

GMARC MEETING MINUTES 17-APR-2017
V1.8

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance by the President, Tony W8OKX at 7:00 PM.

II. Introductions, Upgrades, and Visitors

There were (4) Visitors: Joe Miller KJ8O – Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC) for ARRL Michigan Section, and Charles Dybola KC8TWJ, Bob Perye KE8GST, and Ericka Fink (no call).

III. Minutes – Bobby N8CY

Minutes of the 21-Mar meeting were available at the meeting. Motion to approve March minutes by Robbin K1KKN and seconded by Ray KC8LDN. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Don K7SDF

Don K7SDF presented a comprehensive Treasurer's Report – including the GMARC Operating Budget for 2017 and Y-T-D performance vs. Budget. Existing Bank Balance (March 31, 2017) = \$4,486.76.

March 31, 2017 Bank Balance --	\$4,486.76
Raffle Fund	721.08
Repeater Fund*	935.90
Yaesu DR-2X Repeater Fund	1,102.50
New Member Mailpiece Fund	10.96
501(c)(3) Fund	125.00
General Fund	1,591.32
Additional Repeater Fund Pledges:	
- Kurt WU8V	\$100.00
*Projected Repeater Fund Balance	\$ 1,035.90

Motion to **close** New Member Mailpiece fund (\$10.96) and transfer balance to General Fund; to **close** 501(c)(3) Fund (\$125) and transfer balance to General Fund by Don K7SDF and seconded by Robbin K1KNN. Motion carried.

Motion to approve April Treasurer's Report (as given) by Scott W1BIC and seconded by Robbin K1KNN. After discussion, this motion was **withdrawn**.

Mike W8MJC pointed out that the "Actual" for the DR-2X Fund is *inaccurate*. The **correct** amount should be \$1,102.50.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report (as amended) by Mike W8MJC and seconded by Rich K8OX. Motion carried.

V. Membership Report – Bobby N8CY

We have **48** members who have paid their 2017 dues, and **37** Heritage Members. The following members paid their 2017 Dues at the meeting:

Charlie KC8TWJ Bob KE8GST Ericka (no call)

The following new member joined via mail on 29-Apr-2017 bringing the total 2017 dues-paid membership to **52**:

Terry N8RUR

VI. GMARC Web Site – Frank W8FKZ

The GMARC Web Site has been completely redone in WordPress by Frank W8FKZ. The new web site is very aesthetic and it should be much easier to maintain the pages in the new system. Frank would like us to send pictures to him that can be used on the Web Site (FrankSonye@comcast.net).

VII. Inter-Club Liaison – Bobby N8CY

Cadillac Hamfest	6-May-17 Saturday 8:00 AM Cadillac, MI
Dayton HamVention	May 19-21, 2017 – Dayton, OH
Monroe Hamfest	18-Jun-17 Sunday 8:00 AM Monroe, MI
GMARC Lark-in-the-Park	*xx-Jun-17 Tuesday 4:00 PM – Riverbend Park– Auburn Hills
GMARC Trunk Swap	22-Jul-17 Saturday 8:00 PM – Packard Proving Grounds
GMARC Lark-in-the-Park	18-Aug-17 Tuesday 4:00 PM – Riverbend Park– Auburn Hills
GMARC Trunk Swap	23-Sep-17 Saturday 8:00 PM – Packard Proving Grounds
Great Lakes HamCon	Oct 7-8, 2017 – Michigan International Speedway www.glhamcon.org

There was a discussion about the date & location for the June Lark-in-the-Park, but **no consensus** was reached.

Motion by Mike W8MJC and seconded by Roy W8MRW to **table** the decision on date & location for the June Lark-in-the-Park to the May meeting. Motion carried.

