

Humboldt Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of Meeting – December 7, 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**

President Anthony Wiese **KG6LHW** 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 31 members and/or guests attended the on-air meeting.

Secretary's Report:

- Sherry Lisby **KM6YRQ** asked for any corrections or comments on the November 2021 minutes, and there were none. Richard Kern **KN6RK** motioned to approve the minutes as submitted, and Dan Eaton **KB6DE** seconded the motion. There were no opposing votes raised.

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

November starting balance:	\$2,919.11
	\$ 40.00 – HARC membership dues
	<u>\$ (10.00)</u> – DMV old trailer expense
November ending balance:	\$2,949.11

VE Report:

- Dan Eaton **KB6DE** advised there was testing in Fortuna on 11/20/21, and we have a new amateur extra: John Maxwell **KN6RKM** of Ferndale (that's three licenses within a month!). We have one new general: John Bracklow **KN6KFO** of McKinleyville. We also have three new technicians: George R Johnson **KN6RYY** of Hydesville, Darrell (Dick) G. Johnson **KN6RYZ** of Eureka, and Carl D Stout **KN6RZA** of Eureka. All three new technicians were in Don Campbell's class (**KE6HEC**). VEs were Dan **KB6DE**, Daniel Martin **AG6JW**, and Kirby Bay **KE6ZPF**. We also have a new technician who tested remotely on 11/23/21 via cell phone and computer: Albert (Weldon) Benzinger **KN6RVZ** of Kneeland.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** reported on the Ham Cram class for Greg Waters **KJ6OUI** as he was in a training class at the start of the monthly meeting. Thirty people signed up and he had three people on the waiting list. When the class started, only eight people showed up. Eight people tested electronically using county-provided computers, and six passed their technician exam. Anthony **KG6LHW**, Richard **KN6RK**, David Boyd **KN6CEH**, and Ben Adams **KK6SYJ** were electronic VEs. HARC donated \$36 for lunch the first Saturday of the class. Anthony **KG6LHW** gave a presentation on HARC, and several students are interested in joining the club.

WinLink Report:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised he thought it would be good to have a WinLink exercise every 3 months around each solstice and equinox. David **KN6CEH** will

be coordinating the WinLink Winter Field Exercise. He advised he will be working on that after the first of the year. He is looking for something interesting to do rather than just pass one message around the stations. If you have any ideas for a drill or exercise, please let him know. He will be getting something out on the exercise within the next 2-3 weeks.

- Don Nelson **WA6NBG** advised he did some testing of the local gateway with software and hooking it up to WinLink via the Internet. One test was successful, the other one had some issues. There is a computer that is designated for this gateway. He advised there are two issues that need to be monitored. The software has been up and running for the last couple of weeks, and while it's working okay so far, past exercises have shown it's not 100% stable. In conjunction with some other work that is going on with the OES group, we need to put a new antenna up for the WinLink system. It looks like there will be more than one antenna put up on the courthouse. Don **WA6NBG** is working with Greg **KJ6OUI** on the antennas. The old j-pole antenna literally disintegrated. There will need to be a new connector on the end. This is all doable by county staff. Don **WA6NBG** does not have a timeframe on this, but he's hoping by the first part of January we will have something going.
- Matthew Renner **KN6CEI** gave the WinLink Wednesday report. For the month of December, the net will be on cruise control. Members can send a message to check-in, and he will acknowledge them. He won't be doing any special projects during the month of December due to holidays. People who are interested in participating in the net can check on the website to find more information (www.humboldtwinlinkwednesday.net). People from CA, OR, UT, NV, KS, CO have been checking in to the net.

NBEMS Report:

- Jaye Inabnit **KE6SLS** reported that some of the NBEMS net controls are concerned about an attack on the Internet that would render WinLink disabled. This is why NBEMS is important as a point-to-point type of system. They are planning an exercise with this in mind, possibly a recurring exercise for NBEMS, moving traffic out of the county and into the county in a circular fashion. NBEMS is currently on hiatus. David "Lamar" Hudson **AE6LJ** put up information to do a pick-up net last night and ran it. They have some very fun stuff in the works for January and will have weekly exercises with the regular net still happening biweekly as usual. The first NBEMS meeting for 2022 will be Monday, 01/03/22, at 8:00 pm.

HARC Net Control Report:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** advised the HARC net is being handled by Randy Terra **KN6NSK** for December. Ben **KK6SYJ** is backup NCS. Please contact Ben **KK6SYJ** if you want to be NCS in January going forward.

