

Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting Held 11 July 2020

A meeting of Twin State Radio Club was held via Zoom on Saturday, July 11, 2020. The meeting opened at 9:05 AM. A quorum of 30% was present with 11 out of 36 voting members present.

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

President's Report:

New club President Nicole AC1HQ stated not much to report. The Stafford repeater and 440 radio are working. No Prouty this year.

Vice President's Report:

This meetings presentation will be a Field Day debrief. This Field Day was fundamentally different from others. Scores for it are to come.

Suggested future presentations

- Ray WA1ORT on grounding.
- Dave WA1ZCN (?) on towers.
- Dave N1HAC on propagation. HF & VHF antennas.
- From previous minutes: off center fed dipoles, the Apollo Communication, WHISPR, trailer radio training session, digital mode seminar, Nano VNA, remoting into 7300s, logging software tutorial, FT8, FT4 & JT65 (3 part series - Joe Taylor, his modes, hands-on demo), New radio releases.

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

Treasurer's Report:

As of June 13th:

- Checking – \$1471.18.
- Savings - \$35,888.98. Increase is thanks to a donation. Treasurer would like to acknowledge the donor.
- CD (Now cash account) - \$15,455.38. Treasurer plans to meet with investors on strategies.

There are now 63 total members; largest in recent period. 36 Voting members: 30% quorum is 11 members, 66% quorum is 24 members. There are 27 associate members.

A motion was called for to accept the report. So moved by Ray WA1ORT, seconded by Ed AB1XQ.
The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

New club Secretary Scott KC1LDI taking meeting minutes. Club inventory is on his plate.

Former Secretary Nicole AC1HQ reported receiving no corrections to the June 13th minutes. A motion was called for to accept the minutes as submitted. So moved by Dave N1HAC, seconded by Ray WA1ORT. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting Held 11 July 2020

All previous club meeting minutes in the possession of Dave WA1ZCN have been uploaded to the club website. Any missing minutes will be added as able.

Trailer Report: Alan AE1H, Ed AB1XQ, Dave WA1ZCN

Thanks to Dave WA1ZCN the decals have been applied to the storage trailer. He has also finished the carpet installation.

Both trailers were used on Field Day.

Dave WA1ZCN and Ed AB1XQ plan to install cabinets in the storage trailer. Cabinets in storage now have damage, may be fixable.

Antenna racks in the storage trailer are bolted in. More carpet work to be done.

There is a need to replace cabling due to kinking. Discussion on repair options.

Dave N1HAC reports that the 25 Amp 12 Volt power supply has been checked for noise and found to have it on HF. Need to install filtering.

The communication trailer needs TLC: rust removal and painting. President Nicole AC1HQ stated the need for discussion on what is needed and a timeframe for remediation.

A patch panel is needed.

Repeater Committee: Dave N1HAC, Dave WA1ZCN

440 radio work continues. 2 Tantalum bypass filters self destructed and have been replaced. There seems to be a power problem. Both amplifiers appeared to work, then the new amplifier failed on the tower (on departure). It was removed and tested to work with a dummy load but failed in a use test. Power control circuit may have failed. Will replace to get repeater going. 2 Meter side OK, blew out filter tin whiskers. 220 link and Echolink OK.

No real changes on Strafford. Audio works but will not repeat back so not working. Weather has prevented more work. There was discussion on using commercial equipment or other types.

Education committee: Ray WA1ORT

Nothing is happening. There was a publication by the ARRL on remote, no contact testing being done in a parking lot. This was suggested as an option to do.

Ray inquired about contact with new hams. Where are they? Don't appear on 2 meters. There was discussion on incentives; one suggestion was to offer of free associate club membership.

The date for VE board sessions has been set off until September at the earliest.

Exam sessions by the CVFMA are on hold too.

New England Sci-Tech is holding online testing and virtual classes. Ray wants to do local testing & classes; if local that would be a way to offer the associate club membership discussed above. Plan for 2 – 3 months out, dependent on changing COVID-19 conditions.

