

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting – April 6, 2021

Officers Present: President: Anthony Wiese, **KG6LHW** / Vice President: Ben Adams **KK6SYJ** / Secretary: Sherry Lisby **KM6YRQ** / Treasurer: Marcy Campbell **KE6IAU** / **Position open:** R.A.I.N. Newsletter Editor / Past President: Peter Esko **W6IES**

Vice President Ben Adams **KK6SYJ** chaired this month's meeting and called the meeting to order at 19:01 local time on the Humboldt Amateur Radio Club repeater due to the COVID-19 Shelter In Place (SIP) order. Roll was collected via an email to the Secretary, and the Secretary filled the logbook; a total of 25 members and/or guests attended the on-air meeting.

Vice President Words of Wisdom:

- After a year of sheltering in place, Ben **KK6SYJ** is looking forward to seeing everyone in person and encourages everyone to continue wearing masks and social distancing.

Secretary's Report:

- March minutes were moved for approval as corrected by Dan Eaton **KB6DE** and seconded by Jaye Inabnit **KE6SLS**. There were no opposing votes raised.

Treasurer's Report:

March starting balance: \$ 2414.23
\$ 49.00 HARC membership dues \$20 and a COVID refund of \$29.00
\$ (177.73) Expenses – \$177.73 for tuner
March ending balance: \$ 2414.23

- Dan **KB6DE** asked if we still have a savings account and if so, what is the balance. Marcy Campbell **KE6IAU** advised we do not have a savings account. Trailer registrations are still in process. She should be getting something in the mail soon on the bigger trailer. She is still waiting for Reggie to write a letter to release the lien on the smaller trailer. The club's tax-exempt status has been filed and it will take 16-18 weeks, so we most likely won't have it until November 2021.

VE Report:

- Dan Eaton **KB6DE** stated he has nothing to report. Advised Daniel Martin **AG6JW** may be holding testing in April, but he has not received any information from him. Contact info for Daniel **AG6JW** is on the ARRL website.

EmComm Report:

- Peter Esko **W6IES** advised the Comm Academy is being held this weekend, April 10 & 11. Information is available at www.commacademy.org. (The emergency communications training conference is free, but you must register through Eventbrite for access. The event will be on YouTube at stream.commacademy.org). Anthony Wiese **KG6LHW** encouraged everyone to attend.

- Anthony **KG6LHW** stated the EC001 class starts on 04/21/2021, and he recommends it for everyone. You need to take the prerequisite classes, which can be taken concurrently.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised the next MBEMS net will be on 04/12/2021 at 20:00 on HARC repeater. This digital net meets every other Monday using FLMSG and FLDIGI. He advised he can be reached at KG6LHW@ARRL.NET for more info.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** stated there were eight check-ins last week for WINLINK Wednesday, which is another digital net. He encouraged everyone to try to use WINLINK more, as it's the future for digital comms and emergency management. It is available to Technician class. Procedure is a reminder will be sent on Tuesday; participants can send message to Anthony **KG6LHW** at any time on Wednesday; and he'll do a wrap up of the day's events on Thursday.

Workshops:

- Howard Lang **KB6NN** advised 04/20/2021 – Anthony **KG6LHW** will do a virtual tour of the revamped communications trailer at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Information will be sent shortly before the workshop.

Tube Contests:

- Furthest DX QSO this month: Matthew Renner **KN6CEI** had a contact in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 10 m on digital and was the winner this month. Jaye **KE6SLS** had a contact in Adak, Alaska on 75 m.
- Most QSOs this month: Matthew **KN6CEI** had 80 contacts this month.

Trailer Report:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised Cliff VanCott **KN6CEJ** and Richard Kern **KN6RK** programmed the Kenwoods. Ben **KK6SYJ** finished working on the lights. We have both regular and red lights, so we can have night ops. He also put in under-cabinet lights, as well as a light that works on the overhead switch.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised Howard **KB6NN** built a 40 m dipole that is resonant near the WINLINK band and will likely be building an 80 m one.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised he installed the matchbox tuner, and it's a beauty. The larger matchbox is in there but is out of circuit at the moment.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised the trailer was deployed once last month during the tsunami siren drill near the temporary EOC.

Website Report:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** stated Jaye **KE6SLS** has been looking into the QRZ webpage and updating it. He changed the contact for the page to Anthony **KG6LHW**. The trustee paperwork has been submitted and should be back soon.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised he and David Boyd **KE6CEH** have been working to keep the rosters on the website updated as membership changes.

New Club Members:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** welcomed new members Don Verwayen **KF6JB**, Nick Stine **KN6FXJ**, John Bracklow **KN6KFO**, and Randy Terra **KN6NSK**. New club members were invited to share how they got into ham radio and a little about themselves if they were attending the meeting.

