

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting – October 5, 2021

Officers Present: President: Anthony Wiese, **KG6LHW** / Vice President: Ben Adams **KK6SYJ** / Secretary: Sherry Lisby **KM6YRQ** / 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 25 members and/or guests attended the on-air meeting.

A moment of silence was observed for silent key Mark Nelson **AA6DX**.

Secretary's Report:

- Jaye Inabnit **KE6SLS** noted a correction was needed to the call sign for Ben **KK6SYJ** in the minutes. The minutes were moved for approval as corrected by Jim Falls **K6FWT** and seconded by Richard Kern **KN6RK**. There were no opposing votes raised.

Treasurer's Report: Sherry **KM6YRQ** provided the following for the Treasurer's report as Marcy Campbell **KE6IAU** was not able to attend:

September starting balance:	\$1,353.11
	\$ 775.00 - HARC membership dues & Humboldt Marathon
	<u>\$ (119.00) – Domain Fee</u>
September ending balance:	\$2,009.11

VE Report:

- Dan Eaton **KB6DE** advised there was testing in Fortuna on 09/18/21, and we have one new technician: Ryan Dunne **KN6QVH** from McKinleyville. VEs were Dan **KB6DE**, Daniel Martin **AG6JW**, Kirby Bay **KE6ZPF**, Jack Foster **KM6TE**. The next test opportunity will be on 10/16/21 at 10:00 am in Fortuna. Nobody is signed up at this time.

EmComm Report:

- Peter Esko **W6IES** advised there will be a meeting on air on 10/21/21 at 7:00 pm on FWRA. The discussion will be centered on where the group goes from here with regard to AuxComm. Will it be parallel but not competitive? AuxComm might not be for everyone. COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) will also be discussed, as it has recently been reorganized. They have a fulltime coordinator for countywide organization. If you cannot make the EmComm meeting, please call or email Peter **W6IES** with comments.
- Greg Waters **KJ6OUI** advised the AuxComm group is in the process of outlining the structure as well as volunteer goals and objectives. They are also outlining their purpose is and what they will do in the community. They are also working on a portable radio project and evaluating the current status of local community radios in places like schools, fire departments, and police departments. If you are

interested in joining AuxComm, you can go to the OES website and see what it takes to become a member. There are three levels for members: first level is for a person without a license but interested and taking two ICS courses; second level is for those who have a ham radio license and have taken the standard four courses required by the county; and the third is more of a management level with a few more courses and working in the EOC.

- Greg **KJ6OUI** advised the Great American Shakeout exercise coming up on 10/21/21 at 10:21 am. This will be a countywide exercise involving CalTrans, NWS, CERT, & AuxComm and will take 20-30 minutes of your time.
- Greg **KJ6OUI** said the Ham Cram will be on 11/06/21, 11/13/21, and 11/20/21 from 8 am to 4 pm at 3030 L in Eureka for anyone who wants to get their Technician license. There will be free lunches, snacks and raffle prizes.
- Matthew Renner **KN6CEI** gave the WinLink Wednesday report. KS, UT, NV, and OR stations have been checking in to the net. The net experimented with sending text messages via WinLink. On 10/06/21 the net will be looking at the WinLink position reporting system which allows you to send a position report via WinLink over RF & is also integrated into the APRS system. He will be giving a workshop in two weeks on WinLink, and an email will be sent out soon. You can email him at KN6CEI@ARRL.NET or go to www.humboldtwinlinkwednesday.net for more info.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised the NBEMS net picked up a new member in southern Humboldt. The net recently covered SSTV and transmitted images. They also sent digital messages with NBEMS software. There are a lot of new HARC members who dabble in NBEMS and aren't showing up for the net. He hopes to see them in the net soon. These are top tier activities for integrating radio and computer. He has been looking into free DV (digital voice) software and hopes to test it soon. A second soundcard is needed to use it. Bluetooth headsets are good for this type of application.

HARC Net Control Report:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised Anthony Weiss **KG6LHW** will be taking net control for October and will need a back-up NCS. Contact Ben at KK6SYJ@ARRL.NET if you want to be NCS or a backup for the nt.

