

# Humboldt Amateur Radio Club

## Minutes of Meeting – May 4, 2021

Officers Present: President: Anthony Wiese, **KG6LHW** / Ben Adams **KK6SYJ** / Secretary: Sherry Lisby **KM6YRQ** / **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 19:00 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 28 members and/or guests attended the on-air meeting.

### Secretary's Report:

- May minutes were moved for approval as corrected by Jaye Inabnit **KE6SLS** and seconded by Bob Rocha **WB6QPG**. There were no opposing votes raised.

### Treasurer's Report:

April starting balance: \$ 2285.50  
\$ 175.00 HARC membership dues  
\$(301.03) Expenses – Antenna cables, reporting to  
Secretary of State

April ending balance: \$ 2159.47

May starting balance: \$ 2159.47  
\$ 45.00 HARC membership dues  
\$(1581.63) Expenses – Reimbursement to Anthony for  
Trailer expenses, liability insurance

May ending balance: \$ 622.84

- Anthony Wiese **KG6LHW** advised he was reimbursed too much and left a check for Marcy. She advised it will be added back into the balance for June's figures.

### VE Report:

- Dan Eaton **KB6DE** stated they held in-person testing on 05/15/2021 at 10:00 am resulting in 5 new technicians:

LeAnna M Carson-Hansen, Sommes Bar & CERT member – KN6PAL  
Guy A Aronoff, Bayside - KN6PAM  
Brian W Dorman, McKinleyville – KN6PAN  
Daryl Chinn, Arcata - KN6PAO  
Aaron D Cole, Eureka – KN6PAP

VEs were Dan **KB6DE**, Sherry Eaton **KK6MPY**, Kirby Bay **KE6ZPF**, and new VE Rus Gustavson **NQ6F**.

### EmComm Report:

- No EmComm Group report.

Submitted by Sherry Lisby: 2021\_06-01\_HARC\_V1.0\_Minutes\_Pending\_Approval

- AuxComm report: Anthony **KG6LHW** said he has nothing new as the OES has been busy.
- WinLink Wednesday report: Matthew Renner **KN6CEI** advised WinLink Wednesday is still happening every Wednesday. Contact him at **KN6CEI@ARRL.NET** for more info and to get on the roster.
- NBEMS Net report: Jaye **KE6SLS** advised this net has been fun and a good challenge. Hardware issues have been resolved. They just started using more FL Digi applications on transmitting messages and learning when to use various methods. Everything is on 2m now but may add some HF. It's inexpensive and fun.

#### Workshops:

- Howard Lang **KB6NN** stated the 06/15/21 workshop is booked but not confirmed. Details will be announced when it is confirmed.
- The May workshop was building a dipole out in the field. He said Anthony **KG6LHW** did a lot of work putting this together. One person went home with a completed antenna, others were still in progress.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** stated the dipole workshop was racing the sun, as they started at 19:00 pm and ran out of light. David Boyd **KN6CEI** completed his 80m dipole, strung it up, and hit a WinLink node in Reno with it.
- Rod Ledbetter **KG6JAZ** gave a teaser for the 06/15/21 workshop he will be hosting. They will be trying to combine an Arduino and a GPS unit into something that ham radio operators can use.

#### Tube Contests:

- Furthest DX QSO this month: Jaye **KE6SLS** had a check-in on 05/31/21 on the APRS net from the Philippines, which was about 6,700 miles away. The week before went up to 20m and had a contact with a station calling CQ on the phone band (**VK4SX**) which was 7,006 miles away in Australia. Matthew **KN6CEI** had a contact on 05/31/21 on 20m phone with **LY73BB** in Lithuania, which was 5,513 miles away. Ben **KK6SYJ** reported that while he was at the HF show & tell, he connected with **KI5NEY** in Oklahoma, which was 1,600 miles away. Jaye **KE6SLS** won the furthest DX QSO this month.
- Most QSOs this month: Richard Kern **KN6RK** had about 200 contacts including FT8.

