

# Owensboro Amateur Radio Club

## Minutes of February 20, 2007 Meeting

President Steve Morgan called the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Owensboro Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Owensboro Police Department.

Paul Vaughn, KF4ACQ, the Emergency Coordinator for Hancock County was a guest.

Secretary Jim Mason moved to dispense with reading of the minutes of the January 16, 2007 meeting since all members had previously been provided with copies of the minutes in the February issue of the K4HY newsletter. The motion was seconded. President Steve asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting. There being none, the motion to dispense with reading of the minutes was approved without objection.

Treasurer Max Douglas, Sr. reported that the current balance of the club's treasury was \$2,786.80. There is a check to the Southeast Repeater Association for 2007 dues outstanding in the amount of \$20.00 that has not been cashed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Repeater Committee chairman Harvey Bowlds reported on the current status of the K4HY club repeater. He said that there has been very little work performed on the repeater other than minor maintenance since its installation at the Trinity Hills site in 1999. Recently, Harvey, Jim Hunt, and Steve Morgan have been at the repeater site to determine the cause of some of the problems that have been noticed lately such as the transmitter getting noisy after periods of prolonged use such as often occurs during the Hancock Amateur Radio Association net on Monday night.

Harvey said that they were able to determine that there had been a lightning strike at some time in the recent past which burned out some of the resistors in the autopatch module. Those have been replaced and a new surge protector has been installed; however the issue with the noise still remains. At the present the transmitter output is set on the lowest setting which is 10 watts. It may be necessary to replace the antenna, feed line, or both, but it will be necessary to obtain permission from Owensboro Municipal Utilities (who owns the tower) before having someone climb the tower to make that determination.

Harvey moved that we allocate up to \$400 for immediate necessary maintenance repairs which would include a new transceiver, and items already purchased; i.e., a surge protector and a new marine battery for backup power. The motion was seconded by Jim Mason and passed without opposition.

Mark Osborne moved that that the club go ahead and approve the funds to cover any necessary repairs which would include replacing the feed line and/or antenna, as well as the labor cost required, so as to not delay the work by having to wait another month for the approval of additional funds. This motion was seconded by Gayle Young and Schley Cox, and carried without opposition.

President Steve announced that a telephone line has been reinstalled at the repeater site for programming and autopatch purposes, and that announcements were now being changed frequently on the repeater. The autopatch feature will be accessible by members only. Each member will receive a letter with the access code and procedure to use the autopatch as well as a speed dial directory of members and emergency numbers.

Field Day chairman Max Douglas, Sr. reported that a location for the June 23-24, 2007 Field Day has not yet been determined.

Jim Mason inquired that if it was decided to operate as Class 2A as to whether the club would like to have an internal competition during Field Day between the members operating CW and those operating phone to see which team could make the most contacts, and possibly have a Steak & Beans Dinner following Field Day. The discussion was limited and no action was taken.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought to the floor.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Steve announced that the March meeting of the Owensboro Amateur Radio Club would be held on March 20 at Ryan's Family Steakhouse at 4500 Frederica Street at 6:00 p.m. with ARRL guests Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver and Kentucky Section Manager John Meyers in attendance.

President Steve announced that the counting of ballots for the position of Kentucky Section Manager was taking place today. Current Section Manager John Meyers chose not to seek reelection at the end of his current term which expires at the end of March.

President Steve gave an update on the condition of Jack Wilson, K4SAC, who had previously been diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease. After three attempts at a biopsy, the surgeon has made the determination that the masses that previously were identified by a PET Scan are an inflammation of Jack's immune system, and that they are not cancerous. The condition is called Sarcoidosis. Treatment for the condition, if necessary, will probably be limited to steroids which is great news.

President Steve said that all the equipment needed for the TelPac node has been acquired and ready to install at Brescia University as soon as Jack is feeling well enough to assist.

The OARC VE team will hold a test session on Saturday, February 24 the day following the discontinuance of the five word per minute code requirement for the General and Extra class license upgrades.

Jim Mason, chairman of the ARES Group, reported that due to the fact that there is currently no Emergency Coordinator to lead the Daviess County program, the OARC group will be called the OARC Emcomm Group instead of the OARC ARES Group until a new Emergency Coordinator has been appointed for Daviess County.

OARC member Walter Atherton, who is also the deputy director for Daviess County Emergency Management Agency, said that the EMA has not been successful working with Amateur Radio in the last few years. He said that he and EMA Director Richard Payne had recently had a meeting with President Steve and Jim Mason to discuss some apparent conflicts between the OARC and the recently formed regional ARES group. Walter said that if he has said anything or offended anyone, it was not intentional and he apologized. He added that "We need you", meaning the OARC, and that "We'll do whatever we can for you on Field Day."

President Steve thanked Walter for coming and stated that the OARC has a long history of assisting EMA and that we would continue to be available to help whenever requested.

Steve announced that he is looking at the possibility of a new meeting location utilizing either a room at the main campus or the downtown campus of the Owensboro Community & Technology College.

President Steve said that we need to look at the Constitution and By-laws as well as incorporating (again) and seeking 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

President Steve also announced that beginning on Monday evening, February 26, at 8:30 p.m. following the Hancock Amateur Radio Association's weekly net, the OARC would be holding a SKYWARN training net on the K4HY repeater.

The meeting was then turned over to Vice-president Harvey Bowlds who presented an excellent training program for the Extra Class exam on "Understanding Phases in Electronic Circuits".

The meeting was formally adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Members in attendance were:

Steve Morgan, W4NHO – President  
Harvey Bowlds, WA4IJQ – Vice-president  
Max Douglas, W4VJV – Treasurer  
Jim Mason, W4RCX – Secretary  
Bob Spears, AA4RL  
Joe Burdette, KI4OYF  
Gayle Young, KI4TEO  
Walter Atherton, KI4FIK  
Ken Adkisson, KG4QMM  
Mark Osborne, K4LB  
Schley Cox, W4AMW