

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGS COUNTY RADIO CLUB

KCRC



March 2017

*The Ridiculously Abridged Edition*

Volume 4, Issue 3<sup>FA</sup>

## Minutes of the March 2017 KCRC Meeting, March 1st, 2017

Our February “Pre-Meeting Question and Answer Session” was varied with a lot of the discussion regarding antenna options.

The monthly meeting was called to order at 8 PM, by our President, Mitch N2RGA. Also present at tonight’s meeting were Vice President Howard N2GOT, Treasurer Richard KA2KDQ, General Secretary Roy AC2GS, Executive Board Members at Large Howard K2IGJ and Milen N2NYU, Simon KD2LQE, Daniel W5TAB, Andy WA2GDS, Joe KD2MLY, our newest member Kieran KD2KLE, and new visitors Zach KD2MPL and Nathaniel KD9BER.

Treasurer Report—Richard KA2KDQ, reported that our Treasury currently has \$925.59 in assets in our bank account, and 499.48 in our Club PayPal account.

2 Meter Report—Richard KA2KDQ reported that the 2 Meter Net was doing well, with an average of a dozen check-ins each week.

10 Meter Report—Our Net Control operator, Milen N2NYU reported that the 10 Meter Net is consistently showing more than 12-15 check-ins each week. People have used 10 Watts all the way to 1 KW while on the 10 Meter Net, as well as indoor and outdoor antennas. If you can put out a 10 Meter signal, please consider checking into our weekly Sunday 10 Meter Net and participating in it with us!

KCRC TechNet —Our Net Control Operator and Host Roy AC2GS reports great success with this new Club venture. Due to its popularity, it has grown from a monthly, to a biweekly schedule of the 2nd and fourth Wednesdays of every month. The regular TechNet puzzle, posted to the website, has been a successful new feature. It has maintained activity for 1 1/4 hours each episode. From the beginning, an archive of the TechNet has been made available on the Club website. It is now being streamed via Roy AC2GS’ radio to those that cannot receive our Repeater’s signal (<http://bit.do/KC2RC>). We have our TechNet relayed onto UHF by Howie WB2HWW’s repeater and have been promoted on the NYS ARES Nets and on the Big Apple NTS Net. Next month LIMARC’s Newsletter will advertise our TechNet to their readership!

Old News: Our next VE Session will be this March 19th at 1 PM in the Executive Dining Room of the New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. Milen N2NYU was tasked with ensuring that our bi-monthly VE Session schedule will be available on the ARRL site. 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 for 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!

We presently have 52 Club Members, and 71% of our members have paid their 2017 dues! (Please pay your 2017 dues, if you haven’t yet— either by PayPal thru the website, or by a check to our Treasurer Richard KA2KDQ).

Mitch N2RGA reported that the Repeater has not required any work in the past month. We are still awaiting a thorough check up on our Repeater by a *Friend Of The Club*.

We are cross promoting our our Club and the local ARES Group thru both of our VE efforts. What this entails is that the usual handout given to all VE examinees at the end of their KCRC Sponsored VE test, (these handouts include helpful information about their new hobby and the Kings County Radio Club), will now include information about the local ARES group as well. The local ARES group will be distributing our VE Handout after their exams as well. The next ARES VE Session will be this month. LIMARC has also shown interest in our VE Handouts and will offer a version of them to their examinees with appropriate credit to their author Roy AC2GS and the Kings County Radio Club, which they were original designed for.

The subject of our unrecovered Club QSL cards remains in question. The Executive Board has asked a *Friend Of the Club*, who has a relationship with KC2QNK to see if he can facilitate the return of the Club’s property. 1

We are still awaiting their response.

Additional personalized Club membership cards were printed out on Avery card stock by Roy AC2GS and distributed to members attending today's meeting. The remaining cards were given to Richard KA2KDK, who will *snail mail* them to members who could not attend. Richard was given a supply of blank membership cards for club members who pay their 2017 dues from this point on.

Roy AC2GS has generated a data file of new licensees in the past 6 months, for the Metropolitan area and has emailed them to Mitch N2RGA, who will *mail merge* them with our standard club invitation letter and mail them out.

Field Day was discussed. Milen N2NYU has set up a Google spreadsheet with items that would be useful for the next Field Day. It will be available to all members via the Club website. There were discussions regarding the need for a multi-band dipole, as well as other antennas, the consideration of acquiring fiberglass poles to keep wire antennas properly elevated, as well as the need for more operators, especially during the *graveyard shift*. Milen N2NYU offered to bring his antenna analyzer, and review our network logging options, and Kieran KD2KLE offered to help in the transport of the generator and other supplies. **Please keep up to date with the Field Day 2017 spreadsheet, and volunteer what you can to make this Field Day our most successful one!**

New Business: It was decided to make April 1st the cut off date for uninterrupted emailing's for people who have not paid their dues. Member who have not sent in their 2017 club dues will be stricken from our mailing list and club records. Our regular annual published Club Roster will be included in the emailing of the April Club Minutes (**this will NOT be publicly posted anywhere, but will be emailed to every member in good standing**). Anyone who does not wish that their fellow club members had access to their phone number or email address **PLEASE contact Roy AC2GS before April 1st, to have that information removed form the 2017 Club Roster!**

Mitch brought a mobile VHF, a VHF HT and a power supply from Silent Key, past club members N2FOW and N2FRI and Andy WA2GDS bought the mobile and power supply. Mitch N2RGA will list the VHF HT on eBay. The Club will hold onto an Icom transceiver, a 745, for Club use.