ARRL Audio News:

- Randy Terra **KN6NSK** advised the new will be broadcast tomorrow night on the HARC repeater at 18:45.

Workshops:

- Howard Lang **KB6NN** was not available during the meeting to give a report.

Interesting Member Activities Last Month:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** mentioned he purchased a new radio a couple of months ago and has been using a Raspberry Pi. He says it is a perfect emergency ham radio computer.
- John Bracklow **KN6KFO** said he picked up a used Kenwood from Jaye **KE6SLS** and just got a dipole with tuner. He is currently getting it set up.

Tube Contests:

- Matthew **KN6CEI** hosted the tube contests for the meeting.

- Furthest DX QSO this month: Richard **KN6RK** had the furthest contact on FT8 in Ghana at 7,400 miles. David Boyd **KN6CEH** had a contact over 20m on FT8 in southern Japan at 5,088 miles. Matthew **KN6CEI** had a contact on 17m via phone to Costa Rica.
- Most QSOs this month: Richard **KN6RK** has 274 contacts in September.

HARC Bingo:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** announced HARC bingo that will be played on the HARC repeater in October. He revamped the cards and added new members. He will have some members reach out to approximately 7-8 members to encourage them to participate. The new cards were sent out via the HARC reflector. You need to make contacts with HARC members. When you make contact you need to get the year they were licensed and when the license expires. There are three ways to win: 1) get a regular bingo; 2) first bingo; and 3) most bingos. The contest starts on 10/06/21.

Trailer Report:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** mentioned the communications trailer was used at the Avenue of the Giants/Dyerville marathon event, and it worked great.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised the communications trailer will be used this weekend. He said that Don Campbell **KE6HEC** printed out the registration forms and they are now in each trailer. Anthony **KG6LHW** asked the club if the communications trailer could be used during the Great Shakeout event. There were no objections, so it will be used at the Woodley Island field day site. He asked if Steve Isherwood **KK6MPV** could put it out there, and Steve **KK6MPV** agreed to do so.

Website Report:

- David **KN6CEH** stated he is posting the digital bulletins to the website every week. He will continue to update the net rosters as needed. He mentioned Seer Snively **KM6MWO** has WordPress experience, so David **KN6CEH** will be working with him on the website. He is also working with Randy **KN6NSK** and will have a section on the website soon regarding the ARRL Radio News transmissions.

Domain Name:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised he needs to get the domain name project completed due to recent thefts of ham radio sites. He also mentioned the freshest bulletins come through on packet radio about 1.5 hours earlier than through our transmissions.

Muni Clubhouse:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised he has been in touch with Jeff at the City of Eureka. They have a meeting scheduled for this Thursday to discuss moving stuff out of the old clubhouse. He will also do a test run on 10/07/21 with Jaye **KE6SLS** to see if he can turn the repeater off and on remotely. He will update via the HARC reflector if he has any timely information regarding removing gear from the clubhouse.

Ed Fong Antenna Purchase:

- Kevin Bayless **KK6MPT** advised the order has arrived. If you didn't get an email from him, please contact him by email at KK6MPT@GMAIL.COM.

Rainbow Ridge Repeater:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised the digipeater is ready and waiting for a prominent site. He is working with Dan Gribi **WD6OAJ** on the Rainbow Ridge repeater. He mentioned the Rotary Club in Garberville is fundraising to get a primary machine and a backup machine on the mountain.

Muni Repeater:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** stated he located information on the battery charger and got it to Carl Eggleston **KM6LIQ**. They need to do work on the repeater as well as the remote control test. He advised the remote control test is critically because legally we need to be able to do it. He also advised all HARC board members will have access to the codes.