#### Trailer Report:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** reported he installed the 40Ah battery from Larry Buerer **KK6EEO** & Jeannie Buerer **KW1LTD**. It was used for crossbanding and digipeating for 36 hours over the last weekend, and it performed great.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised the two 125' RG8U coax cables have been labeled as HARC's with dates purchased. They are in the comm trailer now. The trailer has been cleaned and returned to Eureka Water Works.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** said the tower trailer doesn't look very nice. He tried to open the back door, but the foam gasket is sticking to the doorframe. That's why the coax is in the comm trailer right now. Asked Ben **KK6SYJ** or Steve Isherwood **KK6MPV** to pull the tower trailer out, go get it cleaned up, and see if door can be opened and wax the seal so it doesn't stick anymore. Also need to put the coax into the tower trailer once it can be opened.

- Steve **KK6MPV** stated he has his own power washer. He'll power wash it and put silicone gel on the seal.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** thanked Steve **KK6MPV** for hauling the comm trailer up to Bridgeville for last weekend's Chalk Rock Ranch event.
- Marcy Campbell **KE6IAU** advised she received notarized documents for the small trailer last week and they have been sent in. The papers for the large trailer were lost, so she had to fill them out and send them in again.

#### Website Report:

- David Boyd **KN6CEH** there are no new features on the website. The digital bulletin is posted within minutes of it going out on Mondays. He did request that net control stations check net preambles and the rosters on a regular basis.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** stated they are still working on the domain name and changing it over to an active member. He will contact the host if it is not done within a week or so.

#### HARC Net:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised the Vice President is now the Net Control Manager for the HARC net. He is working on getting secondary net control stations for nets. He will be the secondary for June HARC nets, while Anthony **KG6LHW** is primary net control for June.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised we need a net control stations for July through the end of the year.
- David **KN6CEH** advised there will be a list of primary and secondary net control stations for HARC net only.

#### Rainbow Ridge:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised the TNC is ready. We still need a 2m mobile radio with a lock facility. An antenna was offered, but it was too large. He is still looking for a 4 to 5 ft antenna.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised he has a spare FT2200 radio.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised the test net in May was good for the first 10-15 mins, then there was a lot of static. There has been no noise on the repeater since then, so they aren't sure what happened. He is working with Don Nelson **WA6NBG** and Jaye **KE6SLS** to see about replacing the repeater itself.
- Don **WA6NBG** had nothing additional to add, saying it appeared to be an anomaly.
- Steve **KK6MPV** advised he may have a Diamond antenna that might work.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** asked Steve **KK6MPV** to email him about the Diamond and advised the FT2200 will work. He had nothing to add on the test net.
- Matthew **KN6CEI** stated everything seemed fine on the repeater for signal checks prior to the net, then as the net started the static happened.

#### Muni Repeater:

- Don **WA6NBG** advised the battery bank he has been looking at is pretty big. It could be used for both Rainbow Ridge and HARC. It is about 15 years old. The government agency hasn't determined how they are going to deal with it yet. He will keep us updated.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised United Rentals has a stair climbing dolly that we can look into to move it.

## Past Events:

### HF Portable Day:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised he had a blast at HF Portable Day, happy to finally be able to put his tower together. He learned a lot.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** stated it was a secret location until he sent out the latitude & longitude of the location an hour before the event. About 12 people came, and there were 8 or 9 stations set up. Everyone made contacts outside of Humboldt County, especially with Reno.