- John **KN6KFO** advised he is in Fieldbrook and got into this through Cliff **KN6CEJ** and CERT as well as Scott Binder **AB6TR** who got him into Baofeng's. He then got a mobile radio from a neighbor and a j-pole.
- Randy **KN6NSK** near Henderson Center in Eureka got his general license about a month and a half ago after encouragement from Jaye **KE6SLS**. He is interested in radios and electronics, lockdown during COVID was a great time to get his license and get started.

HARC Net Control Report:

- Howard **KB6NN** announced he will be net control in April.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** stated Anthony **KG6LHW** usually takes June, and Anthony confirmed he will be net control.
- Steve Isherwood **KK6MPV** reminded everyone later that he still needs someone for net control in May. Anyone who wants to be net control should let him know.

Rainbow Ridge:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised that he went to the repeater on Saturday, April 3rd, with Don Nelson **WA6NBG**, Don Campbell **KE6HEC**, Dexter Luther **AG6DA**, and Ben **KK6SYJ** at 9:00 am to install the repeater. The new controller would not work with the repeater, so Don **WA6NBG** sent it back and they used the fixed repeater as it was. They replaced the feedline, check the antennae, and install the repeater, lightning arrester, and circulator. A silent key donated equipment to the club years ago, and Don **WA6NBG** kept track of it...half of it was sold and half lingered. It ended up being about \$900 and Don **WA6NBG** paid \$1,400 for the equipment needed for the repeater. They left Rainbow Ridge around 6:00 pm. They spoke with Matthew **KN6CEI** from Blue Lake on the trip.
- Don **WA6NBG** advised extra transmission line of about 30-35 ft left in the building from before, which was removed. They strung new transmission line from the antenna to the entrance, then the lightning arrester (brand name PolyPhaser) was added. The circulator was installed to keep stray RF radio frequency from going into the amplifier and is also a great SWR protector. The repeater doesn't have great mobile performance in Eureka but that wasn't the intent. It's more of a countywide back-up radio system. The transmitter put 25 watts into the duplexer and 20 watts out of the duplexer, which is pretty good. The receiver is not a commercial receiver, but it works good enough.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** estimates the repeater is about 30 years old. It was at the FAA site until 09/11/01, then it had to be moved due to homeland security concerns. Other clubs and agencies are interested in possibly pooling money to get a new repeater up there. More information to come on how much money that might entail for the club. He took notes on how long it took to get up there, took detailed notes as well as photos. He and Don Campbell **KE6HEC** are putting this information together to have available.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** hasn't had a chance to look into the digipeater, but he will be working with Don **WA6NBG** on this. Anthony **KG6LHW** will send latitude, longitude information to Jaye **KE6SLS**.

Past Events:

- **Portable Ops Show & Tell:** Ben **KK6SYJ** was very happy with this event that Anthony **KG6LHW** put together and there are likely to be more themed events like this. Anthony **KG6LHW** reported eight club members participated. There were four

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components consisting of 1) spontaneous event with participants locating the event using GPS coordinates; 2) setting up and showing off portable VHF/UHF station; 3) practicing voice drills where a 5-sentence message was relayed to see how much of the message made it all the way through (not much); and 4) digital work sending a checklist via digital...sent 9 times, no errors. Will be doing another event like this using portable HF.

- **Tsunami Siren Event:** Anthony **KG6LHW** advised they did a proper incident action plan with many players. He thinks they may do another meeting with HARC and provide an after action report. There were a lot of good components as well as items that left room for improvement. Cliff **KN6CEJ** felt this was really illuminating to learn about ranges such as figuring out Big Lagoon could talk to Eureka but not Trinidad. A network link along the coast is a good idea.
- **American Red Cross:** Anthony **KG6LHW** advised ARC had a digital drill a couple of weeks ago. He was able to send WINLINK info to Sacramento via a node. 40 m was just too long, moved to 80 m but ran out of time. He advised David **KE6CEH** was able to send info to Sacramento as well. Matthew **KE6CEI** advised he was able to successfully send the check-in message to Sacramento via 80 m that morning and got a return message back that they received it.

Future Events:

- **CommAcademy:** This weekend April 10 & 11 through Eventbrite and YouTube.
- **Redwood Empire Endurance Riders (REER):** This is an equestrian group in the greater Humboldt area that has three events coming up that would be good opportunities for participation by club members:
 - May 29 & 30 - Chalk Rock Ride
 - August 14 – Orick in Redwood National Park
 - September 11 & 12 - Cuneo Creek
- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised there was an emergency related to a rider injury a couple of years ago during the Orick/Redwood National Park event that demonstrated the importance of having amateur radio available during events like this, especially in remote areas, to call 911.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Steve Isherwood **KK6MPV** advised he has been reading numerous accounts that the Buddipole is having a massive QSO party. It happens on various frequencies at various times. He recommended doing a search online to find out when they are happening.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:07 PDT.