

GMARC MEETING MINUTES 17-FEB-09

I. Call to Order by President, Bob KZ8N at 7:00 PM.

II. Introductions, Upgrades, + Visitors

There were 2 Visitors present - Tom KD8GZE, Rick Pfouts KD8JZI

Dave WD8IFL announced that he passed his Extra Class Exam.

III. Minutes

Minutes of the 20-Jan-09 meeting were available at the meeting and on the GMARC Web Site.

Motion to approve the December Minutes by Mike N5WCS and seconded by Eddie N8RUE. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Scott W1BIC, our Treasurer gave the following Treasurer's Report. The current bank balance in our checking account is \$2,972.34. The Antenna Fund has \$2,418.45, and operating funds are \$553.89.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Dave WD8IFL and seconded by Eddie N8RUE.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

V. Membership Report by Bobby N8CY

We have 38 members in good standing, who have paid their 2008 dues, and 18 members who have paid their 2009 dues. Members are reminded to pay their 2009 dues. The following members paid their 2009 dues at this meeting:

Dave	WD8IFL	Eddie	N8RUE
Richard	K8PJQ		

VI. Tech Committee + Nets + ARRL Liaison

Chuck N8ZA reported that the 2M Repeater is officially inoperable and off the air. Jeff N8XN is making a list of parts needed to repair the repeater.

Dave W8RIT reported that EchoLink currently limits the number of check-ins. It is believed that more persons wish to check into the net via EchoLink than the limit allows. It was suggested that we re-evaluate the limit on EchoLink.

Scott W1BIC suggested that all members go to the web site for the PRB-1 Committee at www.prb1michigan.org and join the eMail list. Rich K8PJQ noted that he prevailed with an antenna installation in Eastpointe by citing PRB-1.

VII. Old Business

It was noted that we have not heard from Larry KD8CRA lately about K9 Search and rescue. A number of our members signed-up to assist their efforts, and we have not been called out or done any practice drills.

Tom KD8GZE had a screen print that was passed around of the public service announcement that is being aired on Local Cable TV in Utica / Shelby Township.

Kurt WU8V reported that the digital kits have been ordered. You will need a connector specific to your radio – WU8V can advise.

There was a brief discussion about the proposed New Ham Dinner that was brought up in January.

Dave W8RIT led a discussion about the proposed 2m contest in the Tri-County area. He stated that he has drafted some proposed rules involving FM simplex only and will post them on the Yahoo site. He asked with GMARC would be willing to sponsor an award for the competition. There was general agreement.

Motions by Dave W8RIT to sponsor an award up to \$20.00 and seconded by Scott W1BIC. Motion passed.

Dave WD8IFL expressed an opinion that the contest should last 2-3 days and that repeaters should be involved. It was generally agreed that rules should be reviewed before they are made final.

VIII. New Business

Kurt WU8V noted that EchoLink automatically shuts off at 12:00 midnight. He had a QSO from Canada that got cut-off in the middle [incomplete]. Scott W1BIC will explore the possibility of adding an announcement that EchoLink will get down at midnight if there is traffic on the repeater after 11:30 PM.

There has been a recurring problem with very low audio on EchoLink. Scott W1BIC stated that the new headset he purchased on eBay makes his audio very strong and understandable. It was suggested that we have an "Audio Smoke Out" contest in March with Scott's old and new headsets and evaluate the results.

Scott W1BIC reported that Amateur Radio Operators assisted with the "Snow Drift Rally" in Northern Michigan [Headquarters in Atlanta]. He said that everyone had loads of fun and encouraged Club members to participate next year.

Scott W1BIC had pieces of 1800# test "mule tape" used by electricians and the phone company to pull wire. He stated that it is ideal for stringing a wire antenna between trees. He also had his "compressed air" launcher made from PVC pipe and a regular low voltage sprinkler valve [similar to a potato gun]. He stated that mule tape is used once that then thrown away. It has markings every foot and, with a little bit of work, you should be able to find some second hand at no cost.

Mike N5WCS had fliers available for the L'Anse Creuse Swap scheduled for 06-Dec-09.

IX. Break – 8:05 PM to 8:35 PM

50/50 Raffle \$41 with \$20 going to the Club. Dave WD8IFL was the \$20 winner. Wes KD8DHS was the \$1 winner.

X. Presentation by Bill W8WRB on Michigan ARPSC

Bill W8WRB made an extensive PowerPoint presentation about the Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps – which is a combination of ARES, RACES, NTS, and SKYWARN. The official website for Michigan ARPSC is www.mi-arpesc.org. It is important to understand that ARPSC is integral to emergency response, and the following points were made:

- A specific written agreement was signed between the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Section of the ARRL in September, 2007.
- Amateur Radio became an official program of the Department of Homeland Security in June, 2003.
- Volunteer Emergency Communicators must be trained and meet standards; i.e. show completion of various IS-xxx exams from FEMA. Today, agencies expect Amateur Radio volunteers to meet NIMS standards (IS-700) and provide proof of training.
- The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides for:
 - Multi-agency coordination
Unified Command
Common Training
Identification / resource management
 - Within 6-months the following exams will be required to obtain ARPSC certification – IS-22, IS-100, IS-200, IS-700. In addition IS-800 will be required for RACES. These are “open book” exams. A list of course materials and exams for these and other FEMA sponsored independent study can be found OnLine at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>. There is no fee to take these exams, and you will receive a certificate via eMail upon successful completion of the final exam for each course.

IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System
IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) – An Introduction
IS-800 National Response Framework – An Introduction
IS-22 An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness

Bill stated that he would be glad to go over his presentation with any members who left early or were not able to see the entire presentation. He is also available to make this presentation to other Amateur Radio Clubs that are interested in the structure of ARPSC and how they can become a member in their local ARPSC organization.

There are seven ARPSC districts in the State of Michigan each one having a District Emergency Coordinator. The six counties in Southeastern Michigan comprise District Two, and John Fleming K8UP is the District Emergency Coordinator. It is recommended that you contact any of the following Emergency Coordinators (ECs) in your county for additional information:

Macomb	Paul Reinhardt, KC8BDK
Monroe	Peter Hendrick, KD8DMJ
Oakland	Larry A. Hornsby, Sr., KB8POD
St. Clair	-- vacant --
Washtenaw	Doug Cox, N8ZLR
Wayne	Shanon Herron, KA8SPW

XI. New Members & Attendance

21 Members attended, and there were 2 Visitors.

Total Collections to be delivered to the Treasurer:

Coffee Fund	\$	6.50
50/50 Raffle		20.00
Digital Kit – WD8IFL		25.00
Membership Dues		<u>60.00</u>
Total --	\$	111.50

Upcoming Events for GMARC:

Marshall Swap	14-Mar-09	8:00 AM Saturday
Toledo Swap	15-Mar-09	8:00 AM Sunday
Next Membership Meeting	17-Mar-09	7:00 PM Tuesday

X. Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby Corr N8CY,
Secretary – GMARC
N8CY@gmarc.org