

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting – November 2, 2021

Officers Present: President: Anthony Wiese, **KG6LHW** / Vice President: Ben Adams **KK6SYJ** / Treasurer: Marcy Campbell **KE6IAU** / 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 27 members and/or guests attended the on-air meeting.

A moment of silence was observed for silent key Gene Smith **KF6RZN**.

Secretary's Report:

- Sherry Lisby **KM6YRQ** advised Peter Esko **W6IES** had provided a correction for the minutes from the 10/05/21 minutes via email regarding COAD's coordinator position not being filled but that they are currently recruiting for a coordinator. Jaye Inabnit **KE6SLS** motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, and Steve Isherwood **KK6MPV** seconded the motion. There were no opposing votes raised.

Treasurer's Report: Marcy Campbell **KE6IAU** provided the following Treasurer's report:

October starting balance:	\$2,009.11
	\$ 910.00 – HARC membership dues (\$160) & Mad River Endurance Race donation (\$750)
	<u>\$ (134.00)</u> – Annual PO Box rental
October ending balance:	\$2,785.11

VE Report:

- Dan Eaton **KB6DE** advised there was testing in Fortuna on 10/16/21, and we have one new general: John C Maxwell **KN6RKM** from Ferndale. John passed both his technician and general on the same day, and he is also a member of Ferndale CERT. VEs were Dan **KB6DE**, Daniel Martin **AG6JW**, Kirby Bay **KE6ZPF**, Jack Foster **KM6TE**. The next test opportunity will be on 11/20/21 at 10:00 am in Fortuna. There are two people signed up so far.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised he is a new VE and believes David Boyd **KN6CEH** and Anthony Weise **KG6LHW** should be getting their credentials as well.

EmComm Report:

- Peter **W6IES** advised the EmComm group met on 10/21/21 and had an informal discussion regarding the EmComm group's future. His goal with the EmComm group was to have an AuxComm group in Humboldt County, which we have now. He proposed that we retire the EmComm group and move forward with the current AuxComm group. There were no objections to doing this. He stated David **KN6CEH** suggested we have drills every other month under AuxComm like we did with EmComm. No one objected to that. There will be no more EmComm

meetings, so the third Thursday of the month will be open now for any other HARC activities or nets.

- Greg Waters **KJ6OUI** advised the AuxComm group is still in the after-action review for the Great Shakeout. There may be some additional training that comes out of this review.
- 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 are 30 people signed up for it at this time. If anyone wants to help out with instruction/testing, please contact him at kj6oui@arri.net.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised Anthony **KG6LHW** had proposed that HARC donate \$75 to purchase lunch for the 11/06/21 Ham Cram class. Jaye **KE6SLS** mentioned we should add the Ham Cram to the calendar on the HARC website. Peter **W6IES** recommended class members a brochure and application for HARC. Joyce Isherwood **KJ0YCE** motioned to donate the money with the HARC brochures and application, and Steve **KK6MPV** seconded the motion. No one objected, so the motion carried.
- Don Nelson **W6NBG** advised a full WinLink exercise was held on 10/24/21. There were five participants with four field stations. Don **W6NBG** was net control and organizer of the event. There was one aviation observer and three marine operations observers in the field. The goal was to determine if there is a difference in propagation between a high location and low locations as opposed to the summer exercise where everyone was at ground level. There were issues with propagation in the summer exercise. There were no problems communicating during the exercise in October. Everything was on one frequency, 146.460 MHz. One station had a hard time getting going in the morning, but everyone worked through it and the station was set up for the afternoon. There were no communication failures or relays needed. Don was on Humboldt Hill at 400 ft, and all other stations were at ground level. The weather was a bit of an issue as it was stormy and it was predicted to be windy that day. The winds were not bad, but antennas were kept at a low level. A winter exercise is being put together, and details will be forthcoming. Ben **KK6SYJ** advised he appreciated the troubleshooting and resolution for the station that initially had issues being handled over the radio, as he learned a lot from the process.
- Matthew Renner **KN6CEI** gave the WinLinkWednesday report. The group did some weather reports using weather forms, used ICS214 forms, and used the WinLink position reporting. He purchased a GPS gadget for \$20 that plugs into the computer via USB and provides your latitude and longitude that is useful for the position reporting. The group will be working on whitelist contacts maintenance.
- Don **W6NBG** advised he applied to the county of Humboldt to get equipment and permission to use their Internet connection to establish a VHF local WinLink node. The concept is to put it at the courthouse and having it operate there, as there is standby power and a decent Internet connection there. There are talks of another one happening in another location for redundancy via a different Internet path. The network includes VHF nodes around the world that would give us email capabilities via radio. The county approved his request last weekend. He took a county computer home, set up the software, and hooked it up to his radio and antenna. There was a WinLink node over the weekend. David **KN6CEH** was able to check in, but Anthony **KG6LHW** was not able to check in from Blue Lake. The computer is also being used for another radio project this week to monitor some other radio

