

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGS COUNTY RADIO CLUB

KCRC



July 2016

The Ridiculously Abridged Edition

Volume 3, Issue 7^A

Minutes of the July 2016 KCRC Meeting, July 6th, 2016

The monthly meeting was preceded by a “Pre-Meeting Questions and Answer Session”. This month’s session centered around antenna technology, and appeared helpful to its participants. (If anyone has any ideas for expanding similar technical sessions into different, approachable venues, we would be interested in hearing your ideas! The idea is to find a venue for the greatest number of curious, interested participants—we will handle the guys (hopefully) with the answers.)

The monthly meeting was called to order at 8 PM, by our President, Howard N2GOT. Also present at tonight’s meeting were Treasurer Richard KA2KDQ, General Secretary Roy AC2GS, Executive Board Members at Large Mitch N2RGA, and Howard K2IGJ, Milen N2NYU, Berlotte, Daniel W5TAB, and recent new member Charles KD2IHY. Joining us today were John WB2LFU.

Daniel W5TAB was congratulated upon his new call!

A motion was presented to accept the Minutes of the July Meeting, and was passed unanimously.

Mitch N2RGA asked if a formal title of an Assistant Treasurer, in charge of electronic funds (i.e. PayPal) be instituted, due to our Treasurer’s technical inability to handle these funds presently. Mitch N2RGA was unanimously elected to fill this position (that will, no doubt, be completed with an amendment of our club bylaws to reflect this new impromptu executive position). Our congratulations to Mitch on his new position!

Treasurer Report—Our Treasury currently has \$1,823.81 in assets. We have one new member this month—James KB2FMH!

10 Meter Report—Reported in absentia. The 10 Meter Net is quite active, but propagation issues limited check ins to local tri-state operators with a smattering of other east coast operators. Club members with the ability to operate on 10 meters are urged to come by and check in—it’s at 28.380MHz at 11 AM on Sunday morning!

2 Meter Report—Richard KA2KDQ reported that the 2 Meter Net was doing well, with the recent “tweaks” of the Club Repeater, and was consistently experiencing 10-12 check ins each week. Club members with 2 Meter FM ability are urged to join us on the 2 Meter Net, if only to say their ‘hellos’ and support the Club and its Nets.

Old News: Our successful 2016 Field Day was discussed. It was felt that we could have used more operators in front of our radios, especially during the ‘graveyard shift’. We ended up with a score of 828 points. Suggestions were presented to offer a Go On The Air (GOTA) radio for passers by, outside the tent, as well as a dedicated radio inside the tent for undistracted communications. We may need to reposition our tent at a different location in Floyd Bennett Field, but this is just a rumor at this point. An impassioned request was made to organize lists of items needed, and scheduled times for volunteers to operate prior to Field Day. There’s nothing wrong with being a little organized. A new visitor suggested that we talk to the King County Repeater Association (KCRA), who no longer seems to organize their own Field Day events, whether they would be interested in joining our club’s effort. This was tabled for further consideration. It has been the KCRC’s practice to invite member and non-member alike to our Field Days, and this is certainly planned to continue!

Our next VE Session is scheduled for July 31st, 2016 at Methodist Hospital, at 1 PM. The subject of ways of improving our VE Sessions was discussed. Some of our members have expressed an interest in joining the VE Team after they get their licenses upgraded to higher Extra classes. People were reminded that General ticket holders can assist in tests for Technician license and they were always welcome at VE Sessions (all it takes is a very simple ARRL open book exam to get VE privileges). Howard N2GOT was asked to ensure that John WK2J had gotten his supply of the new Extra Exam booklets that go into effect after June 30th, 2016, as well as urging John WK2J to sign off on our proposed bimonthly third Sunday of the month standing schedule for VE Sessions.

The Club Roster was emailed to ALL members, in good standing, that have active email addresses. Someone asked if there would be successive Rosters every time a new member joined, but our Secretary voiced the opinion that monthly or weekly revisions would cause more confusion than information. The less descriptive Roster on our Club website will be updated every time a new member joins, or changes his call sign.

The Club Repeater remains a work in progress. New hardware is being budgeted to make it more enjoyable and secure, and we hope that more club members will use the repeater and welcome their friends. The KCRC Repeater is an open Repeater—we will not brow beat people using it to fork over their dues, or else! Eight people voted for their favorite courtesy tone and the winner, with two entire votes, is now our chosen courtesy tone! Work on tweaking the announcements and the timing of them continues, thanks to the constant hard work and dedication of Mitch N2RGA

Our Secretary, Roy AC2GS advised the members that he had entered into an email correspondence with noted Amateur Radio Evangelist and Podcast host, Gordon West WB6NOA. Gordo was impressed by the KCRC's VE Session handout and said that he would highlight it on an episode of HamNation July 20th, 2016 at 9PM (<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>).

The membership was asked to consider ideas for new membership drives, for the Fall. It was decided to continue with the new Tech licensee mailers. Roy AC2GS will provide the list of new Hams and the promotional message, Mitch N2RGA volunteered to again handle printing, stuffing and mailing the resulting envelopes. A new club member remarked that the active nature of the KCRC website and the wealth of useful original information was an important factor in choosing to join the KCRC! A new visitor offered suggestions on finding people who aren't aware that Ham radio was "still around" and might be good sources for new members (as always, your thoughts on this matter are valued).

There was a regularly scheduled impassioned plea for club presentations. We all have our own sub-interests and specialties within the broad umbrella of Amateur Radio. It would be great if we developed a venue to showcase our member's expertise and experience. It might offer people new ideas of what they can do with that license they have. Our club is a valuable asset to Amateur Radio, and with your help it can become more valuable! Some introductions to CW and/or digital modes with a follow up club sponsored Net was suggested as an example.

It was announced that at this August's meeting Gary Rives N2WGR, who is a lawyer, will discuss the ramifications of the recent revision of the Amateur Radio Parity Act demanded by the Community Association Institute.

At 10 PM the meeting was concluded (although it could have gone on longer—always leave them wanting more!).

These minutes were respectfully recorded and submitted by Roy AC2GS on this day, July 6th, in the two thousandth and sixteenth year of our Lord of Propagation...

(AC2GS would like to thank all the people that maintain the program and the keyboard used to type these minutes.)

The Kings County Radio Club is at www.KC2RC.com or
www.KingsCountyRadioClub.com
KCRC is an ARRL affiliated club (see: www.ARRL.org)