

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting – August 3, 2021

Officers Present: President: Anthony Wiese, **KG6LHW** / Ben Adams **KK6SYJ** / Secretary: Sherry Lisby **KM6YRQ** / **Position open:** R.A.I.N. Newsletter Editor

Vice President Ben Adams **KK6SYJ** chaired this month's meeting and Anthony Wiese **KG6LHW** called the meeting to order at 19:00 local time at Murray Field. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with Greg Waters KJ6OUI leading. Roll call was conducted and members signed the logbook; a total of 18 members and/or guests attended the in-person meeting.

Secretary's Report:

- July minutes were moved for approval by Tyson Moore **KF6AAL** and seconded by Kevin Bayless **KK6MPT**. There were no opposing votes raised.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Marcy Campbell **KE6IAU** was not in attendance this month due to spinal surgery. Anthony **KG6LHW** stated she will email figures to us later. He also advised Marcy **KE6IAU** stated she has been working on the nonprofit status, and it is done. Jaye Inabnit **KE6SLS** our 501c3 status is current. Anthony **KG6LHW** reminded everyone club dues are due this month. Don Nelson **WA6NBG** advised the HARC membership has nothing to do with the Monday night emergency nets. Being a HARC member does not translate to being a member of the roll call for those nets.

VE Report:

- Dan Eaton **KB6DE** advised there was no testing scheduled for July due to a conflict with the fire department's schedule. There will be a test the third week of August in Fortuna. So far there are three people signed up for it. The website is updated with testing information.

Christmas Party 2021

- Ben **KK6SYJ** contacted the Humboldt Area Foundation regarding reserving space for it, but they are not open to the public for now. We are on a waiting list for it. Anthony **KG6LHW** asked if it was agreeable not to have it if HAF doesn't open up. No objections but the space at the Village Pantry was suggested as a plan B option by Jaye **KE6SLS**.

EmComm Report:

- No EmComm Group report, but Anthony **HG6LHW** said Peter Esko **W6IES** texted him and said he is encouraging hams to take EC001 and other AuxComm training and to promote the development of the Humboldt County AuxComm.
- AuxComm report: Greg **KJ6OUI** advised he is developing a 3-day technician class in November with Humboldt Bay Fire on 11/06/21, 11/13/21, and 11/20/21. It is being marketed towards people who wouldn't normally seek out ham radio. There will be incentives such as snacks, a couple of meals, and raffle prizes with the final raffle prize being a programmed radio. He will need administrative, logistical

support and sponsorship for food. VEs will also be needed for the test on 11/20/21. He also had a meeting with Anthony **KG6LHW** and Cliff VanCott **KN6CEJ** to discuss the vision and mission of the AuxComm group. He has 22-24 pages written for an outline so far. The next meeting will be on 08/17/21 from 5:30-6:30, which will be more of a steering committee meeting.

- WinLink Wednesday report: Matthew Renner **KN6CEI** advised WinLink Wednesday is still happening every Wednesday. At the last HARC meeting, he had stated the WinLink participants were going to send a message to two contacts outside the county. The exercise was very successful, and everyone was able to make it work. The WinLink system will not accept an email from an outside email unless it is on the member's whitelist, so that exposed some potential issues. The email addresses are only active on the whitelist for about 6 months, so Matthew plans on doing this type of drill every 6 months to keep the whitelists up to date. He has also received a message from a member outside Humboldt County stating he is taking a WinLink training zoom class in southern California. It's all online, and everything is recorded and put on the group's website and YouTube channel. Matthew **KN6CEI** also created a simple website for the WinLink Wednesday group to direct people to for information, updates, etc. The address is humboldtwinlinkwednesday.net. The assignment for tomorrow's WinLink group is to visit the website. Mathew **KN6CEI** will send out an email with the information about the online class and the new website.
- NBEMS Net report: Jaye **KE6SLS** stated the net is still up and running. They only had 3 participants on Monday, August 2nd. They have been doing various assignments and have had a lot of learning experiences.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** expressed his appreciation to Matthew **KN6CEI** and Jaye **KE6SLS** for taking over the WinLink Wednesday and NBEMS nets. David Boyd **KN6CEH** also expressed appreciate to Jaye **KE6SLS** for pushing members to learn new things and encouraged anyone who wants to learn more about digital to join.

Workshops:

- Howard Lang **KB6NN** hosted the July workshop, which was a recap of the June 2021 Field Day via Zoom. He advised two or three people showed up, probably one of the best groups they've had.
- Greg **KJ6OUI** will be hosting an RDF introduction via Zoom on 08/17 at 7:00 pm. He advised he will discuss some thinks like a measuring tape Yagi, body fading, using a tiger tail. Anthony **KG6LHW** did a short show and tell related to this with an ELT (emergency locator transmitter) for aviation.
- The rest of the year is open.