*** Date and location for June Lark-in-the-Park to be decided @ 16-May-2017 meeting.**

VIII. Technical Committee Report – Ron WD8MNX

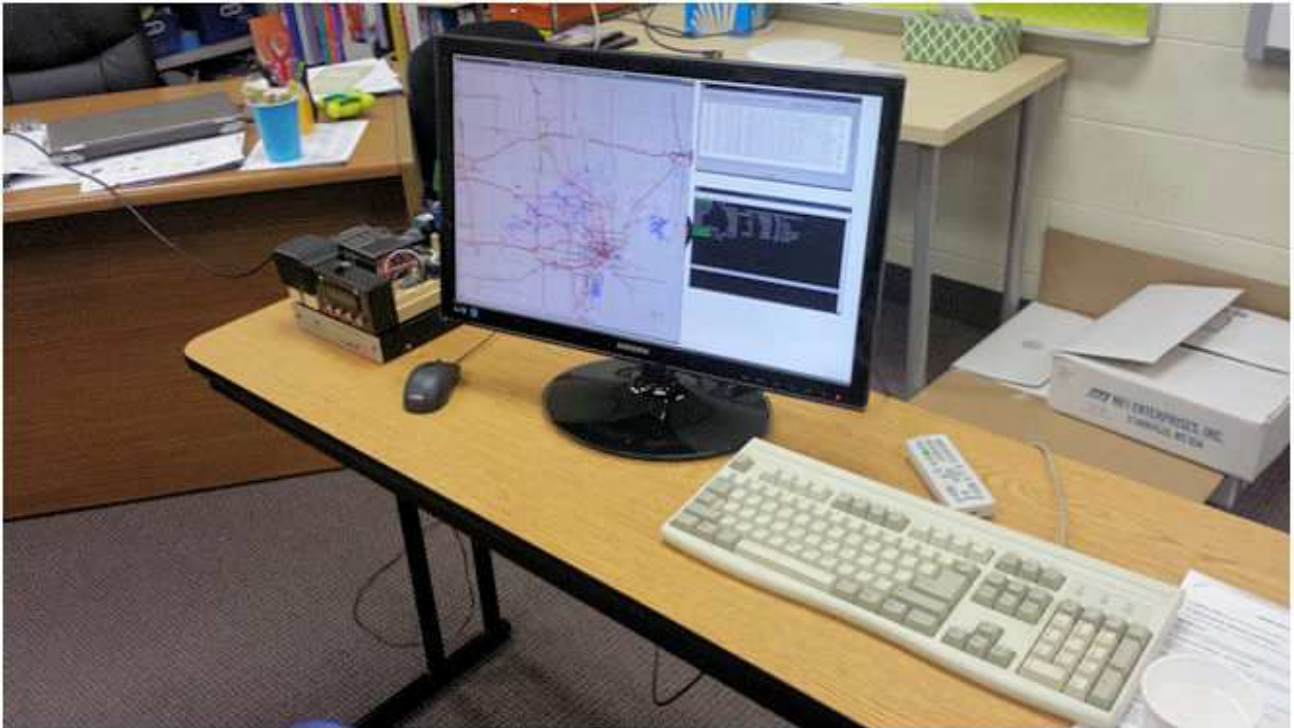
We have a new ArCom RC-210 controller (approx. cost \$600) courtesy of Ron WD8MNX that has been installed. This controller can control (3) devices and interconnect them; e.g. our UHF Repeater, VHF Repeater, and the Weather Radio. It has a total of 691 functions that can be programmed.

Ron noted that the 443.075 MHz repeater has an Effective Radiated Power (ERP) of 600-watts.

The 2m Repeater has interference on receive and is not performing optimally. Ron & Magic Mike W8MJC will continue to work on the 2m Repeater.

IX. Presentation – Homebrew APRS I-Gate with Raspberry Pi – Marty KB8JIU

Marty KB8JIU made an interesting and informative presentation of his Homebrew APRS I-Gate with Raspberry Pi. The following is a summary, written by Marty, of his presentation.



A point usually arrives in an amateur radio operator's experience where equipment ends-up being surplus or no longer practical for everyday use. And when this occasion is realized, there are many hams who take their equipment to a local swap or modern day internet swap to trade or sell.

Of course ridding oneself of hardware that may not be as valued as the day it was new is easy to do. However, my bit of radio and other electronics hardware was not locked away in long term storage to be forgotten (not completely). To make use of this under-used equipment, I dreamed up an application that seemed to fit a need.

For a few years, I had already been using an APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) in my personal vehicle to broadcast my GPS derived position to the amateur radio world on the APRS 2 meter frequency 144.39 MHz. This mobile position reporting system had gone through a number of changes and improvements however, the success by which my position would be heard by other ARPS (I-Gate) stations was sometimes limited.

To increase the likelihood that my packet position would be heard and reported, I designed and assembled a homebrew APRS I-Gate system. A Raspberry Pi single board computer was the centerpiece of the system that made the whole project possible. Without it, the energy costs and other issues (e.g. Windows updates) would probably have made the project undesirable.

In image above (to the left of the computer monitor) shows, the APRS I-Gate is bonded together to a wood board. This board is a nice platform on which everything is held together into one unit. As my shack space always seems to be more and more limited in the amount of free space available, this decision seemed right at the time.



