

Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting held May 13, 2023

A meeting of Twin State Radio Club was held via Zoom on Saturday May 13, 2023. The meeting opened at 9:04 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
Ray Chaffee, WA1ORT
Alasdair Dunlap-Smith, W1UC
Eric Hansen, KB1VUN
Ralph Hawkins, KB1ICQ
Kim Kimura, KE1LF
Peter Ludwig, AB2U
Don Price, KB1VP
Alex Smith, W1FET
Gordon Schnare, AB1SK
Rich Watson, N1GNB
John Wilson, KQ6ZY

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

The agenda was changed for the Education Committee report to be done first.

Education Committee

Ray WA1ORT reported that the next VE session will be held on May 20th. Two VE sessions will be held at Field Day: 4:00 PM Saturday and 10:00 AM Sunday. Some special sessions have been requested. There was discussion on the placement of club radios for the Prouty.

President's Report

Members and attendees were introduced. Attendees were asked to relate a story, good or bad, involving a YL or XYL.

Vice President's Report the

Today's presentation is an overview of logging software packages by Alex W1FET.

Possible future presentations:

- June is Field Day planning.
- July is open. Direction finding, localizing noise sources, use for fox hunting possible
- Extreme bands.
- Tubes (valves) - Dave N1HAC.
- Internet SDRs.
- OTA's – parks, summits, islands, etc.

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- Alternative energy.
- Grounding – Ray WA1ORT.
- Radio & power lines.
- Complying w/ FCC regulations on RF exposure.
- Setup of a radio station for the first time.
- Basics on antenna, radio, regulation, and operating practice.
- Satellite communications.
- Fox hunting.
- Contesting.
- Beginning, intermediate, advanced modes.
- Lunar & solar eclipse events, contests by HamSCI.
- Direction finding - Spring.
- 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

Dave WA1ZCN reported:

- Checking – \$ 3,035.43.
- Savings – \$ 37,637.33.
- Bonds – \$ 10,000.00.

There is currently \$2,732.00 in cash and checks from the Henniker and NEAR-Fest sales that needs to be deposited.

A motion was made by Alan AE1H, seconded by Peter AB2U to accept the Treasurer's report. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Secretary's Report

The amended April 8, 2023 minutes were reviewed.

A motion was made by Gordon AB1SK, seconded by Kim KE1LF to accept the minutes as amended. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Trailer Report

Alan AE1H reported that both trailers were taken to NEAR-Fest. Dave WA1ZCN reported that the communication trailer headphone jack & speaker wiring project has begun. He is discussing volume control with Ed AB1XQ. The communication trailer DC wiring is being looked at, there are voltage drop issues. Installation of a bus is a possibility. A committee meeting may be needed for ideas; these are solicited. Alan AE1H reported that the DIN rails that were installed are not holding up.

Dave WA1ZCN stated that the trailers need washing. Volunteers are requested. Next week is proposed.

Ed AB1XQ reported that the communication trailer will be used at the Covered Bridges Marathon.

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Dave WA1ZCN reported on a possible Strafford repeater replacement site, in progress.

Dave N1HAC reported that the Moose Mt. repeater 440 transmitter came on and stayed on during NEAR-Fest Saturday. During travel to the site the next day this stopped. The issue is being monitored. The suspected level translator is not an issue. The 2M helical filter was inspected. There were screws loose on the antenna input connector which were tightened up, along with others. The sensitivity has improved. Problems may be related to propagation changes. He has a hot receiver spare to swap in if necessary, also a preamp. Overall repeater performance is OK. Alan AE1H reported being able to hear it traveling to CT on I-95. The transition of weather systems and solar changes may be an issue. Dave WA1ZCN reported power rack voltage drop issues from the battery. The wiring is not adequate for the current pull. To be dealt with in new business.

Repair of the 220 radio is in progress.

A discussion with Mitch Stearm, VT coordinator took place. He will coordinate a northern repeater when one is on the air. A NH site would work. Need to find somewhere to set up and get coordinated before the Prouty.

Dave WA1ZCN reported that the portable repeater control diagrams for are wrong in regard to connectors.

Election committee

Alan AE1H is soliciting candidates for club offices. The incumbents are staying on and standing for reelection. However, any parties interested in running should contact him.

Old Business

Members for a Field Day committee are solicited. Dave WA1ZCN reported that the Field Day site at Richmond Middle School has been secured, the sign up for is difficult. Porta-potties are needed. A press release for the ARRL of the club Field Day activities is needed. Both trailers will be used. 6A operation is planned to get the most people on the air. Don KB1VP asked if he could bring a trailer, the answer was yes. Plan to invite as many people to attend as possible. Ed AB1XQ suggested that RFI equipment be taken to check the site. The site is in Nicole AC1HQ's work region. Bringing the RFI equipment for demonstration Sunday was suggested.

Dave N1HAC reported that HamSCI eclipse activities have been firmed up. These include QSO, WSPR and others. Information is on the website <https://hamsci.org/eclipse>. Activities were featured prominently at the Dayton convention. They are hoping to pull in Hams from South America since the eclipse will pass through there. There are plans to study the the equatorial plasma bubble. Interested parties should sign up for activities.

New Business

Dave WA1ZCN reported the need to fund two power projects. First, \$150.00 for connection parts, fuse blocks and fuses for the repeater. Second, \$250.00 for parts to fix the power problem in the communication trailer.

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Gordon AB1SK made a motion to authorize spending up to \$150.00 for the repeater parts. Peter AB2U seconded the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Gordon AB1SK made a motion to authorize spending up to \$250.00 for the communication trailer parts. Peter AB2U seconded the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Ed AB1XQ asked if information on the clubs digipeater had been received from Steve W1HS. Dave WA1ZCN reported yes. Ed AB1XQ reminded the club that the Bath, NH digipeater installation was temporary and a more robust one was needed. There was discussion and agreement that at least \$685.89 would be needed for new equipment. Dave WA1ZCN stated that this could be cut without new equipment. There was discussion, the Bath location covers a third of the northern Prouty route. It was agreed that budget of up to \$700.00 was needed. Dave WA1ZCN would like to cut this down.

Alan AE1H made a motion to authorize spending up to \$700.00 for digipeater equipment. Dave N1HAC seconded the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Dave WA1ZCN stated the need for more help for the Prouty. The date change is a problem for many that would otherwise be available. Nicole AC1HQ stated that the date creates a conflict with the Vermont 100 event. Ed AB1XQ reported that this event starts on Saturday and runs until Sunday.

With no further business to address a motion to adjourn called for. So moved by Alan AE1H, seconded by Dave N1HAC. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

The meeting concluded at 10:06 AM. The presentation followed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Scott N1SDM.