Jed KC1KQZ asked if Tech in a day is still offered. Answer: not locally but online. Dave WA1ZCN will contact CVFMA to update the Tech in a day presentation. Do by September?

Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting Held 11 July 2020

There is much interest in VE sessions.

Events in the works:

Scott KC1LDI to connect with Steve W1HS and involve Dan AD1HD. Need an inventory software tutorial and labels to finish ongoing inventory. 80 – 90% has been cataloged. Dave WA1ZCN has the list. There will be nothing to sell at NEAR-Fest this year due to cancellation. Offers to sell surplus to members must also offer to public.

Sled Dog Race 2021 apparently on. Did not get info on last time until the last minute.

Winter Field Day. Suggestion to do something more involved this time.

It was suggested that the class on the NIMM logging software be done before next Field Day. A tutorial is needed.

No NEAR-Fest this year.

JOTA is on. Ray is working on it with the Boy Scouts. Might not happen but planning. If not options of remote testing: with Zoom? Suggest involvement of Steve W1HS. The Girl Scouts have their version on JOTA in May.

The Prouty is on line this year.

Presentation: Field Day Debrief - Dave N1HAC

This year there was both a virtual and physical club presence.

Dave WA1ZCN – Physical presence in both trailers. Problems with the logging software between the computers. The logging software is difficult to use without a cheat sheet. There were network problems as well that need input. Steve W1HS?

Alan AE1H – Need simplification on this, plug in and start working.

Steve W1HS – The Ethernet trouble was with Windows blocking untrusted networks.

Dave N1HAC – Club operated a 20 meter beam and 40 meter dipole.

Steve W1HS – Virtual at his site ICOM 7300 for operators remoting in. No issues but not used. ARRL has published no numbers so far.

Ray WA1ORT – Difficultly submitting to ARRL. Advice was to keep trying.

Dave N1HAC – Operated personally. Interesting day contacts on 10 & 6 meters then 40 meters. Mostly 40 meters day and 20 meters night. 1E operation on batteries. Use of Kenwood rig was no good because of low voltage. Used 40 meter horizontal loop, OCF dipole. 40 contacts. IN to FLA on 40 meters in day and to PR at night on 20 meters.

Ray WA1ORT – He and his daughter worked FT8 and SSB. Many 1D stations were operating at high power, disappointing. Operated station on batteries charged by genset.

Don KB1VP – Worked FT8 and QRP from camper. Operated station on batteries charged by solar. Reported 20 meters no good by day stayed on 40 meters. Still trying to submit documents for

Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting Held 11 July 2020

operation type to ARRL. Need to send pictures to prove? Steve W1HS answered just state in document operation type and submit.

Ed AB1XQ – Setup was portable with tuner. 82 contacts on 40 and 80 meters. MI, TN and ONS.

Scott KC1LDI – Operated at 2 locations.

Dave N1HAC – Could hear CQ but not able to make the contacts they were doing. Not hearing. Issue with propagation.

Ed AB1XQ – Had same issue was not hearing stations being accepted.

Dave WA1ZCN – In trailers made a dozen contacts on 40 meters. Reiterated a lot of setup time with computers.

There was discussion on the network issues. Suggestions were made to mitigate.

Dave N1HAC – Station batteries held up but worked with low voltage. Near 100W. Saw different behavior between 2 radios due to. Load voltage was different from charge voltage. Dave WA1ZCN suggests use of charge boosters but bad for batteries. Dave N1HAC agrees need voltmeter on battery side. Dave WA1ZCN suggests use of voltage limiter. Ray WA1ORT uses a low voltage disconnect device to save batteries goes over history of use. Dave N1HAC described how load changes voltage cutoff range.

Other

Don KB1VP brought up that Radio Shack was again in business and the inventory seemed as it was before. Discussion on whether the company was still owned by Tandy. He has placed WEFAX images on the Groups.io. There was discussion on the WEFAX HF service for commercial ships. Alex KB1FJJ discussed the use of HF versus satellite for the purpose.

There was a presentation suggestion on battery technology.

Meeting concluded at 10:55 AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Scott KC1LDI, 73