channels for the Sheriff's department, so it is not 100% dedicated to the WinLink node. There are some issues to clean up at the courthouse related to the antenna and filtering since it is a high RF environment. The antenna will be a dual-band antenna, long-term could be VHF and UHF frequency for the local WinLink node. He will let everyone know when it has been put up. It will be about 80 ft up in the air with good coverage from Trinidad to Fields Landing. It is yet to be determined how well it will work in Loleta, Ferndale and Fortuna.

- Jim Falls **K6FWT** asked if there was any interest in running HF station from the bunker. Don **W6NBG** advised the HF equipment in the OES is not currently hooked up, has not been for 18 months, and there is no timeline right now for it to be back in operation right now.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised the NBEMS net is still meeting every other Monday at 8 pm. There are a lot of operators who need to improve their NBEMS skills, but if more people don't join soon, he may retire the net and do more types of pick-up training.

HARC Net Control Report:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised the HARC net is completely open right now for NCS and backups including the month of November and beyond. Contact Ben at kk6syj@arrl.net if you want to be NCS or a backup for the net.

ARRL Audio News:

- Randy Terra **KN6NSK** advised the news will be rebroadcast tomorrow night on the HARC repeater at 18:45. He said it's been going smoothly and asked if anyone has anyone has any feedback on audio quality to let him know.

Workshops:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised the November meeting will be an Introduction to CERT by Linda Nellist. An invite to the Zoom meeting will be sent via the HARC reflector.

Interesting Member Activities Last Month:

- Steve **KK6MPV** said he advocates that when new members come on board we give them information on the club and maybe even a one-year membership to HARC to introduce them to HARC.
- Jim **K6FWT** said he can do some presentations on tube radio and old military equipment if we need a workshop date to be filled.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised he did some fixes on his antenna and feedline including some soldering. He also installed a PC card into his desktop to update firmware.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** operated a radio station in the backseat of his truck during the WinLink exercise and discovered the third brake light had a leak around it. He dropped the headliner and found some pinched coax. He replaced the coax and upgraded a mobile antenna and got it tuned to 1.1 on the HARC repeater frequency.

Tube Contests:

- Matthew **KN6CEI** hosted the tube contests for the meeting.
- Furthest DX QSO this month: Randy **KN6NSK** had the furthest contact with Australia at 7,083 miles. He also had a contact with Serge Tishkov **R0DX** in the

Asiatic Russia area in the Jewish autonomous region of Russia that was set up after WWII along the Chinese border. Matt **KN6CEI** advised SSB in 10m is working good right now. During the DX contest at the end of the month he worked South America and Japan on 10m.

- Most QSOs this month: Randy **KN6NSK** had the most QSOs with 300 contacts in September. Jaye **KE6SLS** had 100 contacts.

HARC Bingo:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised there were no bingos reported in October. Jaye **KE6SLS** had the most squares with 16 and won a Jitterbean gift card. Runners-up were Randy **KN6NSK** with 11, Anthony **KG6LHW** with 7, and Matt **KN6CEI** with 6. There are no more bingo games scheduled for now.

