

Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting held August 12, 2023

A meeting of Twin State Radio Club was held via Zoom on Saturday August 12, 2023. The meeting opened at 9:06 AM.

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

Officers absent: Nicole DeShone, AC1HQ - President

Other attendees: Ed Barney, AB1XQ
Dave Bridgeham, N1AHF
Traudi Coli, N1HPX
Ray Chaffee, WA1ORT
Steve Davidson, NA1T
Alasdair Dunlap-Smith, W1UC
Ryan Gallien, WC1TGR
Eric Hansen, KB1VUN
Carmine Iannace, K1VL
Peter Ludwig, AB2U
Jed Peterson, KC1KQZ
Bill Stearns, KC1ROJ
Alex Smith, W1FET
Rich Watson, N1GNB
Dalton Williams, KJ5BVD

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

By request the report sequence was changed.

Trailer Report

Alan AE1H reported that both the communication and support trailers are in better shape thanks to Dave WA1ZCN. An estimate on extending the tower trailer hitch and repair of the springs is forthcoming.

Dave WA1ZCN reported that an estimate on replacement for the door on the communication trailer is forthcoming. A patch has been proposed but no action on it yet.

There have been some very early discussions about a new communication trailer. Same size (16') as the support trailer.

Education Committee

Ray WA1ORT reported that a VE session is scheduled for next week but there is no location for it yet. La Salette is listed. Dave WA1ZCN asked if there were any test takers scheduled? Unknown. Ray WA1ORT has all the documentation. Due to illness he will probably not be able to chair. There was discussion on canceling the session.

La Salette is reported to be locking their doors October 1st.

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President's Report

Members and attendees were introduced. Attendees were asked to describe the VHF / UHF equipment they have that could be taken into the field.

Vice President's Report

Today's presentation is operating POTA and SOTA by Jed KC1KQZ.

Possible future presentations:

- Morse code in the media, how it's presented. In popular culture.
- RFI Exposure.
- RFI mitigation. Common mode chokes.
- Setup of a radio station for the first time.
- Basics on antenna, radio, regulation, and operating practice.
- Satellite communications.
- Beginning, intermediate, advanced modes.
- Propagation.
- Tubes (valves) - Dave N1HAC.
- Extreme bands.
- Internet SDRs.
- Other OTA's – summits, islands, etc.
- Alternative energy.
- Grounding – Ray WA1ORT?
- Radio & power lines.
- Complying w/ FCC regulations on RF exposure.
- Fox hunting.
- Contesting.
- Lunar & solar eclipse events, contests by HamSCI.
- Direction finding - Spring.
- Solar eclipse preparation.
- Radio in the media.
- Qsling today.

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 – \$ 8,779.89.
- Savings – \$ 33,092.04.
- Investments – \$ 10,000.00.

Considering moving accounts from Bar Harbor Bank & Trust to Sugar River Bank. Steve NA1T asked about going to a credit union. There was discussion and consensus to move accounts.

A motion was made by Scott N1SDM, seconded by Eric KB1VUN to accept the Treasurer's report.
The motion passed unanimously.

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Secretary's Report

The July 8, 2023 minutes were reviewed.

A motion was made by Ed AB1XQ, seconded by Rich N1GNB to accept the minutes as amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater Committee

Dave N1HAC reported that the Moose Mt. repeater is mostly behaving, except for yesterday when there were reach issues. There may be an antenna issue, the harness needs to be checked. Dave WA1ZCN stated there may be more than one problem. He reported that the battery cables were changed out but there is still not enough power. Dave N1HAC asked if the batteries may need to be replaced. Dave N1HAC doesn't think so. There is voltage drop across the cables. The 440 radio was cleaned up. A bad solder connection was found on the exciter.

The 147.345 portable repeater was placed at the Rodgers site in Bradford for the Prouty and performed well. The site is highly desired for a permanent spot.

The Corinth repeater is now working reasonably. There were multiple failures in the system. The pre-amps failed.

Old Business

Dave N1HAC reminded attendees about planned HamSCI festivals for both upcoming solar eclipses. Interested parties should go to <https://hamsci.org/eclipse>. For the annular eclipse there will be stations station setup from Canada through the US into South America. Much is planned to study changes in radio propagation during the total eclipse next year. There are any ways to be involved.

Dave WA1ZCN reported interest in the Crop Walk in October. Also coming up is NEARFest and manning a booth at Vermont Day at the Big E. The Big E has stated that fewer participants are needed.

New Business

Dave N1HAC asked about participation in JOTA. A new coordinator will probably be needed; someone in the area with scout connections.

With no further business to address a motion to adjourn called for. So moved by Scott N1SDM, seconded by Peter AB2U. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

The meeting concluded at 10:01 AM. The presentation followed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Scott N1SDM.