ARRL Audio News:

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

Workshops:

- Howard Lang **KB6NN** advised last month's workshop was great and well attended.

Linda Nellist **W5JXO** gave an introduction to CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), and he has a much better appreciate for what CERT does now. There is no workshop planned for December, and he said January's workshop will be handled by someone else, as his term ends at the end of this month.

Interesting Member Activities Last Month:

- Ben **KK6SYJ** has been listening to APRS check-ins with an HT that can do it. He has purchased a Trak-4 that he will mount in a vehicle to do some APRS tracking with one side of a dual band radio.
- Don **WA6NBG** advised for the last couple of weeks he has acquired a larger solar panel, and his station is now 100% solar powered including lights, computer, and everything with a 200Ah battery and a portable battery as well.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** stated his station dropped to 12.99 volts due to no sun, but with the sun lately he is back up to 13.13 volts. He wanted to talk about wintertime conditions on 75 m and 80 m. Right now, a lot of stations are still new to HF and just check in to nets. They don't operate on low band, and it's very common for stations that are only 10 miles away from you to not be able to hear you due to wintertime conditions. A station 500 miles away may hear you. He recently loaned an HF station including digital apparatuses to another new ham and has been mentoring him.
- Howard **KB6NN** is in process of putting up his Christmas light dipole. He also did some direction by plotting a beam heading using a combination of google maps, a printer, a ruler, and a protractor.
- Jim Falls **K6FWT** has been fiddling on his workbench and successfully rejuvenated an old wrecked 1954 Delco table radio that an old friend gave to him that had belonged to the friend's dad. It was literally a rat's nest and in sad shape, but this summer the friend went silent key. Jim got it out, refurbished it, and sent a short video to his friend's sisters. He now uses it as his garage workbench radio and listens to it and helps him keep his friend and his friend's dad in his mind. Ben **KK6SYJ** mentioned Jim **K6FWT** is the guy to go to if you have a tube radio question.
- Steve Isherwood **KK6MPV** mentioned his base station, an FT-897, has been on solar since it's inception with two 40w panels from Harbor Freight on his roof. He has never had a problem getting out with his radio.

Tube Contests:

- Matthew **KN6CEI** hosted the tube contests for the meeting.
- Furthest DX QSO this month: Richard **KN6RK** hit 6 of the major continents today on FT8 with South Africa being his further DX. He was on 12m, 15m, 17m, and 20m.
- Most QSOs this month: Richard **KN6RK** had 258 contacts. Jaye **KE6SLS** had 200 contacts.
- Richard **KN6RK** proposed that we have a separate category for FT8.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised the antipode for our location is in the west side of the Indian Ocean near Madagascar. South Africa is about as far away from our location as we can get. Anthony's intention was to have two \$5 gift cards from local business to give out to the winners of the contests each month. He said we can do some paperwork to figure out who the winners were for the past two years. Peter **W6IES** put a motion forward to absolve Anthony **KG6LHW** of all debts

associated with the contests and just move forward with the contests just because it's a great idea. Steve **KK6MPV** seconded the motion. Richard **KN6RK** provided a third on the motion.

Trailer Report:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised there is nothing new to report. The licenses are in the trailer, and the pink slips are with the Treasurer. He would eventually like to run an event from the communication trailer's location at the water department. He proposed mounting the club's HF radio and tuner in the trailer so we would have two HF and two VHF/UHF radios in the trailer. Asked if anyone had an objection to mounting it in the trailer. No objections were heard.

Website Report:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised Seer Snively **KM6MWO** has approached the Board members with a lot of ideas for not just upgrades to the website but also licenses that Microsoft would give to nonprofits. He also suggested that when members, especially new members, pay money that they get something for it. Anthony **KG6LHW** recommended Seer **KM6MWO** wait until the new Board is installed to move forward with the presentation of his ideas. David **KN6CEH** stated he has nothing new to add this month, as most of the new development work is being done by Seer **KM6MWO**. Seer **KM6MWO** advised he put a new video up on the website for the GPS clock and is working on putting one up on the CERT presentation as well. Anthony **KG6LHW** advised he discussed continuity of government with Seer like having all the pink slips and registrations in one location where anyone on the Board can get to them, as well as the trustee license paperwork.