Trailer Report:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised the trailer worked perfectly during the CA Shakeout event. There is a suggestion for a second headset and foot switch option for the second dual band radio. He advised there is also a suggestion to install the IC 718 radio from the clubhouse in the trailer so we would have 2 HF dual band stations in the trailer. The one already in the trailer is a Kenwood V71A.

Website Report:

- David **KN6CEH** stated he is doing his best to keep the digital bulletins, calendar and resources updated. Calendar updates should be sent to him as they come up. He advised Seer Snively **KM6MWO** is doing a great job on the website and is very enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Seer **KM6MWO** said he is looking for videos, images or articles written by members to add to the website. He can also include members' personal website links in the members section.

Domain Name:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** stated he has no updates at this time. He will talk to Seer **KK6MWO** about the current website host.

Muni Clubhouse:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised we are officially moved out of the Muni as of the end of last week. Anthony **KG6LHW** spearheaded the project, and Dan **KB6DE**, Howard Lang **KB6NN**, Rod Ledbetter **KG6JAZ**, Dexter Luther **AG6DA**, & Jaye **KE6SLS** helped move everything out, so a big thank you to all of them. All chairs were accounted for and returned to their owners. A handful of unlabeled and unclaimed chairs are being stored for a short period of time. Jaye **KE6SLS** is the contact if you have a chair you need to pick up. All 3 Muni auditorium keys are with Anthony **KG6LHW** to be returned to the city. Our repeater is still on the Muni.

Ed Fong Antenna Purchase:

- Kevin Bayless **KK6MPT** advised all orders were picked up. He advised Ed was very easy to work with and gave the Club a great price.

Rainbow Ridge Repeater:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised there is some cool stuff coming, but he can't report on it right now.

Muni Repeater:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** stated there is no charger update right now. Anthony **KG6LHW** got access to the repeater, and they did a full run of shutting it down and starting it up remotely. Everything worked fine. He has documentation on it with pictures of the manual on the repeater. He will work with Seer **KM6MWO** to add it to the website so Board members will have access to the information.

Past Events:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** spearheaded the Mad River Enduro mountain bike race at Blue Lake on 10/09/21 and 10/10/21. He had a good number of volunteers working on Saturday and Sunday including David **KN6CEH**, Cliff **KN6CEJ**, Anthony **KG6LHW**, Forrest Schafer **KI6GRU**, Greg **KJ6OUI**, Don Campbell **KE6HEC**, Randy **KN6NSK**, and Sam Sanders **KI6NIE**. The NCS trailer was about a mile away from the headquarters for the race. Anthony **KG6LHW** was NCS on Saturday except for the last race, when Cliff **KN6CEJ** took over as NCS. Cliff **KN6CEJ** was also NCS on Sunday. They ran VHF/simplex via the Arcata simplex frequency. They tried UHF, but there was quite a bit of interference. This was a great opportunity to test the systems.
- Kevin **KK6MPT** advised Pacificon from 10/15/21 to 10/17/21 was really good, and there were four people from Humboldt that went down to San Ramon. They were able to attend various workshops and speak with manufacturers regarding the equipment.
- Don **KE6HEC** and Marcy **KE6IAU** went down to the Avenue of the Giants half marathon and provided radio communications as NCS at the start/finish line on 10/10/21. They experienced some difficulties with the Grasshopper Repeater, but it was a good event.

Future Events:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised HARC elections are in December, and all positions are open. He has been nominated by Anthony **KG6LHW** for HARC President, so he accepts the nomination to run. All members are encouraged to consider running for a position and be the change you want to see in the Club. You can email any of the current Board members, primarily Anthony **KG6LHW**, to have your name added to run for a position.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised there will be no holiday party in December this year.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** also reminded everyone the Ham Cram will be the first three Saturdays in November for training for the Technician license.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:29 PDT.