Kneeland Repeater:

- Don Nelson **WA6NBG** met with Bob at the Kneeland Fire Dept on 09/09/21. The tower is in Greenwood Heights at an elevation of about 1,900 ft. He conducted a test with Anthony **KG6LHW** in Blue Lake on VHF. It worked well into the Blue Lake area on simplex. Don **WA6NBG** saw things he doesn't like. The tower is a 50 ft tower and is for a repeater for the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association. The Kneeland Fire Dept does not have a base station. They use HTs. There is not much separation available on the tower between their antenna and ours. If we put our antenna at about 25 feet, it's in the trees. The metal roof nearby also creates a lot of multipaths. There is plenty of space inside, and they will have a solar site that is completely off the grid in case the power goes out. There is space for us inside at a couple of different locations. Don **WA6NBG** does not want to be the lead on this project if the club wants to take it on. Anthony **KG6LHW** said he was able to fly over this fire station recently and took a picture. He sent it to the HARC reflector. He will take over and move forward with the project.

Past Events:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** and Aleda Cloud **KK6YJB** took a camper trailer to the Redwood Empire Endurance Riders (REER) Cueno Creek event the first weekend in September arriving on Friday and left Sunday. There are no comms or cell phones up there. He asked the club to monitor the Rainbow Ridge repeater in case they needed assistance. They were able to locate a young jogger who went missing for a couple of hours and reunite her with her mother. They discovered they could not communicate handheld to handheld, so they had two portables set up. REER sent a nice thank you card, and we are invited back for future events.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised he was NCS for the Avenue of the Giants marathon. He was assisted by Steve **KK6MPV** and Joyce Isherwood **KJOYCE** as well as Don **KE6HEC**. They deployed the communications trailer and utilized the Grasshopper repeater and south Rainbow repeaters. The Rainbow repeaters were not programmed into the two radios in the trailers prior to the event. Ben **KK6SYJ** purchased two wheel chocks and some suction cups for the HARC banner on the sides of the trailers at events. It was a great event, and we've been asked to come back.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** reported on the CA QSO party that happened the first weekend in October. He went to the triple county border (Siskiyou, Humboldt & Del Norte) with David **KN6CEH** and Randy **KN6NSK** which involved going up a pretty steep road. They arrived on Friday and set up camp. They were on the air for about 26

hours and had 313 contacts. The farthest contact was a contact in either Slovakia or Slovenia. They used a 160m dipole on a 150 ft high tree branch. They also had contacts in Imperial County, Santa Cruz County, and Reno, NV. David **KN6CEH** said it was a lot of fun, and he learned a lot. They had 8 or 9 different antennas and he learned how to use a manual antenna tuner. The action was fast and furious at times. Randy **KN6NSK** did most of the CQing. Randy **KN6NSK** said it was a great time, and he had a lot of fun hanging out with Anthony **KG6LHW** and David **KN6CEH**. They saw a bear while they were up there. As a new HAM, contesting was fun for Randy **KN6NSK** and this pushed the boundaries for him. He feels like it made him a better operator. He encourages other hams to get involved in future contesting events. Anthony **KG6LHW** advised he sent out an email on the HARC reflector with some pictures.

Future Events:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised the Mad River Enduro bicycle race is on 10/09/21 and 10/10/21 in Blue Lake. General hours will be 8 am to late afternoon on Saturday and to lunch on Sunday. He will send out an email to those who have volunteered. Extra communicators are always welcome. The race location is between the Mad River Brewery and the fish hatchery. Please contact him at KK6SYJ@ARRL.NET if you are interested.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised Pacificon is being held from 10/15/21 to 10/17/21 at the San Ramon Marriott. Anthony **KG6LHW** stated he is going to go with Kevin **KK6MPT** and Greg **KJ6OUI**. There will be a swap meet there as well.

Agenda Additions

- Jaye **KE6SLS** asked that any members not receiving HARC emails contact him at KE6SLS@ARRL.NET so they can be added. He said we need people to scan the frequencies more often. He advised he has two high speed scanners available that can be purchased for \$50, and the proceeds will go to HARC. He is asking that people monitor 145.470, 146.700 and 146.520, as there have been many instances where people put out their call sign as they are driving through looking for some help and nobody answers. He also requested HARC meeting minutes and meeting agenda both be sent out earlier. He also advised Don **KE6HEC** needs someone to pick up the FWRA Wednesday net duties on 10/06/21.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:34 PDT.