

GMARC MEETING MINUTES 20-APR-2021
V1.1

I. Call to Order by President Bill Chesney at 7:33 PM over a Zoom Virtual meeting.

II. Introductions, Upgrades, and Visitors

No formal introductions or other related announcements were made.

III. Minutes – Marty KB8JIU

Meeting minutes for the March 16th, 2021 virtual meeting were shared with the club membership attending by KB8JIU. After a short time frame that allowed for reading of the formatted meeting minutes, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Don K7SDF and it was seconded by Ken KD8UXW. All members voted to approve the meeting minutes.

IV. Membership Report – Frank W8FKZ

Frank presented a document that revealed that the club has 157 regular members and 56 Heritage members. He mentioned that 36 of the club members had not paid up their dues for the year and they might lose their membership on May 1st. He also stated that two new membership applications will be presented to the board for approval and that he expects additional applications to be submitted in the near future.

It was stated by Frank that he would be sending out an email to the general membership requesting information on whether they are also members of the ARRL. Jay WB8SBI asked if the club should also track if the GMARC members belong to the AMSAT or TAPR groups. It was also suggested that keeping track of which members belong to the Quarter Century Wireless club might also be a worthwhile.

Frank stated that it might be best to add to the email request whether or not the GMARC members belong to any other amateur radio clubs or organizations in order to not to leave any groups out.

V. Treasurers Report – Rich KC8HMJ

Rich stated (for Linda) that the club currently has \$9534.93 in the treasury. Bobby Corr N8CY was paid \$57.98 for raffle ticket expenses. He also stated that \$215.17 was received from PayPal as income.

It was mentioned that the club raffle is being ran by Bobby Corr N8CY and that there are currently 81 prizes available along with the grand prize (i.e., Ultimate Digital Node). Bill N8SA stated that he has the current Raffle license from the state of Michigan and that his name is on it.

VI. Technical Report – Ron WD8MNX

Ron stated that he is eager to travel to the club repeater site and fix some of its' issues. The two meter repeater currently has a reduction in RF power output due to a break in the antenna which is resulting in this loss of radiated power. The broken antenna makes the VHF antenna behave as a 5/8 wavelength antenna instead of the co-linear that it is. In addition, Ron mentioned that this will reduce the ERP a bit so, it won't be received as well either.

Ron WD8MNX revealed that the time required to get in and out of the Renaissance Center to

replace the antenna now takes hours due to changes made to deal with the Covid restrictions. He stated that these changes apply to everyone who goes in and out of the building so no one is being singled out.

Marty KB8JIU asked if the System Fusion Digital machine was running well since, it has been broken in the past. Ron said that it is running well however, the problems that it does have are related to the large number of nodes that connect to the GMARC Metro Detroit room. He stated that on average a half-dozen nodes are connected but, he has seen up to seventeen nodes connected at one time. Some of these nodes are not using the Yaesu System Fusion software so, they don't seem to work that well.

Ron also mentioned that the DudeStar system that connects to our digital repeater system has been working well and it is very secure. The ham behind the development of the DudeStar software is working to make it possible to crosslink other Digital modes like DSTAR, Fusion, etc.

VII. Old Business

Bill N8SA mentioned that there was a workday at the PPG this past weekend. He stated that the middle garage had the inside storm windows taken down and washed. This effort required six people cleaning 26 windows and only one was cracked. With this cleaning about two-thirds of the building's windows are clean. Bill said that this coming Friday and Saturday the rest of the windows would be cleaned.

Bill asked for members to spread the word about this upcoming windows cleaning event. He would like to be sure that there are enough people available to help out in this last bit of cleaning.

Marty asked about the July 11th USECA swap to see if we are prepared. As it is known the Farmer's market takes place at the same time, excessive people traffic may be a problem. Bill mentioned that the Farmer's Market event takes place in the front of the PPG and the PPG swap will be at the back. Marty was concerned that there would be enough outdoor space for everyone for trunk swaps. Bill stated that everything should be fine for space.

VIII. New Business

Bill N8SA stated that he will be going to the Midland Fusion Repeater site on May 1st to help them improve their system. The Midland group has a 1000 foot tower antenna at the site and they are at the 500 foot mark. N8SA said that there is a possibility that this repeater antenna could be moved up to the 800 foot height and there is not cost for the club to use the site.

Bill further mentioned while at the site there will be some work to fix an ice bridge that protects the heliix cable from falling ice.

IX. Presentation

Bill N8SA handed off the meeting to Ron Wilcox KF7ZN who presented an interesting slideshow on HF propagation.

After the presentation was complete, Frank W8FKZ asked if the Propagation presentation would be available for review. Ron KF7ZN and Don K7SDF suggested that you look for the UTAH Amateur radio club on YouTube for this video and others like it. The club's regular

meetings are also archived on YouTube.

X. Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Roy W8MRW and seconded by Ron WD8MNX. All voted in favor to close the meeting.

Bill asked for everyone to send Bill and email with feedback on the presentation. A few sentences would be useful information for Ron KF7ZN.

Meeting ended at 9:22 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Marty Temple KB8JIU, Secretary
GM Amateur Radio Club