Tube Contests:

- Most QSOs this month: Matthew **KN6CEI** won with 15-20 contacts in July. Kevin **KK6MPT** had a long-distance VHF contact at 8,000 feet on Mt. Shasta using Horse Mountain and talked to a contact in Ferndale.
- Furthest DX QSO this month: Jaye **KE6SLS** had several long-distance contacts in East Estonia (Rein Kolk **ES5RW**), Slovenia (Aleksander Zagar **S57S**), Poland (Zenon Kuciak **SP5INQ**), and Australia (Phil Evans **VK5EY** and Cory **VK4KA**). Both he and Randy Terra **KN6NSK** contacted the Cory **VK4KA** in Australia, so Jaye **KE6SLS** won since his house is farther away from Australia at 7,815 miles. Jaye **KE6SLS** hit a pileup in Europe at about 9:30 pm on 20m using his 20' hex

with 100w. Randy **KN6NSK** also hit a node in Australia for about 23 minutes on WinLink.

Trailer Report:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised registration for the large trailer is done and we are waiting for the paperwork on the smaller trailer to get here. He will be taking the large trailer to the horse race in Orick in two weeks.

Website Report:

- David Boyd **KN6CEH** stated testing information has been updated on the website. There is still a link to online remote testing, as that is still happening in some locations. The online swap meet has been updated with the gear from the silent key whose family gave gear to Jaye **KE6SLS** recently. Jaye **KE6SLS** stated there is a link on the HARC website that links over to photos of the gear.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** stated he is taking the domain name over from Marcy **KE6IAU** and is working on getting it done.

HARC Net:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised August is open so Jaye **KE6SLS** stated he can take it and Kevin **KK6MPT** volunteered to be his second.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised net control is still needed for Arcata and north. He encouraged everyone to take net control to get it done. Ben **KK6SYJ** stated the nets are VHF, no HF.

Muni Clubhouse:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** tried to set up a time with Jeff at the city to meet, but their schedules did not allow it. Still waiting to get that scheduled before we can move forward with getting the clubhouse cleared out. He reminded everyone that people will need to retrieve any gear/items they have stored there.

Rainbow Ridge Repeater:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised he is still looking into a digipeater with Dan Gribi **WD6AOJ** from SHARC. They are still collecting information, but it's not a high priority at the moment.

Muni Repeater:

- Don Nelson **WA6NBG** advised the back-up batteries are in a Coast Guard property and building in Trinidad, but they don't know who the batteries belong to, so he needs an official authorization to move forward. There is a battery charge conditioner that would go with the batteries. The Coast Guard is slow and has a couple of issues, so he's not pushing it. The county wants to replace the floor at their cost and to replace the floor, they have to move the batteries. The batteries were installed in 2006 and are being conditioned. They could be used for back-up batteries on one or both repeaters.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised we do have a temporary solution with Jim's battery. Carl Eggleston **KM6LIQ** has the battery, which is a 150 pound 250Ah gel cell lead acid battery. He put his charger on it and brought it back up. It was likely purchased between 2011 and 2013. The battery has 55-75% of its capacity left, which is about 130 to 180Ah. He cleaned up the terminals as well. Anthony **KG6LHW** will get in touch with Jeff at the city to see if we can coordinate to get it

up to the roof of the Muni soon. Ben **KK6SYJ** said he found a stair-climbing dolly at Don's Rent All. Don **WA6NBG** said if the rental is \$50 or less, he will cover the cost. Jaye **KE6SLS** advised we will need a DC/UPS switcher. He will be in charge of hooking it up to the repeater.

Kneeland Repeater

- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised the Kneeland Fire Dept is putting up a new antenna and would be willing to host groups. Anthony has tried to contact someone three times but has had no response. Jaye **KE6SLS** may be able to put him in contact with someone there.

Future Events:

- Redwood Empire Endurance Riders (REER): Horse race event will be at Redwood National Park on August 14th. This will be a one-day event. Anthony **KG6LHW** is heading that up and has communicators in place already. There will likely be a Zoom meeting ahead of time to go over everything.
- Live QSO Expo is an internet-based event on August 14 and 15. If you sign up, you have access to the videos for 30 days. The cost is only \$10 for everything.
- CA QSO Party is the first weekend in October. This is a 24-hour event and CA is the DX. Every county is its own entity. The goal is to talk to as many counties as possible for participants.
- Mad River Enduro is a bike race in Blue Lake that is being held the second weekend in October. Ben **KK6SYJ** advised he needs 6-8 communicators, ideally for both days but both days would not be required. It's VHF with a couple of stationary spots, and the rest would be mobile HTs. There will be no timing on our behalf. Contact Ben **KK6SYJ** for more information.
- PacifiCon is 10/15 to 10/17 in San Ramon maybe.
- FWRA picnic is on Sept 12th in Scotia, CA, in the Fireman's Park. The swap meet will also be held during the picnic.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Kevin **KK6MPT** brought up Thursday lunches at the Village Pantry and concern about continuing them due to COVID situation and wanted to get club input. Basically if people want to go, they can.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised Rod Ledbetter **KG6JAZ** has donated an antenna for APRS. It's a dual band 9dB gain 16-ft antenna. Kevin **KK6MPT** is donating land for it. This should get southern Humboldt back on APRS.
- Don **WA6NBG** offered to open up the hangar to show the club's vertical antenna and also there is also a bunch of tube radio stuff there that members are welcome to take.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised he received an email from Mark Nelson **AA6DX** saying that Bob Rocha **WB6QPG** lost his wife Wanda recently.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:15 PDT.