

Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting held March 12, 2022

A meeting of Twin State Radio Club was held via Zoom on Saturday March 12, 2022. The meeting opened at 9:08 AM.

Officers present: Nicole DeShone, AC1HQ - President
Dave McGaw, N1HAC - Vice President
Dave Colter, WA1ZCN – Treasurer
Alan Bradford, AE1H - License Trustee
Scott McCoy, KC1LDI – Secretary

Other attendees: Ed Barney, AB1XQ
Clyde Blake, KA1BSZ
Ray Chaffee, WA1ORT
Traudy Colli, N1HPX
Alasdair Dunlap-Smith, W1UC
Steve Goldsmith, W1HS
Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC
Kim Kimura, KE1LF
Donald Kollisch, W2QYB
Peter Ludwig, AB2U
Gordon Schnare, AB1SK
Alex Smith, W1FET
Ed Stammer, KC1FWS
Don Price, KB1VP
Keith Merrick, W1TIM

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.

Vice President's Report

The presentation today is by Fred Kemmerer AB1OC, ARRL New England Division Director, giving an update on the initiatives at ARRL.

Possible future presentations:

- Annual antenna forum – April.
- Tactical communications – Dave WA1ZCN - May
- ARRL Field Day in June.
- Fox hunting – looking for an existing presentation.
- Trudi N1HPX on her father's equipment?
- Surface mount assembly – Dan AD1HD? Jay KB1RZA? Dave N1HAC?
- Grounding - Ray WA1ORT.
- Internet SDRs.
- Troubleshooting tubes.

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- ARRL Section manager talks.
- Obscure digital modes.
- Surface mount kit build.
- Slide set on the Cape Cod WCC Marconi station.
- How to create virtual COM ports under windows to allow multiple transceiver control programs to run at the same time.

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

Suggestions for new meeting places are solicited.

Treasurer's Report

- Checking – \$ 3,190.62.
- Savings – \$ 42,382.97.
- Bonds – \$ 5,000.00.

Checks received since the first of the year have be deposited. Proceeds from the equipment sales, approximately \$1,000.00, have been deposited.

A motion was made by Alan AE1H to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Gordon AB1SK.
The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

The amended February 12, 2022 minutes were reported.

A motion was made by Alan AE1H to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Gordon AB1SK.
The motion passed unanimously.

Trailer Report

Alan AE1H reported that the insurance bills have been received.

Scott KC1LDI reported that the tower trailer is in the shop and the fender repairs are in progress. Costs for repair materials will be forwarded to Alan AE1H.

Repeater Committee

Dave N1HAC reported that not a lot has been done other than planning. The Moose Mtn. repeater 2M intermittent deafness issue continues. He proposes that is in best interest to replace the antenna. He believes the UHF connector has worked loose due to temperature fluctuations. He will get a price for approval The antenna replaced will be repurposed. Noise, key up, is coming in from the Strafford repeater. If it gets bad Strafford is disconnected.

Dave WA1ZCN stated that upgrading Moose with the addition of 2 cables eliminates the triplexer. The antenna replacement cost is less than finding a problem later and paying for a return trip of installers. He estimates the price of a replacement antenna will be about \$1,000.00. He reported that

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Steve W1HS has finished the programming for the portable repeater and it has been downloaded and will test it ASAP.

Education committee

Ray WA1ORT is holding a Tech in a Day class and an open exam session today at La Salette. There is 1 student. Nicole AC1HQ stated this was an open session.

Old Business

Good venues for in person meetings have still not been found yet. Suggestion are still being solicited. Internet access is wanted as keeping the Zoom option is desired. Alan AE1H reported that Mickey's has no interest in opening the bar for meetings. Nicole AC1HQ noted that changing the meeting time from Saturday AM is possible too.

The club will have a table at the CVRC flea market next weekend. Vintage radios will be for sale. Email before if interested.

March 14th is Pi day (3.1415 ...).

Don KB1VP gave an update on the balloon project. He hopes to resurrect it soon. The last challenge is the filling of the balloon with lifting gas which he has no experience with. All else is ready to go. He would prefer the attendance of a small group for the initial launch, with larger groups and education decisions moving forward. Tracking data is to be formatted. Due to recent events, radiation detectors are being placed on balloons and data is being collected. He has no radiation detector on board now and reports that a Geiger-Müller detector has high voltage requirements. It will rapidly eat a 9V battery. A solid state device if available should be able to overcome this. Alex W1FET reported that a solid state detector is available from <https://capescint.com/product/scintillation-probe-sc-macropixel-mca/> with USB levels of power requirement. It was pointed out that the Earth to Sky Calculus weather balloons reported on Spaceweather.com use solid state detectors. Ed AB1XQ pointed out that a balloon radiation detector doesn't need to run continuously, that if there is not a huge power demand at start-up, and doesn't take an hour to get a stable reading, it could take samples hourly to conserve power. When an education effort is determined Don would prefer an education professional to be involved. Alan AE1H asked if Don preferred hydrogen or helium lifting gas. Don replied hydrogen if possible.

New Business

None.

With no further business to address a motion to adjourn called for. So moved by Alan AE1H, seconded by Dave WA1ZCN. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting concluded at 9:50 AM. The presentation followed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Scott KC1LDI.