Domain Name:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** stated he and Seer **KK6MWO** discussed the new website system recently and will be instituting it. Jaye **KE6SLS** will be documenting the process. He will be making a phone call tomorrow to start the journey. They will be utilizing this system to share the documents. Jaye **KE6SLS** advised he will email Anthony **KG6LHW** regarding all of this shortly.

Rainbow Ridge Repeater:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** said this has been a learning curve and it's tough to buy new equipment right now. He spoke with RWS Communications in Fortuna, and they are backordered back to June right now. There are no repeaters available right now. Some companies are going to change gears and change to shipping via airfreight which will likely increase costs. He has joined a repeater group and has received a lot of fantastic feedback indicating he is on the right track. He spoke with Dan Gribi **WD6AOJ**, a HARC member who can't participate due to living in southern Humboldt and not being able to hear the repeater. They are collaborating on a formal request for donations that will likely go out soon and will include the HARC membership.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** has been working hard trying to get the fill-in digi accomplished. Kevin Bayless **KK6MPT** hosted the fill-in at his house, but it is not hearing any of the southern Humboldt digipeaters. They came up with a plan to move it to Ben's house (**KK6SYJ**) because he has elevation and is in a perfect location, but the

help didn't show up. Asked if anyone would have a ladder and ability to climb it as well as move the ladder from one location to another in Eureka. Ben's house (**KK6SYJ**) would be a temporary location, as Jaye **KE6SLS** is working on a permanent location at a new facility to cover from Fortuna into Eureka and beyond. He can't talk about it yet, as he's working with an agency, but they are progressing on it.

- The Rainbow Ridge repeater has been used, but it has issues. The NBEMS group is looking forward to getting a repeater installed there.

Muni Repeater:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** had nothing new to report. The battery is still on the ground and losing voltage. The charger was on the concrete floor, and he put it on a piece of plywood to get it off the concrete. Jaye **KE6SLS** advised he knows someone who is electronically savvy and wants to ask that person if they would be interested in facilitating some time to study that particular repeater, as Jaye **KE6SLS** has all the documents, to try to get that back-up system online. Anthony **KG6LHW** advised he does want to get that back-up power going and has a contact with keys to access the vault.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** requested help again to move a 20 ft ladder. Ben **KK6SYJ** advised he will do that, and Jaye **KE6SLS** advised he will work with Kevin **KK6MPT** to try to get that done by the end of the year.

AuxComm Report:

- Greg **KJ6OUI** advised the after-action report for the Great Shakeout will be on Saturday, 12/11/21, at a luncheon. A certificate of appreciation will be presented to HARC by Greg **KJ6OUI** for all the great work that was done by all that participated in the Shakeout.
- Greg also noted that there were eight participants in the Ham Cram with six passing their exam for their technician licenses. He received word today that the call signs have been issued to the six that passed. Gordon West **WB6NOA** was a guest speaker. They are currently talking to him about getting a release of use of the video that he provided during the class for the OES website.
- AuxComm will be doing a field evaluation for the McKinleyville Sheriff's Office station to identify and assess the radios that are there to hopefully get them operating. They are also budgeting for making the communications room and OES station operational again with the help of Don **WA6NBG**.
- The website for AuxComm is up and ready for potential AuxComm volunteers to sign up and get processed. Anthony **KG6LHW** advised he put the link to the website in the agenda.

Future Events:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** advised we will have a luncheon at the Mad River Brewery in Blue Lake on Saturday, 12/11/21, at noon. They have a large covered outside area with food. Anthony **KG6LHW** and Ben **KK6SYJ** will be giving out certificates of appreciation for the heavy lifters in the club, and Greg **KJ6OUI** will be giving the after-action report and giving the certificate to the club as mentioned earlier.
- Gene Bass **K6PCS** advised the Trucker's Parade is this Saturday, 12/11/21. They will have a mobile net control along with Linda **W5JXO** at 3030 L St as backup NCS. Don Campbell **KE6HEC** will be doing net control from CERT's mobile command vehicle. The 3030 L location will open at 16:00 and anyone who wants

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to participate should show up then for assignments on a first come, first-serve basis and free pizza. At 17:00 there will a briefing with CHP, EPD, and City of Eureka after which everyone will disburse to their assigned locations. The parade will start at 18:00 and usually lasts about an hour. After the parade everyone is welcome to go back to 3030 L St for an after-action review and to return any equipment that has been issued to them. They are looking for both ham and non-ham operators. There will be some equipment that can be issued out to volunteers, as there are plenty of extra 2m portables that are programmed with extra batteries. Please contact Gene **K6PCS** at hbfcert1@gmail.com, and if you have his cell phone number you can also contact him that way by phone or text after 10:00 am. He also advised they will be using HARC repeater with 146.460 simplex and FWRA repeaters as a backup.

