

GMARC MEETING MINUTES 17-APR-07

I. Call to Order by Vice President, Kurt WU8V at 7:03 PM.

II. Introductions & Upgrades

Two Visitors were introduced – Richard Barrett KB8TWA & his XYL.

The following call upgrades were announced:
Wes KD8DHS – General Class

III. Minutes

Copies of the minutes from the 20-Mar-07 meeting were available at the meeting and on the GMARC Web Site. Joe N8OZ noted that Bob KZ8N's call sign was shown incorrectly on Page 3. Bobby N8CY noted that the minutes approved were for the February meeting (not January) as published.

Appropriate corrections will be made.

Motion to approve the March Minutes (as amended) by Mike N5WCS and seconded by Rich K8OX. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Joel WU8Y, our Treasurer, reported that the February bank balance was \$1,577.89. Including deposits and checks not cleared, the total bank balance as of this meeting is \$1,357.89.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Scott W1BIC and seconded by Larry N8WJ. Motion passed.

V. Membership Report by Bobby N8CY

We have 73 members in good standing, and 46 have also paid their 2007 dues (including those noted below).

VI. Nets and Newsletter (Discussion)

There will be no April Newsletter has been published and copies were available at the meeting. WU8V noted that he expects to have the May edition published by the third weekend in May prior to the next meeting.

Scott W1BIC noted that check-ins to the Monday night InfoNet are down a bit. The average in recent history has been about 12. We still need one permanent NCO for the 2nd week of the month, and at least one more stand-by NCO.

VII. Club Liaison Report

No report given.

VIII. Tech Committee Report

Jeff N8XN reported that both repeaters are running without their respective power amplifiers (15/25 watts output). The P.A. failures were caused by antenna failures on both 440-MHz and 2-meter repeater. The club has replaced (6) antennas in the past two years, and non-commercial grade antennas are "doomed to recurrent failures". Jeff N8XN recommended that the club invest in two **Telwave** commercial antennas at an approximate cost of \$1,800. Jeff does not recommend repair to the P.A. until the new antennas are in place because it is likely that they will fail again.

IX. Old Business

None.

X. Vice President's Remarks

Kurt Wu8V noted that the Michigan.UHF/VHF Society will meet at the Milford Swap on 21-Apr-07 at 9:00 AM. www.ad8u.com is the web site for the Society.

It was also noted that COMDAC will be closing as of June, and the Milford Swap may be one of your last chances to buy from COMAC.

The May meeting will be a combination presentation of CW Keys (featuring a left toe contest), and QSL cards. Members are encouraged to bring in their favorite QSL cards to show at this meeting.

XI. New Business

Scott W1BIC suggested that the club invest in a "fishing tackle box" to be stocked with needed miscellaneous connectors, and items of interest that can be purchased by members of the Club. With Dayton coming up next month, now is the time to make initial purchases.

Motion to spend up to \$200 to stock a box with parts to be purchased by members by Mike N5WCS, 2nd by Rich K8OX. This motion will be automatically tabled and voted on at the May meeting. Volunteers for a committee to develop a proposed list of items and report at May Meeting – Scott W1BIC, Chuck N8ZA, Mike N5WCS.

Jeff N8XN noted that Chuck N8ZA is his "right hand man", and has made the same sacrifices for the club to keep our repeaters running. Motion to provide a free membership to Chuck N8ZA and reimburse N8ZA for his reasonable expense. Seconded by Dave WD8IFL. Motion passed on a voice vote with one Nay vote.

There was a discussion about the need to have ability for club members to communicate among themselves on the Internet. Don K7SDF volunteered to establish a shell for pictures and eMail addresses for GMARC members at Yahoo! Groups and inform members how to access it at the May meeting.

There was considerable discussion about the need for funds to replace our two repeater antennas. It was generally agreed that multiple fundraisers and/or special donations by club members will be needed to provide for the \$1,800 expenditure. Various suggestions were made including members soliciting prizes that could be raffled off. Dave WD8IFL stepped forward and offered to match up to two \$100 donations from other club members. The club is most appreciative to WD8IFL for his generous show of support for this vital expenditure by the Club.

Members are encouraged to share their ideas with other members and donate according to their ability to the Antenna Fund.

Treasurer Joel WU8Y will segregate the funds donated to the Antenna fund and make an accounting to the membership.

XII. Break from 8:25 PM to 8:45 PM

The 50/50 raffle winner was Bobby N8CY - \$21.00. (\$21 to the Club).

The donations to the Coffee Fund by those present were \$8.00.

XIII. Presentation – Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) – Bobby N8CY & Don K7SDF

Bobby N8CY made an overview presentation on Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) and Don K7SDF showed his 2-meter handy-talkie, Tiny-Track3 TNC (from www.byonics.com), and portable GPS unit for transmitting position data.

A copy of the presentation and other information on APRS can be found at <http://www.n5oom.org/aprs/index.htm>

XIV. New Members & Attendance

21 Members attended, and there were 2 Visitors.

Total Collections delivered to the Treasurer:

50/50 Raffle	- \$ 21.00
Antenna Fund	- 141.00
Coffee Donations	- <u>8.00</u>
Total --	\$170.00

XVI. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM. Motion by Joe N8OZ, seconded by Bill W8WRB. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby Corr N8CY,
Secretary – GMARC
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