

**Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting held January 14, 2023 - Amended**

A meeting of Twin State Radio Club was held via Zoom on Saturday January 14, 2023. The meeting opened at 9:02 AM.

Officers present: Nicole DeShone, AC1HQ - President  
Dave McGaw, N1HAC - Vice President  
Dave Colter, WA1ZCN – Treasurer  
Alan Bradford, AE1H - License Trustee  
Scott McCoy, N1SDM – Secretary

Other attendees: Ed Barney, AB1XQ  
Dave Bridgham, N1AHF  
Bill Brown, KB1MOV  
Ray Chaffee, WA1ORT  
Alasdair Dunlap-Smith, W1UC  
Derek Flint, KC1QXL  
Eric Hansen, KB1VUN  
Bill Hopwood, NF013NG  
Kim Kimura, KE1LF  
Rob Leiden, K1UI  
Peter Ludwig, AB2U  
Keith Merrick, W1TIM  
Mark Pensgen, KC1EKR  
Gordon Schnare, AB1SK  
Martin Smith, AC1FT  
Alex Smith, W1FET  
William Stearns, KC1ROJ

***As the meeting started a quorum of voting members was present (greater than 10). Motions can be voted on.***

**President's Report**

Members and attendees were introduced. Attendees were asked what they plan to do in Ham radio this year.

**Vice President's Report**

The presentation today is by Eric KB1VUN on how to set up your first FT8 station.

Possible future presentations:

- Surface mount & assembly – Dave #10 – February.
- Propagation – March?
- Antenna forum – usually April.
- Tubes (valves) - Dave N1HAC.
- Balloon update.
- Fox hunting.
- Contesting.

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- Satellite communications.
- Grounding – Ray WA1ORT.
- Basics – first setups.
- Beginning, intermediate, advanced modes.
- Lunar & solar eclipse events, contests by HamSCI.
- Internet SDRs.
- Direction finding - Spring.
- OTA's – parks, summits, islands, etc.
- Alternative energy.
- RFI. Common mode chokes.
- Solar eclipse preparation.

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

#### Treasurer's Report

- Checking – \$ 4,194.27.
- Savings – \$ 37,631.04.
- Bonds – \$ 10,000.00.

\$2000.00 was spent for the crew to climb the Moose Mt. tower this week.

Dues payment has seen the best response in years, \$1000.00 collected so far. Some have paid next year's dues too. 30 voting memberships and 19 associate for 49 members total. Will wait to deposit dues.

\$1.55 in interest was earned.

A motion was made by Ray WA1ORT, seconded by Alan AE1H to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

#### Secretary's Report

The submitted December 10, 2022 minutes have been amended and were reviewed.

A motion was made by Ray WA1ORT to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Bill NF013NG. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

#### Trailer Report

Alan AE1H reported that the trailers have not been moved in the last month. No activity other than replacement of the communications trailer lights. Plan to use them for Winter Field Day.

Dave WA1ZCN reported the need for permanent Pelican case storage. Using straps now.

**Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting held January 14, 2023 - Amended****Repeater Committee**

Dave N1HAC reported that he and Dave WA1ZCN were at the Moose Mt. repeater after last month's meeting to swap out the Astron power supply for the repaired Samlex unit. The Astron had been getting 50A at 12V. The Samlex had dropped 2 modules due to in rush voltage. The modules have been repaired and 2 new extra acquired so now have 80 to 100A supply with a spare module. He commended the performance of the Astron RM60M unit which was running at close to supply maximum.

The 2M PL encoder power wire was broken and has been resoldered. Receive PL has been leaking into the transmitter and will affect the transmit PL.

On Tuesday 10 January from 9AM to about 3 to 4PM a crew made two climbs on the tower. 3 jumpers were swapped out from the triplexer to the antennas. The 2M connection was tightened. It can be seen that the 440 antenna is not where it needs to be. The side support side arm was out of position, it is now back. The 2M tip support is now straighter, still not quite straight. The 2M center connection wasn't checked: the team couldn't access with the climbing equipment they had. Club got a day's worth of work. Connection issues were dealt with. Propagation reports are solicited. Derek KC1QXL reported better reception in Washington, VT. Dave WA1ZCN showed pictures of the installation. The original installers didn't mount everything as wanted. 440 is interfered with as mounted. 220 and 2M interact. Mounting issues were discussed. Dave N1HAC reported that the 440 performs well despite placement. Why the 2M doesn't perform as well as it should is a mystery. The climb crew reported a lot of shoddy workmanship on the tower. Dave N1HAC suggested feedback be given to public TV about this that connections be tightened up. Rob K1UI talked about noise floor issues with repeaters. The 220 power output was checked, it is not putting out any power. Bridgecomm will be contacted, Dave N1HAC is working on it. Alan AE1H reported that the 2M hot spot in NY is not there anymore indicating a change in coverage. A possible propagation change? He will try it again.

No report on the Corinth repeater.

Dave WA1ZCN reported continuing problems programming the NHRC portable repeater controllers. Dave N1HAC is to assist.

No progress on sites for a northern repeater. Dave WA1ZCN reported a potential site but difficult. Discussion on placing the portable repeater at the rest area for the Prouty. Possible to place it at Tower Rd. but not ideal.

**Education committee**

Ray WA1ORT reported a problem with the February test date being double booked with to the sled dog race date. This was resolved since they are on different days. The next test will probably be at La Salette. There will be three opportunities to test and/or upgrade.

A VE training session was suggested. Several attendees indicated interest so it is planned for next Saturday at 10AM by Zoom. Length of one hour Dave N1HAC to host. An email will be sent out for all interested.

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**Old Business**

Winter Field Day will be low key in the trailers at WHQ. Plan to run 2 or 3 Alpha and possibly string a new antenna.

The Grantham Sled Dog race is on February 26<sup>th</sup>. 15 operators are needed. A weather dependent event. A new organizer is needed.

Dave N1HAC reported on the February 4<sup>th</sup> CVFMA flea market at the new location at the Charlestown Senior Center. There will be space set aside for the club trailers.

Dave N1HAC reported the Christmas Eve VLF transmission event on 17.2 kHz was cancelled due to the crew getting C19.

**New Business**

Dave N1HAC reported that the Stellafane radio club W1STN will host a special event station at their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention. Operators and help are solicited.

Dave WA1ZCN reported the need for some small purchases. First the need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> small case for a 4<sup>th</sup> headset for about \$60.00. Second is \$99.00 for new foam inserts for the case for the 7300. Ed AB1XQ pointed out that \$1000.00 was approved to purchase items incidental to the 7300 so there are enough funds left to do this.

Dave WA1ZCN reported that the pictures of the items that are to be auctioned have been uploaded the website and that it will soon go live. Comments are solicited.

Derek KC1QXL reported that the Bath digipeater is not working. There was discussion on this. It was pointed out that Steve W1HS has worked on this but would probably like to have someone else do it. The site needs a visit. Derek KC1QXL will help.

With no further business to address a motion to adjourn called for. So moved by Alan AE1H, seconded by Gordon AB1SK. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

The meeting concluded at 10:09 AM. The presentation followed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Scott KC1LDI.