The APRS I-Gate was created with the following major hardware pieces:

MFJ 1270C TNC (vintage 1991)
Realistic HTX-202 2M HT (vintage 2003)
Pluggable four port USB Hub
Model B Raspberry Pi
Mobile Speaker
Parallax Two Line display (#27977)

The I-Gate relies upon the MFJ 1270C TNC and Realistic HT to receive and transmit APRS packets. The TNC does the decoding and encoding of the APRS messages and the HT will receive and transmit the packets as required to make the system work. The APRS I-Gate's presence must identify itself periodically and its main function is to receive and report APRS position information on to the internet which enables tracking ARPS stations.

The Raspberry Pi is running an application named XASTIR which configures and controls the I-Gate. The software is a graphical application which provides the ability to show on a map of the local area where APRS stations are located. An example of how the XASTIR application maps the APRS stations it hears is shown in the computer monitor in the first image.

Since the APRS I-Gate was never meant to be a *finished* project, I never made too much effort to make it *pretty*. As the I-Gate hardware has progressed through many changes, hardware was added for some practical purpose. The Parallax two line display and four button box was only *recently* added to provide some visual feedback of stations heard and user controls for the system without needing to interface with the Raspberry Pi directly.

There are *always* features that can be added to this I-Gate system that will make it easier to use and only increase its flexibility. In the remainder of 2017, I am working towards connecting it to a dedicated 2M antenna so that will be operational 24/7. And some of the external controls and display recently added will only be refined for increased usefulness.

Homebrewing can be fun and I have definitely learned a lot about Linux and the Raspbery Pi while making this project operational.

X. GMARC Embroidered Logo Gear

Frank W8FKZ picked-up a Royal Blue Jacket Size XL. Ken N8COQ ordered a Royal Blue Jacket Size L, and it will be delivered @ the May meeting.

The following members ordered GMARC Navy Caps: Allen W8EAP. I ordered (3) **extra** hats (\$9) – Navy Blue, but they will go fast (first come first served).

This order was placed on 31-Mar-2017 with delivery promised by 24-Apr-2017. It actually arrived on 17-Apr-2017, but now Queensboro has about 30-days lead time for new orders.

I will place a **new** order for anyone who is interested in a Jacket (\$43), Polo Shirt (\$28), or Navy Hat (\$9). Here is a list of available items (w/ Colors + Sizes). You can order any of these items @ the May meeting:

Jacket – Style **6047** (\$43) – Royal Blue is the most popular color – but available in 4-colors: Pewter Grey, Royal Blue, Black and Navy Blue up to Size 2XL, Polo Shirt Style **1140** (\$28) – available in 18-colors: Orange, Light Blue, Lime green, Kelly Green, Gold, Dark Green, Mint Green, White, Pale Yellow, Black, Burgandy, Navy Blue, Charcoal Grey, Royal Blue, Purple, Red, Bright Blue, and Teal Blue up to Size 6XL, and Style **1251** priced at \$22 – available in 5-colors: Dark Smoke Grey, Roayl Blue, Black, Navy Blue, and Red up to Size 2XL, or Hat Style 8460 (\$9) – One Size Navy Blue. Queensboro has recently added some additional Polo Shirts: Style **1251** priced at \$22 – available in 5-colors: Dark Smoke Gray, Royal Blue, Black, Navy Blue, and Deep Red up to Size 2XL, Style **1143** (with pocket) priced at \$28 – available in 18-colors: Orange, Light Blue, Lime green, Kelly Green, Gold, Dark Green, Mint Green, White, Pale Yellow, Black, Burgandy, Navy Blue, Charcoal Grey, Royal Blue, Purple, Red, Bright Blue, and Teal Blue up to Size 6XL, and Style **1251** priced at \$22 – available in 5-colors: Dark Smoke Grey, Roayl Blue, Black, Navy Blue, and Red up to Size 2XL and Style **1686** priced at \$18 – available in 5-colors: Charcoal, White, Black Navy Blue, and Pro Red up to Size 2XL. All items: There is an additional charge for Large Sizes: 2XL +\$2, 3XL +\$3, 4XL +\$4.

Queensboro also has T-Shirts (with and without a pocket) available if anyone is interested. For example, Gildan DryBlend T-Shirt Style **7280** priced at \$9 (Save 74%) -- available in 12-colors: Carolina Blue, Heather Grey, Charcoal Heather, Tennessee Orange, Lime Green, Forest Green, Black, Royal Blue, White, Red, Navy Blue and Sapphire Blue up to Size 3XL.

Dave W8DJH ordered a Polo Shirt Style **1140** in Charcoal Grey Size 3XL – \$31. We need to order at least (3) more shirts and/or jackets to place an order with Queensboro.