HARC elections for 2022 Board members:

- Anthony **KG6LHW** thanked everyone for the work everyone did a lot of work this year. He advised the FCC call sign for the club is now in Anthony's name, the trailer registrations are done, and the pink slips are with the Treasurer. He also advised the QRZ website is now up to date, and we are close on getting the domain name is also close to being up to date. The muni repeater has undergone a major upgrade, and the Rainbow Ridge repeater is back online with more work to come. The HARC net is organized nicely, and the rosters are up to date. He's really happy with the WinLink net growth. He's happy we have ARRL news being rebroadcast on the HARC repeater. He would have liked to work on membership more with a membership coordinator who puts new members together with an Elmer and gets something out in the mail to new members. He hopes the new Board will work on this.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** received two nomination suggestions via email today. One was for Matthew **KN6CEI** to be Secretary, but Matthew **KN6CEI** had already reached out to Anthony **KG6LHW** earlier to say he would like to be on the Board in the future, but he cannot be this year. Matthew **KN6CEI** was also suggested to be VP and Kevin **KK6MPT** was suggested for Secretary, but Kevin **KK6MPT** is moving to Redding. **WA6NBG** advised Kevin **KK6MPT** is definitely moving out of the area and should not be on the ballot.
- Ben **KK6SYJ** has accepted a nomination for President and Marcy **KE6IAU** has accepted a nomination for another term as Treasurer. There has been some back and forth regarding whether or not a Past President needs to be nominated for that position. Anthony **KG6LHW** is willing to accept the nomination if that is needed. We still need a Vice President and a Secretary, as Sherry **KM6YRQ** would be unable to accept a nomination for a second term as Secretary at this time.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised the Past President is not up for nomination. The outgoing President becomes the Past President, and the outgoing Past President becomes a regular member of HARC. He nominated Randy **KN6NSK** for Secretary. Randy **KN6NSK** advised he is not able to accept the nomination, but he might be interested in another position at another time. Anthony **KG6LHW** advised the bylaws are a little vague on the Past President
- Peter **W6IES** nominated Anthony **KG6LHW** for Past President. Anthony **KG6LHW** accepted the nomination.
- Jaye **KE6SLS** advised he would be interested in being Secretary.
- Marcy **KE6IAU** asked if Anthony **KG6LHW** would consider the Vice President

position. Anthony **KG6LHW** advised he is likely going to be captain of the ground unit for the search and rescue posse. The Board meeting for that group is also the first Tuesday of the month, so he is unable to accept the nomination. Marcy **KE6IAU** then nominated Dexter Luther **AG6DA** for Vice President. Anthony **KG6LHW** stated that Gene **K6PCS** said he would be open to being Vice President so Anthony **KG6LHW** nominated him. Ben **KK6SYJ** noted Marcy **KE6IAU** nominated Dexter **AG6DA** for Vice President. Dexter **AG6DA** was not available to respond to the nomination, so his name was removed from the ballot.

- Nominations are:
 - President: Ben Adams **KK6SYJ**
 - Vice President: Gene Bass **K6PCS**
 - Secretary: Jaye Inabnit **KE6SLS**
 - Treasurer: Marcy Campbell **KE6IAU**
 - Past President: Anthony Wiese **KG6LHW**

No objections were noted to these nominations, so this is the new HARC Board for 2022.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Jaye **KE6SLS** mentioned members can contact him at ke6sls@arrl.net to get on a reminder list via text for APRS meetings. You can send him your telephone number to get on the list. He advised the website has been changed to have the HARC reflector available on the website, and he will be monitoring it closely to keep robots off. He also advised we are just about out of the handout he created for new ham operators, so he will need to request funds to get more printed.
- Anthony **KG6LHW** asked if Ben **KK6SYJ** could give an acceptance speech. Ben **KK6SYJ** said it has been an honor to serve the club as Secretary, then VP and now looking forward to President. He will be working towards testing for and earning his Professional Engineering stamp, so he will be focusing on that in the first quarter. He is looking forward to guiding the club over his term and appreciates Anthony **KG6LHW** having him chair the meeting as VP every other meeting as part of the continuity of government process and gain an understanding the President's role.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:42 PDT.