020 minutes.

A motion was called for to accept the minutes as amended. So moved by Ray WA1ORT, seconded by Clyde KA1BSZ. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Trailer Report: Alan AE1H, Ed AB1XQ, Dave WA1ZCN

The communications trailer was shoveled out by Dave WA1ZCN. Alan AE1H reported that the tower trailer will be measured for patch size and patch material will be tested for welding.

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Repeater Committee: Dave N1HAC, Dave WA1ZCN

Some of the Kenwood units put on the bench are tuning up well. Working on interfacing one at Strafford soon. Access to Strafford dependent on snow, will check tomorrow. Need to finalize programming, which needs some fixing. Will use standalone on Strafford for now. Will do a Kenwood to controller harness test. Dave N1HAC stated internet remote access may need a computer (like a Raspberry Pi) that it is not easy to get internet access now. Possible use of wireless will work on, temporary rent of a hot spot. All 7330 unit controller programming is on the internet at Steve W1HS's website. Don KB1VP brought up creating an internet backbone between repeaters. Dave WA1ZCN stated this was difficult to do because multiple antennas are needed. Don KB1VP suggested doing with omni-directional antennas, Dave WA1ZCN responded beam width vs gain was an issue. Don KB1VP responded this was not impossible. Dan AD1HD suggested installation at Stellafane, Dave N1HAC at Corinth. Dave WA1ZCN stated that most sight paths are poor.

Clyde KA1BSZ stated that the E. Corinth repeater coverage was spotty, Dave N1HAC will look at after Strafford.

Dave N1HAC reported that the Kenwood tuning to ham bands was going well. They will pass digital modulation. Dave WA1ZCN stated that in using 50 year old GE Mastr II equipment there are daughter-board connection issues and periodic helical filter cleaning needed. He stated that the purchase of the five relatively new Kenwood units was a better use of funds than just getting one brand new radio.

Education committee: Ray WA1ORT

Working with five scout leaders. Taking practice tests. The FCC is increasing costs. Sessions with the scouts have been difficult due to a lack of physics knowledge. They are working on merit badges instead and will do technical work later. A test in Connecticut was reported to be drive-in. Possible to use La Salette for testing with separation. There was discussion on testing, will work on.

Events in the works:

- Sled Dog Race was planned for the 3rd weekend in February.
- Winter Field Day, weekend of January 30th & 31st. Planning to pull out the communications trailer. Sign up to use. Will use aggregated call signs. Suggested use of N16NB to submit contacts. Need to standardize. Use of Cabrillo files. In the past have put on website. Need someone to take lead.

New Business

There was a question about the proposed funding for Pico balloons. Don KB1VP will do.

A motion to adjourn was made by Eric KB1VUN, seconded by Clyde KA1BSZ. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

The meeting concluded at 10:01 AM. Presentation followed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Scott KC1LDI.