

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGS COUNTY RADIO CLUB

KCRC



September 2016

*The Ridiculously Abridged Edition*

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## Minutes of the September 2016 KCRC Meeting, September 7th, 2016

The monthly meeting was preceded by a “Pre-Meeting Questions and Answer Session”. This month’s session had no specific topic, but it was still lively. (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 people with the answers, hopefully.)

The monthly meeting was called to order at 8 PM, by our President, Howard N2GOT. Also present at tonight’s meeting were Treasurer Richard KA2KDO, General Secretary Roy AC2GS, Executive Board Members at Large Mitch N2RGA, and Howard K2IGJ, Milen N2NYU, Daniel W5TAB, Andy WA2GDS, Simon KD2LQE, and Gene KY2MY. Joining us, as a guest was Peter KC2ZQM (who decided to join our club by the end of the meeting!)

Simon was commended upon his new Technicians license and his new callsign KD2LQE. Simon announced that he intends to upgrade to his General ticket at our next VE Session!

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

Treasurer Report—Richard KA2KDO, reported that our Treasury currently has \$1,037.76 in assets in our bank account. Mitch N2RGA reports a surplus of \$143.21 in our Club PayPal account. We have one new member this past month—Anthony W3AAP!

10 Meter Report—Poor propagation issues have continued to limit the 10 Meter Net to local participants, and the summer has distracted many of our usual participants with other activities. This past weekend we had a lively Net with 17 local check-ins and some good technical discussions as well as some good old rag chewing—The KCRC continues to keep 10 Meters alive during these sunspot doldrums. 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! We are presently looking for a new 10 Meter Net Control Operator and an Alternate Control Operator. Milen N2NYU volunteered for the Alternate Net Operator position.

2 Meter Report—Richard KA2KDO reported that the 2 Meter Net was doing well, and was consistently experiencing on average a dozen check-ins each week. Our Net Control Operator has been experiencing some technical issues, which have improved somewhat this week. We discussed numerous options available to improve his situation. The question of establishing an Alternate Net Control Operator was discussed, to be ready to continue the Net in case the Net Control Operator is off the air, due to any future technical issues. If anyone is interested in this position please contact any Executive Board Member. Club members with 2 Meter FM capability 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: Due to scheduling conflicts we have had to reschedule our next VE Session from September 18th at 4 PM to October 23 at its usual 1 PM start time. Please keep up to date with VE information by following posts on the club website: [www.kingscountyradioclub.com/ve-team](http://www.kingscountyradioclub.com/ve-team). The Club is always looking for new VE’s to join our VE Sessions, as well as assistant and/or co-Liaison VE Officers. For ANY interested individuals please contact any Executive Member of the Club, or the return email address that includes these emails of our Club Meeting’s minutes. People took time out of their busy lives to help get you licensed - pass on the favor!

Repeater work progresses. Mitch N2RGA requested Club approval to have our Repeater Controller upgraded to state of the art capabilities (the manufacturer announced cessation of any firmware improvement for the older controller board). The controller also needs to be evaluated by the manufacturer to get to the bottom of a repeated lock up sometimes seen when the repeater switches back and forth from digital to analog mode. The membership voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of funds for this upgrades. Mitch, was once again, commended upon all the work he takes on for the Repeater and for all his other Club responsibilities.

The topic of a new Club QSL Card was again discussed. A series of designs have been offered at the Club's website, but there appeared to be no clear winner. A suggestion was made by Daniel W5TAB, to modify the first design a bit—this has been done and it has been posted at the bottom of the same Club website page. We urge people to take a look and voice their constructive opinions—this supply of QSL Cards will last us a very long time, so we would like as many people to be as pleased with them as possible!

The meeting then turned to the Club's situation with Mr. Juan Velazquez KC2QNK. In August's meeting, as reported (diplomatically), in our minutes last month, there were jurisdictional concerns regarding one member assuming a position that he was not deemed legitimately ever voted to have, with discretionary powers and funds that he had no right to have. There then ensued a series of cryptic/illiterate/obscene public posts and generally poor behavior, regarding this matter. (We will not go into the details in these minutes, but this drama is soon going to be released as a Major Motion Picture—"The QSL Card Manager—A Hero's Tale" which should be released by Thanksgiving time.) Suffice it to say, Juan has irreconcilable differences with the Executive Board of the Kings County Radio Club. We assume that he has passively resigned since he failed to run the 2 Meter Net when Richard KA2KDQ was busy, as he had promised Richard earlier, as well as failing to show up for his own 10 Meter Net responsibilities. He just stop showing up without any notice. Howard N2GOT presented the heartfelt sentiment that "it didn't need to progress this far." But it did, and it has. We respect Juan's rather passive resignation in absentia, we thank him for his past service to the Club, and wish him well in all his future, non-Club, endeavors.

