

Paducah Amateur Radio Association

Meeting Minutes -August 11, 2008

Submitted by Bill, KY2O

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM by Bill, KR8L.

The minutes were not read, as they have been available on the club web site for several weeks. Minutes were approved as posted on the club web site. A link to the minutes posted on the web site will be distributed to club members on PARA email distribution.. The attached printed report provides details of the last month's transactions.

There were 24 members present with one visitor; Bobby, KJ4CBZ. Attendance sheet is attached.

No health and welfare issues were reported.

Old Business

Ed, AB4IQ, reported that the club's radio, a Yaesu FT-1000MP, has been successfully repaired. The cost of the repair was \$240.90. Details of the repairs are attached.

John, KO4XJ, brought up the subject of potentially selling the club's Yaesu FT-1000MP and buying a couple of less complex radios. Several club members provided thoughts on the advantages of selling or keeping the club radio. These included in summary: 1) FT-1000MP is too complex for the inexperienced operators, 2) If the FT-1000MP were sold, field day operations could be expanded with two lesser radios instead of using member owned radios, 3) FT-1000MP needs some filters to realize maximum performance from radio, 4) Club should keep radio since it was donated to club and could not replace it easily, 5) FT-1000MP is a lot of radio to just use once per year, and 6) FT-1000MP will make a very good station radio when club has permanent location to establish club station, Motion was made, seconded, and passed to keep the Yaesu FT-1000MP.

John, KO4XJ, provided update on band pass filter research discussed last month. After extensive research, John reported that the solution to our field day interference does not exist. There are products the club could buy that would help, but there is not a product for sale at a reasonable price that allows operation of one station on CW and another on Phone. Further discussion included other potential solutions, including separate receive (beverage) antennas, feed line stubs, different field day locations, and why the club should be worried about being competitive for field day. Discussion was tabled for further research.

Mike, KI4NXF, discussed the National Weather Service (NWS) call-in list and spotter training. Mike, KI4NXF, an NWS employee stated that the NWS will accept club members as potential support staff during inclement weather and they do not necessarily have to have spotter training. Those wishing to be on the NWS list should contact Mike.

- Ed, AB4IQ, and Paul, KI4GKW, provided an update on the potential to procure and build audio patch boxes to help operator/logger communications. Parts estimate for each box is approximately \$25-30 plus \$8.50 for a PCB specifically designed for the June 2008 QST project design. It was suggested that the construction be a club activity with soldering tutorials a possibility.

New Business

The PARA web site domain (www.w4nja.org) will soon expire. Motion was made to renew for two years (\$118). This includes domain name registration and server space rental. Motion made and passed to renew for two years.

Ed, AB4IQ, brought up the suggestion that the club and its call sign, W4NJA, should participate in Logbook of the World (LOTW). Ed said Paul, ND4X, has contacted the LOTW administrator concerning the process. Emails between Paul, ND4X, and LOTW administrator indicated the club call sign trustee would be the ideal choice, but any club officer or member would be acceptable with letter from a club officer. Paul, ND4X, volunteered to be the LOTW PARA administrator. Vice President Paul, KI4GKW, volunteered to write a letter to the LOTW administrator authorizing Paul, ND4X to be the PARA LOTW administrator. Motion was made and passed to initiate getting W4NJA registered with LOTW.

Mike, KY4OEM, initiated discussion for club's participation in local emergency response and management. The discussion included the club's and member's equipment and capability, club/member interest, extent of participation, club past and current relationship with local emergency management, whom do we intend to communicate with, what training is required, what agencies need/want our support, and a couple other topics that were too brief to capture. Mike stated that the federal emergency organizations are beginning to realize that amateur radio is an extremely important aspect to emergency response. He feels that the role amateur radio will play in future emergency management will grow and that our club needs to be ready to support. Discussion within club members continued on all topics above but the apparent consensus is that more information needs to be garnered before the club could make any decision on the club's involvement in emergency management or response. Topic was tabled until a later time.

John, KO4XJ, announced that there are upcoming ARRL Great Lakes Division Manager Elections. John provided information about several announced candidates and some potential candidates. All club members that are ARRL members are encouraged to vote for their choice of candidates. Ballots will be coming out to ARRL members in the end of Sept and first of Oct. In the Great Lakes Division, incumbent Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, is being challenged by former Kentucky Section Manager John Meyers, NB4K, and Michigan Section Affiliated Club Coordinator Daniel Romanchik, KB6NU.

Submitted by Bill, KY2O

Sunday Evening W4NJA Emergency Net Control responsibility follows: 08-08-17 – Bruce, KS4V 08-08-24 – Beth, KI4ZAK 08-08-31 – Mike, KI4NXF 08-09-07 – Bill, KU4RC

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. There was no program following the meeting. There was not testing following the meeting.