XII. Old / New Business

The first GMARC Saturday morning breakfast meeting was held 11-Feb-2017 at Sero’s Restaurant on 12 Mile Rd in Madison Heights at 9:30 AM.

We plan to meet every Saturday at 9:30 AM at Sero’s. We have had 15 consecutive meetings that were well attended. Please plan to join us when you can.

A Committee was **approved** by the membership to evaluate the feasibility for GMARC to have a “Full Swap” in **2008** and beyond. Magic Mike W8MJC suggested that we look at the (former) SAMARA or Milford dates in April. Members of the Committee are:

Mike W8MJC, Chairman
Jim N8KKN

Dick KE8BFF
Bill N8SA

Bobby N8CY
Don K7SDF

Scott W1BIC

Magic Mike W8MJC suggested a “target date” of Saturday 21-Apr-2018 at UFCW Local 876 Union Hall in Madison Heights, MI from 8:00 AM til 1:00 PM.

Discussion of location for future meetings: Trinity Lutheran vs. PPG. **No** decision was made. It was decided to hold 16-May-2017 meeting @ PPG so the membership can better evaluate PPG.

Discussion of date for **xx**-Jun-2017 Lark-in-the-Park @ River Woods Park in Auburn Hills. Bobby N8CY noted that the "normal" date of 20-Jun-2017 is **not** available. Suggested alternatives were:

Tue 6/13 – Week Prior
Tue 6/27 – Week After

Mon 6/19 – Day Prior
Wed 6/21 – Day After

No date was selected. This issue was **tabled** to the 16-May-2017 meeting @ PPG.

Brief discussion of Revised GMARC By-Laws v1.75 required due to GMARC becoming a Tax Exempt Organization (EO) under § 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. This issue was **tabled** to the 16-May-2017 meeting @ PPG.

Motion to have 16-May-2017 meeting @ PPG to **further evaluate the facility** by Robbin K1KNN and seconded by Ted AC8SW. Motion carried.

There will be **no Program** at the May meeting. Instead we will provide sufficient time to fully discuss the GMARC By-Laws changes v1.75 and approve them at the May meeting. Bobby N8CY will send a copy of the proposed changes via eMail to all members (as required by By-Laws Article IX.) – so they can prepare for the discussion at the May meeting @ PPG and **approve** the new By-Laws.

XIII. Attendance + Funds Collected

29 Members attended. There were (4) visitors.

The following funds were collected and deposited @ TCF Bank:

Membership Dues	\$ 60.00	
Donation	25.00	- Frank W8FKZ donated 50/50 Winnings
50/50 Raffle	25.00	
DR-2X Repeater Fund	100.00	- Bob KE8GST
Coffee Fund	<u>5.60</u>	
Total --	\$215.60	

Upcoming Events for GMARC:

Next Membership Meeting	16-May-17 7:00 PM Tuesday (Packard Proving Grounds)
Cadillac Hamfest	6-May-17 Saturday 8:00 AM Cadillac, MI
Dayton HamVention	May 19-21, 2017 – Dayton, OH
Monroe Hamfest	18-Jun-17 Sunday 8:00 AM Monroe, MI
GMARC Lark-in-the-Park	13-Jun-17 Tuesday 4:00 PM – Riverbend Park– Auburn Hills
GMARC Trunk Swap	22-Jul-17 Saturday 8:00 PM – Packard Proving Grounds
GMARC Lark-in-the-Park	18-Aug-17 Tuesday 4:00 PM – Riverbend Park– Auburn Hills
GMARC Trunk Swap	23-Sep-17 Saturday 8:00 PM – Packard Proving Grounds
Great Lakes HamCon	Oct 7-8, 2017 – Michigan International Speedway
	www.qlhamcon.org

*** Date and location for June Lark-in-the-Park to be decided @ 16-May-2017 meeting.**

XIV. Meeting Adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby Corr N8CY, Secretary
GM Amateur Radio Club
Cell: 248.346.2733

Spend v Current Budget - Q1 2017

1/1/2017 through 3/31/2017 Using 2017 GMARC Budget

5/15/2017

Category	1/1/2017 Actual	- Budget	3/31/2017 Difference
INCOME	1,279.50	1,787.50	-508.00
General Fund	550.00	1,025.00	-475.00
Hamfest And Convention Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
GLARC HamCon 2017	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Hamfest And Convention Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
Raffles	27.00	60.00	-33.00
50-50 Raffles	27.00	60.00	-33.00
Other Raffles	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repeater Fund	702.50	702.50	0.00
DR-2X Repeater	702.50	702.50	0.00
Other Repeater Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES	394.25	496.00	101.75
Business Operations	250.00	292.00	42.00
501(c)(3) Fund	250.00	250.00	0.00
New Member Mailpiece Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Business Operations	0.00	42.00	42.00
Coffee Fund	-5.75	0.00	5.75
Repeater Operations	150.00	204.00	54.00
Net Difference:	885.25	1,291.50	-406.25