Field Day was touched upon briefly. If any member has any viable alternative to Floyd Bennett Field, please contact our President Howard N2GOT. If we decide upon another location, the earlier we do this, the easier it will be to get it done right!

The Club's Annual Picnic is planned for September 25<sup>th</sup> at Manhattan Beach. Mitch N2RGA set up a page on our club website to keep everyone up to date as information becomes available. PLEASE, anyone offering to help in the picnic planning can contact Mitch and go to the picnic club website. PLEASE help Mitch out with this—this is YOUR Club Picnic!

We are running our New Hams Club Mailing—all new local license holders in the past 9 months will receive a letter urging them to drop by and see our club. The list was generated by your humble Secretary Roy AC2GS and will be mail merged and mailed by our hard working Mitch N2RGA. A motion was made to reimburse Mitch for his costs and was passed unanimously.

Mitch N2RGA was kind enough to donate a RS232 to USB converter as a "pot luck" prize—the Club netted \$9 and your humble Secretary, Roy AC2GS, won the prize!

Milen N2NYU presented an informative presentation of digital voice modes on the UHF/VHF bands, distributed a written summary and took questions from the audience (we hope to included an expanded version of Milen's handout in a future 'Ridiculously Abridged Newsletter'.

Great job Milen!

(Does anyone else have a topic they would like to present—HINT HINT NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK)

At 10:20 PM the meeting was adjourned.

See ya all back here October 5th for our next monthly meeting!

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Kings County Radio Club, its Executive Board, nor its General Membership. What can I say? I don't suffer fools gladly!

These minutes were respectfully recorded and submitted by Roy AC2GS on this day, September 7th, 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, as well as the air conditioning.)

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

# Is This Frequency In Use?

## A Radio Fable For Our Time...

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, lived a Troll named Og. Og was the Net Control Operator for the weekly, 17 Meter, Unicorn Sighting Net. Every Sunday morning at 22:17 Zulu he would flip on his radio and without ever bothering to listen for any activity on HIS frequency, he made his announcement:

“QRZ QRZ, QRZ, this is the weekly 17 Meter Unicorn Sighting Net, and I am your Net Control Operator, Og 666OG!”

Sometimes he would transmit this warning earlier - for everyone to be aware and ready for the Unicorn Net. He never seemed interested whether anyone might already be using the frequency, after all it was his (he had ‘dib’s’ on it, or something like that).

Propagation conditions were poor and use of the band was sparse, so it just wasn’t a problem.

But one day, it was the ‘17-17 Contest’ in which a group of 17 Meter enthusiasts attempted to contact each other. They were trying to do that on Og’s frequency before Og turned his radio on.

Og, who had been adept at “King of the Hill” as a child, knew in his heart that he owned this frequency “lock stock and barrel” because he used it in the past? Finder’s keepers?, or some cliché like that, he wasn’t that sure - but he was sure that he owned that frequency.

An argument ensued but Og stood upon his constitutional right, or whatever it might be...

If this was a complete fairy tale it would end with Og being dragged away from his radio by a magical dragon and imprisoned in the ignominious ‘Island of Lids’, but this is based on real life, so the people who were using the frequency first simply complained to each other on the frequency and then went elsewhere.

The moral of the story is, especially on HF, “Always ask if the frequency is in use” before beginning your own radio conversation. Propagation conditions can cause fade, and sometimes you might only hear one of the people involved in a QSO, so silence does not necessarily mean that the frequency is free for your use. Prior usage, or scheduled usage does not give anyone the right to “plant their flag” on any given frequency and call it their own.

This is nothing new, it goes back to something called ‘The Radio Amateur’s Code’ first published in 1928 by Paul M. Segal W9EEA:

CONSIDERATE..... never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL..... offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE..... with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY..... with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED..... Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC..... with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Ah, those were simpler days, right?

It’s all still great advice, if you ask me!

-TheEditor-