

Owensboro Amateur Radio Club

MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2007 MEETING

The Owensboro Amateur Radio Club held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on March 20, 2007 at Ryan's Family Steakhouse at 4500 Frederica Street in Owensboro, Kentucky with President Steve Morgan presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:57 p.m. following dinner.

President Morgan introduced our guests from the American Radio Relay League, Jim Weaver, Great Lakes Director, and John Meyers, the Kentucky Section Manager. Other guests included Jim and Cindy Wedding (KF4PSP and KF4ROA) from the Hancock Amateur Radio Association; Bob Northern (KE4WHY); Janie Mason, Bianca Osborne, Serena Osborne, and Wren Osborne. President Morgan had each ham to tell what they like most about Amateur Radio.

Since all members had been provided with advance copies of the minutes of the February meeting, a motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Harvey Bowlds, chairman of the Repeater Committee, reported that several problems had been identified concerning the repeater which were being corrected slowly. An apparent lightning strike had damaged some of the components which have been replaced. The autopatch feature of the controller is working again. The transmitter is operating on low power, ten watts, at the current time due to noticeable noise when the transmitter is operated at higher power during long duty cycles. This is one of the problems that have not yet been corrected, but is being studied and will be corrected.

A Hustler G-144 antenna has been ordered to replace the one on the tower and will be installed after permission has been obtained from our host, Owensboro Municipal Utilities. Speed dial codes and procedures for operating the autopatch will be mailed to all members.

Max Douglas, Sr, Field Day Committee chairman reported that a location for this year's Field Day has not yet been finalized. Yellow Creek Park is not available to us again this year because of the bluegrass festival that will be taking place that weekend and utilizing most of the park.

Jim Mason reported that the TelPac node which will be used for Winlink e-mail communications has not yet been installed at Brescia University. Jack Wilson, who will be directing the installation, is still having some health issues that have not allowed him time to work on the project.

President Morgan, who is the net control operator for the Owensboro Amateur Radio Club SKYWARN Training Net on Monday nights at 8:30 p.m. on the K4HY repeater, reported that participation has been up and down for the weekly net.

NEW BUSINESS

President Morgan announced that the meeting location for the Owensboro Amateur Radio Club will be moved to the Owensboro Community & Technical College (OCTC) campus on New Hartford Road in Owensboro beginning with the April 17th meeting and continuing through the summer months. The meetings will be held on the first floor of the Humanities building.

President Morgan announced that Secretary Jim Mason has resigned as chairman of the OARC Emcomm Group, and also that the club is in need of an editor for the club newsletter.

Mason reported on the SONS 07 meeting that was held in Henderson on March 22. SONS 07 stands for Spills Of National Significance 2007. This is an exercise that is being sponsored and coordinated by the United States Coast Guard which will take place in June of this year. Amateur Radio will be involved for the first two hours of the operation and will test its capability to provide communication up and down the Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi rivers between Louisville and St. Louis. Most of the traffic will be handled using VHF simplex transmissions.

Secretary Mason reported that the Executive Committee consisting of President Morgan, Vice-President Harvey Bowlds, Treasurer Max Douglas, Sr., and himself have been working on a revision to the club's Constitution & Bylaws during the past month. The reason for the revision is to make the documents compliant with IRS requirements for a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Mason said the club had its corporation charter deactivated by the Secretary of State in 1995 for failing to file an annual report. He said that the club can regain good standing as a Kentucky corporation by filing the annual report for 1995, paying a penalty of \$56.00, and refiling the club's Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State.

Members were provided a copy of the revisions to the club's Constitution & Bylaws to the members present and Mason then moved to adopt the revised Constitution & Bylaws. The motion to adopt was seconded by Jim Hunt. The motion to adopt was then tabled upon motion by George Wilson in order to put it on the agenda for the April 20th meeting.

The floor was then given to outgoing Kentucky Section Manager John Meyers for remarks who said that it was difficult to give up his position. He said it is not easy being Section Manager, but it is gratifying. Jim Brooks will become the new Kentucky Section Manager on April 1st. Meyers took the opportunity to recognize Bud & Nancy Cook for their work with the Kentucky Traffic Net.

Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver acknowledged George Wilson as one of the great leaders in the ARRL. George has been the only ARRL president to serve from the Great Lakes Division. Weaver talked about Meyers' service to the state Amateur Radio

community, the FCC's decision to drop code as a requirement for licensure, Broadband Over Powerline (BPL), and the reorganization at ARRL headquarters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Members in attendance were:

Steve Morgan, W4NHO
Harvey Bowlds, WA4IJQ
Max Douglas, Sr., W4VJV
Gayle Young, KI4TEO
Jim Hunt, KA4FWI
Billy Morton, K4BFM
Mark Osborne, K4LB
Joe Burdette, KI4OYF
Nancy Cook, WD4IYH
Bud Cook, WD4IYI
Walter Smola, N4WJS
David Heath, N9GYB
George Wilson, W4OYI
Jim Mason, W4RCX