

**Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting held December 11, 2021 - Amended**

A meeting of Twin State Radio Club was held via Zoom on Saturday December 11, 2021. The meeting opened at 9:11 AM.

Officers present: Nicole DeShone, AC1HQ - President  
Dave McGaw, N1HAC - Vice President  
Dave Colter, WA1ZCN - Treasurer  
Scott McCoy, KC1LDI - Secretary

Officers absent: Alan Bradford, AE1H - License Trustee.

Other attendees: Alasdair Dunlap-Smith, W1UC  
Alex Smith, W1FET  
Clyde Blake, KA1BSZ  
Dan MacMartin, AD1HD  
Dave Bridgham, N1AHF  
Don Price, KB1VP  
Ed Barney, AB1XQ  
Eric Hansen, KB1VUN  
Gordon Schnare AB1SK  
Kim Kimura, KE1LF  
Pete Ludwig, AB2U  
Rick Watson, Jr. N1GNB  
Traudy Colli, N1HPX  
Rob Evans, N1BE

***As the meeting started it was noted that a quorum of voting members was present. Motions can be voted on.***

**President's Report**

Members and attendees were introduced. Attendee radio activities were noted (and wants for Xmas).

**Vice President's Report**

The presentation today is by David N1HAC on his latest sounding rocket ionospheric mission.

Possible future presentations:

- 5 year plan revisit. What to do as a club in 5 years – Jan?
- Foil tape antennas – Feb?
- Traudy N1HPX on her father's equipment – Feb or Mar?
- Antenna forum – April?
- Surface mount assembly – Dan AD1HD in May or later?
- Obscure digital modes.
- Grounding by Ray WA1ORT.
- Slide set on the Cape Cod WCC Marconi station.
- Troubleshooting tubes.

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

Again, suggestions for new meeting places is solicited.

#### Treasurer's Report

- Checking – \$ 2,793.61
- Savings – \$ 41,633.72

\$5,000.00 in savings bonds.

A motion was made by Clyde KA1BSZ to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Rick N1GNB. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

#### Secretary's Report

The amended November 13, 2021 minutes were reviewed and discussed.

A motion was made by Dave N1HAC to accept the:

- November 13, 2021 amended meeting minutes
- October 9, 2021 amended meeting minutes
- October 9, 2021 Treasures Report.

This was seconded by Alex W1FET. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

#### Trailer Report

Dave WA1ZCN reported that some tools have been placed on the support trailer. The question of what tools, equipment and the organization aboard the trailers needs to be revisited.

#### Repeater Committee

Dave N1HAC reported on the ongoing debugging of the Moose Mtn. repeater coverage problem. Below the tower is status quo. The triplexer was changed out with no effect on the characteristics. What the power rating of the old unit at each frequency was on is not clear: it way have been 100W across all frequencies. The power rating of the new unit is 600W across all the bands, with 100W being used on 2M, 100W on 440 and 25W on 220. The problem is probably above on the tower either with antenna or the triplexer. Dave N1HAC suspects the antenna UHF connector may have worked apart or that the triplexer has failed on 2M. UHF is 'hot' now. 2 more cables may be run up the tower. However any tower work needs to be done by a climber that meets the owner criteria. Hope to find out if other tower work will be done and if so piggyback club work on it. The Samlex power supply with the 2 failed of the 4 20A modules was swapped with the linear power supply. The in rush suppressors of the Samlex burned out, possibly due to lightning or surge damage. Dave N1HAC is thinking of repairing the unit, fixing the burnout issue and doing a redesign. Replacement modules have been ordered but are delayed in shipping.

On the Strafford repeater if deteriorated and ungrounded shield network cables are the reason for noise problems Wavecomm has been of no help. Work is being done to use one of the donated

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amplifiers. Alan AE1H will modify a power supply cord. The 220 radio mounting will be modified. Steve W1HS will reprogram the portable repeater controller. Dave N1HAC will retune / reset it. This should fix range coverage. The frequency shared with the Salem repeater should not be an issue.

Clyde WA1BSZ asked who the owner of the Strafford tower was. The answer is the property owner owns the tower but not the antennas and other attached equipment. There was discussion on this. There was consensus that if the Wavecomm cable needs replacement the club should consider offering to do it. A source of outdoor cable is available.

**Education committee**

Nicole AC1HQ reported on the Board meeting agreement to continue education efforts, for example with fox hunts and Pico balloon projects. The education committee should be expanded, committee members are asked for and club members may be approached to join. Other ideas are solicited. The Board intends to discuss this further. Dave N1HAC reported that Fred Kemmerer AB1OC, an advocate for education, won the election for ARRL New England Division Director. It was suggested that he be brought back to talk about coordinating this.

Dave WA1ZCN was asked about loaner radios for new Hams. He reported no determination has been made on this. This was discussed.

Clyde WA1BSZ asked about the legality of Technician license holders to operate USB digital on 40M. The answer is maybe, and that digital was not necessary on USB. 10M digital operation is allowed. Creation of a list or source for local 2M nets was proposed as a solution to the probable lack of 2M contact frustration of new Technician licensees.

Alex W1FET asked about build kits and build sessions as part of an education effort. There was agreement for this. There was a suggestion to coordinate with the Makerspace. Dave WA1ZCN stated the club small parts inventory is well stocked and could contribute to any build effort.

**Old Business**

The older club radio disposition list created by Dave WA1ZCN was discussed. The list items and their prices, based on EBay sales, were reviewed. Venues for disposition were proposed including the Contoocook, CVFMA and other swap meets as well as NEARFest. Items are not yet open to the club but the list will again be posted and if there is an interest it should be stated.

Nicole AC1HQ proposed the creation of a Winter Field Day committee. Members indicated there was an interest to participate. For now it will be held at WHQ. Simplicity is desired due to ongoing uncertainties. Don KB1VP asked about Winter Field Day personal station participation and aggregation with the club. A review of the rules indicated it was.

Nicole AC1HQ asked if there had been any communication with the leaders of the Blue Mountain Sled Dog Race. Dan AD1HD reported no and will do so next month. The event date is February 20, 2022 so there are 2 more club meetings prior for organization.

A new venue for in person meetings is still needed, suggestions are solicited.

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Budgets were discussed. There is a need to rethink doing them and how to. A budget is needed for education: ads, flyers, build kits, venues, materials, etc. The purpose of the budget is to ballpark ideas. It was pointed out that build kits are not a budget item as they are reimbursed. Gordon AB1SK pointed out that a budget is a goal setting means, short and long term. Also expansion. It was pointed out that this be discussed as part of a five year plan.

Don KB1VP was asked for a Pico balloon project update. He replied that all equipment and supplies have been assembled with the exception of lifting gas. Lifting gas is critical and must be precise. He requests experienced input. He suggests that one launch, not even club wide, be done before any incorporation into education events. Experience is needed before the program is expanded and after there are people trained. Nicole AC1HQ asked who could be reached out to for help? New England SciTech? Don KB1VP pointed out that NE SciTech's experience was with 'bursters' not Pico balloons. He stated that spring is the best time for launch. Nicole AC1HQ asked if this could be a subject for a March presentation. The reply was not yet.

With no further business to address a motion to adjourn called for. So moved by Gordon AB1SK, seconded by Alex W1FET. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

The meeting concluded at 10:15 AM. The presentation by Dave N1HAC followed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Scott KC1LDI.