Richard offered a U-bolt and an old Radio Shack straight key to anyone interested.

Roy AC2GS mentioned that a visitor to our Club, months ago Lucy KD2MFV, would be attempting her SSTV experiment this coming Saturday starting at 8 AM (local time) on March 4th. Anyone that is at all interested in SSTV is urged to help—the details will be posted in the cover email to this Minute's email publication.

Andy WA2CDL has offered a presentation on Radio Direction Finding during one of our Spring Meetings. Kieran KD2KLE offered to bring a projector for the Power Point slides. We will arrange a mutually acceptable date with Andy and publicize the demo by email and thru the Club's Nets.

At 9:45 PM the meeting was adjointed.

See ya' all in April!

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policies or positions of the Kings County Radio Club, its Executive Board, nor its General Membership.

These minutes were respectfully recorded and submitted by Roy AC2GS on this day, March 1st, in the two thousandth and seventeenth 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 those that supply his food and shelter. )

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))

# Placing Hams into ‘little boxes’...



Are you a Sagittarius with Mars on the cusp of Libra?

Damned if I know - I think the whole thing is a bit of foolish nonsense, but it does highlight a cognitive flaw in our design where we recognize vague generalized self-aggrandizing characteristics as our special very own positive attributes.

We love to put people into neat little boxes and thereby assume that we are all much simpler and easier to understand as are our motivations and actions.

Let's play that game with us Amateur Radio Operators!

First let's split us in twain.

There are many among us who are primarily motivated in this hobby by making contacts. Be it time limited contests, games of tag DX "Worked All Universes", Emergency Communications or just rag chewing. Some further disparage this group or a segment within this group as "*so called appliance operators*", but I think that this is counterproductive and divisive. Some of us are just more interested in the "end" rather than the "means to an end".

Then there are the guys who are really interested in the "*means to an end*". The "*magic of radio*". The mystery of how you talk in Poughkeepsie and get heard in Azerbaijan. Invisible, magic "*chats at a distance*".

I can further divide these guys and gals into three subgroups - **The Technician**, **The Engineer**, and **The Scientist**, although I will admit no one is 100% of one and none of the other - they are all bit of a Chimera - made up of aspects of one another, in different percentages.

The way I see it, the Technician is the guy with A LOT of practical experience that has received some mentoring from their elders. Full of sage advice, cookbook recipes and quick and dirty tricks that solve problems and get those gadgets that aren't working, right and get them working pronto!

The Engineers have a foundation of theory that they use to leverage their own practical experiences to try to understand what's going wrong and how it can be made to work. They are just as interested in whipping something, brand new, up themselves rather than fixing some other guy's creation. Their solutions aren't always as quick and dirty as a Technician's can be, but in a pinch they will use them as well. They know that *the devil is in the details*, but they also know that in the real world some details are less important than others, and not to allow themselves to get lost in the details that won't matter for a given situation.

Then there are The Scientists. The guys that are way too much *theory*, at times, and not quite enough practical experience. They have a great grasp of the equations and may even have a good sense what the mathematics

fundamentally might mean, and they tend to like precision, almost to extremes. They are the theorists, although experimental Scientists may not seem quite as theoretical - trying to understand a device, even better an overall principle, much more than wanting to design one (as The Engineer might) or fix one (as The Technician might).

I have happened upon a crude instrument for measuring who is who, which is anecdotal, and may be utterly wrong, but I will share it with the audience:

When I ask these people what 'pi' is, there are usually three kinds of answers offered...

One group will tell you that it is an *irrational number*, a number that cannot be expressed as a simple fraction. They might go on to describe it as a *transcendental number* - a number that isn't the root of any non-zero polynomial having rational coefficients. A number that goes on forever and never repeats and never stops. A small bit of *magic* in and of itself...

Another group would tell you that it is an infinitely long non-repeating number that can be approximated according to the significant digits of the values of the other variables in the necessary equations needed to be solved for the job at hand.

The third will say that it is  $22/7^{\text{th}}$ .

Is one better than the other? Hell no! We need to be a bit of each of these archetypes, to make the best of our amazing hobby. Contacts are great, contests are great, playing "radio" is great...

But hold on to that wonder and that magic that drew you to this hobby so many years ago.

Aspire to be your own Technician/Engineer/Scientist!

And remember to have fun!

73,

Roy AC2GS