Balance Sheet

12/20/2016 through 4/30/2017

Category	12/20/2016- 4/30/2017
INCOME	
General Fund	1,495.53
Due Regular	935.96
Dues Heritage	20.00
<hr/> TOTAL General Fund	<hr/> 2,451.49
Hamfest And Convention Funds	
GLARC HamCon 2017	0.00
<hr/> TOTAL Hamfest And Convention Funds	<hr/> 0.00
Raffles	721.08
50-50 Raffles	27.00
<hr/> TOTAL Raffles	<hr/> 748.08
Repeater Fund	1,035.90
DR-2X Repeater	1,102.50
<hr/> TOTAL Repeater Fund	<hr/> 2,138.40
TOTAL INCOME	5,337.97
EXPENSES	
Business Operations	
501(c)(3) Fund	0.00
New Member Mailpiece Fund	0.00
<hr/> TOTAL Business Operations	<hr/> 0.00
Coffee Fund	-5.75
<hr/> TOTAL EXPENSES	<hr/> -5.75
<hr/> OVERALL TOTAL	<hr/> 5,343.72

Agenda

To Be held @ **Packard Proving Grounds (PPG)**
May 16, 2017 – 7:00 PM

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance – President Tony W8OKX Presiding

II. Introductions, Upgrades, and Visitors

III. Minutes of April Meeting – Bobby N8CY (Motion to Approve)

IV. Treasurer's Report – Don K7SDF (Motion to Approve)

V. Membership Report – Bobby N8CY

- Regular Members who have paid 2017 dues: **54**, Heritage Members: **38**

VI. Inter-Club Liaison – Bobby N8CY

Next Membership Meeting	19-Sep-17 7:00 PM Tuesday (Packard Proving Grounds)
Cadillac Hamfest	6-May-17 Saturday 8:00 AM Cadillac, MI
Dayton HamVention	May 19-21, 2017 – Dayton, OH
Monroe Hamfest	18-Jun-17 Sunday 8:00 AM Monroe, MI
GMARC Lark-in-the-Park	13-Jun-17 Tuesday 4:00 PM – Riverbend Park– Auburn Hills, MI
GMARC Trunk Swap	22-Jul-17 Saturday 8:00 AM – Packard Proving Grounds
GMARC Lark-in-the-Park	15-Aug-17 Tuesday 4:00 PM – Riverbend Park–Auburn Hills, MI
GMARC Trunk Swap	23-Sep-17 Saturday 8:00 AM – Packard Proving Grounds
Great Lakes HamCon	Oct 7-8, 2017 – Michigan International Speedway www.glhamcon.org

VII. Technical Committee Report – Ron WD8MNX

- Ron still needs additional Control Operators (COs) for **both** of our Repeaters. If you can monitor one (or both) of our Repeaters at certain times of the day, please let Ron know.

VIII. Break – (8:00 – 8:15 PM)

50/50 Prize Raffle – Richard KC8HMJ

IX. New Business

- Committee report from Magic Mike W8MJC on status of the feasibility for GMARC to have a "Full Swap" in 2018 and *beyond* – Currently scheduled for 29-Apr-2018 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM @ UFCW Local 876 Hall in Madison Heights, MI (flier available at meeting).
- Discuss Location for Future Meetings: Trinity Lutheran Church vs. PPG
- The GMARC By-Laws Change v1.75: Due to IRC § 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status will ***not*** be discussed at the May Meeting. There will be ***additional changes*** made to the By-Laws, and it is anticipated that Revised By-Laws v1.76 will be voted on at the 19-Sep-2017 meeting @ Packard Proving Grounds (PPG)

X. GMARC Embroidered Logo Gear (See Minutes **Pg. 3**) – Bobby N8CY

- Items previously ordered (2-Jackets + 1-hat) were ordered from Queensboro on 31-Mar-2017 and received on 17-Apr-2017
- See Minutes Pg. 3 for Items (Jacket, Shirt, Hat) – with Style Number, Available Colors / Sizes, and prices. The Secretary expects to place another order ***after*** the May Meeting – so get your name on the list. If you ***snooze***..... You lose!

XI. Adjourn (Before 9:00 PM)