### Redwood Empire Endurance Riders (REER) Chalk Rock Ranch:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** said the REER Chalk Rock event has been going on for 45 years now, and this is the first time they've really had ham radio support since we usually assist with the Kinetic Sculpture Race. There are two races per day of 30 and 50 miles. A check-in station is located at base camp and at another location on the opposite end of the course. There is no cell reception at ground level. There is a lot of topography between the two check-in stations, so he did not think VHF was going to work for that. He had been talking with Don **WA6NBG** about trying 80m for daytime comms during the Tour of the Unknown Coast, so they had 80m dipoles set up for this REER event. They could not talk on simplex between the two locations with VHF. NBEMS worked great, and they also passed digital traffic with via WinLink.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** wanted to try the crossband repeater in the comm trailer. They took it up to a landing at about 2,300 ft. They set it up for UHF and VHF, and it worked great. They could communicate using handhelds in camp via the repeater.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** wanted to try APRS on racers. These events use sweep or drag horses most of the time, but not this time. The idea was to put an HT in a saddle bag on the sweep horses or the last racers and pull it in via simplex to Anthony in base camp with a different antenna and a radio with a TNC that Jaye **KE6SLS**. They were able to put the HT in a racer's saddle bag. Don **WA6NBG** found a software called Pinpoint APRS. They could download maps to cache while they were offline. They were able to pull down simplex beacons from the horses.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** worked with Don **WA6NBG** & Jaye **KE6SLS** to get a digipeater in the comm trailer. They could broadcast their APRS beacon through the internet, and people at home could watch what they were doing.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** used the APRS beacon to go find his HT after the race. He was also able to guide David **KN6CEH** to a turn for a checkpoint using APRS.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** was able to send an updated roster to Don **WA6NBG** via VHF simplex from laptop to laptop.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** asked the deployed crews to use an ICS 214 form to log time, which helps with tracking how much time we spend on these events and also helps get funding. Both did the form on paper then David **KN6CEH** sent a digital version via WinLink.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** wants a couple of people to join him on a mini-committee to explore how we can incorporate APRS in the future. If we put a digipeater in the small trailer and put it up on a mountaintop at future events like this, that would be great. Comm trailer needs to remain at basecamp. Another idea is to have a monitor on the outside of the trailer showing the APRS beacons on the different riders or different support crew to the public. The next race is in Orick in August.

### Future Events:

- Field Day in June 2021: After some discussion, the decision was made not to have Field Day in person as a club this year. Make sure you read the rules if you want to participate individually and how to enter under our club's name.

### Miscellaneous Items:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** has been working on a low noise HF receiving antenna to minimize local interference. He had been doing some research and Rus sent him a link to an engineering study that was quite interesting. There is a 4 ft loop you can just put on your patio or a stand. There is another one that is a loop on the ground (LOG) that is 60 ft of wire that is arranged in a 15 ft diamond pattern in the backyard fed with a transformer...was about \$30 from DX Engineering. He used that with a piece of coax cable (RG6). He checked in on the Country Cousins net on 75m and it was wall-to-wall static until he switched to the LOG. It worked great. Rus will be checking out the 4 ft loop vertically oriented. If you want details, email him at KE6SLS@ARRL.NET and he will send you the links.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** is working on bringing Packet WinLink to Humboldt County. If anyone wants to try it, they will just need a 2m radio. He will send out a notice on the HARC reflector once it's up so people know it's available to test.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** has noticed not many people are listening to FWRA and HARC lately day or night. He's encouraging people to listening in and checking in from time to time. This is a great opportunity to welcome visitors who may check in and give them local info.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised QRZ has our club callsign trustee as David **KN6CEH**.
- Yahoo is sending HARC/ARRL emails to SPAM lately, so need to watch for that.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** has been working on a project with Dan Martin **AG6JW** in Hydesville on a handout for new hams. He gave several packets to Dan **KB6DE** and has received comments from new hams that it is helping. It will be put on the HARC website. Please let him know if you have any comments, corrections or suggestions.
- Cliff VanCott **KN6CEJ** advised there is no net control station set up for the Arcata Emergency Net signed up for June going forward.
- Steve **KK6MPV** advised the luncheons on Thursdays have resumed at 11:30 at Village Pantry in Eureka. He is encouraging people to start going again.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:35 PDT.