

Minutes of the Twin State Radio Club Meeting held November 11, 2023

A meeting of Twin State Radio Club was held via Zoom on Saturday November 11, 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
Rob Evans, N1BE
Kim Kimura, KE1LF
Eric Hansen, KB1VUN
Bill Hopwood, NF013NG
Carmine Iannace, K1VL
Rob Leiden, K1UI
Peter Ludwig, AB2U
Magdalena Moses,
Don Price, KB1VP ?
Gordon Schnare, AB1SK
Rich Watson, N1GNB

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

President's Report

Members and attendees were introduced. Attendees were asked what they feel they are still novices in, what they would like to learn. There is interest in CW (code), satellite operations, voice proficiency, digital modes and microprocessor (Arduino) use. Possible presentations or classes?

Vice President's Report

Today's presentation is "Chokes, Transformers and Baluns, Oh My!" by Dave N1HAC.

Possible future presentations:

- QSLing.
- RFI Exposure.
- Basics.
- 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.

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- 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.
- Beginning radio, VHF, UHF
- Antenna matching.
- Workshops.
- Primers, intermediate topics.

On The Air magazines were available at the Big E. The operating articles can be used as presentation examples.

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 submitted the report via groups.io on November 10th.

A motion was made by Nicole AC1HQ, seconded by Dave N1HAC to accept all outstanding Treasurer's reports. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Secretary's Report

The submitted October 14, 2023 minutes were reviewed.

A motion was made by Peter AB2U, seconded by Rob N1BE to accept all outstanding minutes. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Trailer Report

Alan AE1H reported that no quotes for work needing to be done on the tower trailer have been received. Dave WA1ZCN is working on quotes to replace the communication trailer. Removing the tower from the tower trailer before bad weather was proposed.

Repeater Committee

Dave N1HAC reported that there is new 2M antenna on the Moose Mt. repeater. Some sensitivity is still an issue, perhaps due to propagation. Dave WA1ZCN reported that a 3 man team worked all day on the tower requiring the morning to set up. All there jumpers were changed. The antenna is now straight. They were unable to move the UHF antenna (incorrectly placed originally being shielded by the sidearm) due to time constraints. All other things are nominal. Reports on any coverage changes are requested, as is more use.

Still looking for a northern repeater site. Want a view down the Connecticut River valley and Prouty coverage. Placement on a members garage for the winter possible?

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There was discussion on linking with the repeater in Claremont. Dave has been in contact with the Trustee. Equipment in place is a MASTR III with an SCOM controller (7300, 7000?). Possible 220 link needs to be investigated.

Education Committee

Need to communicate with Jed KC1KQZ. There is interest in testing. There is a VE session scheduled for next Saturday, need to decide if it will be held. Still need a site to hold these. No contact with La Salette. A room at Dartmouth could be scheduled. Question came up as to whether the Ray WA1ORT (SK) Tech In A Day materials are still available. Have Tech In A Day Power Point materials from N1XSS that need updating. Help with this is solicited.

Old Business

Dave WA1ZCN reported that a lot of gear was sold at NEAR-Fest and money was made. Dave N1HAC will look at the gear of an SK's estate near him Sunday. Dave WA1ZCN stated that the clubs coax needs to be gone through. Alan AE1H reported that the CROP walk went well but a dwindling event. 2 people showed up to help.

No new information on an in person meeting site. No new information on the Spark location. A room at Dartmouth is still the best bet with possible hybrid capabilities.

New Business

Participation in the Grafton Sled Dog Race was brought up. No information on. Having a Winter Field Day was discussed.

Dave WA1ZCN stated the need to look further at the budget. \$20,000.00 may be needed for a new communication trailer. Should donations for this be sought? If using the MASTR III (ground work done on first) for the repeater is successful the cost to replace with new equipment goes away. \$3000.00 will be needed for tower trailer repair. Quieter generators are needed. Two Honda 2200 units, @ \$1500.00 ea, with propane conversions are proposed: \$4,000.00. in all \$26,000.00 will be needed for projects not including what may be needed for the Bradford (northern) site. External funding needed? Communication trailer replacement funding is significant.

Dave WA1ZCN reported on the ARES SET event last weekend. There was limited participation in the upper valley. Simplex connection to the Bow repeater location was the event basis, simulating a major hurricane (1938) event and a solar flare that would limit HF. Connection from the upper valley is a challenge. Thought that connection from any high point would provide all state coverage. A local ARES simplex connection experiment was proposed.

Dave WA1ZCN is trying to change the current paradigm, which is more club like, back to the one used previously where interested parties would register availability for emergencies. There are programs in the NE-ARES Academy website. Need people to register.

With no further business to address a motion to adjourn called for. So moved by Dave N1HAC, seconded by Ed AB1XQ. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting concluded at 10:11 AM. The presentation followed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Scott N1SDM.