

Minutes of SVARC Meeting - Nov 18, 2006

Meeting called to order: By President John Henry, AC7LC, at 0841.

Members present: David Singleton, KE7HOK, Charlie Correll, N6IBI, Diane Robey, KE6JRP, Brad Feilberg, KE7EOF, Steve Walser, KE7HOB, Dave Archer, KA7RRA, Martin Price, AC7SI, Wes Price, KE7EEA, Dan Morris, N7ENE, Nathan Singleton, KE7HOJ, Tom Singleton, K8TOM, John Herb, KE7HOE, John Henry, AC7LC, Dave Axe, W7AGJ.

Visitors present: David Friedman, KE7GOY, representing the Red Cross and Ethan Dill, no call.

All present introduced themselves.

Officers' Reports: In the absence of David, KB7GFL, due to surgery, Dave, W7AGJ, acted as Secretary/Treasurer pro tem. Dave gave the treasurer's report (\$381.05 in checking as of 10/31/06 plus account activity of a \$20.80 withdrawal and \$0.13 interest). The report was approved with one correction - the \$20.80 was the ten year renewal fee for the W7SKY license, not for the APRS node battery backup system. Dave then read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved as written.

Old Business: John, AC7LC, gave a report on the recently completed CERT class at Monroe. About seven club members participated. Brad, KE7EOF, the Engineering and Emergency Management Director for the City of Monroe was thanked for inviting club members to participate and for organizing the course.

John, AC7LC, presented Dave, W7AGJ, with an award certificate for winning first place in the club's September 2006 Fox Hunt.

Dave, W7AGJ, then led a discussion of the Technician course proposed for early next year. The class is mainly in response to a request from David, KE7GOY, of the Red Cross. Dave reported his analysis comparing the new ARRL study guide and the new Technician Exam which became effective on July 1st, 2006. The major departure from the previous study guide is the disconnect between the flow of the text and the exam question categories. This may make it more difficult to assign club instructors by chapter and to coordinate visual materials by exam sections. Dave will next peruse the MicroHAMS Technician Class Power Point presentation with an eye toward how it can be used in our next course.

The question of an intense one weekend course versus a one evening per week for eight or nine week class was discussed. The Red Cross requirement seems to favor a short intense course while the club's veteran instructors seem to favor the longer course. Several alternative compromise schedules were discussed such as a two weekend semi-intensive schedule, or a two evening per week class schedule. No clear plan was agreed to pending further evaluation of available training materials and further discussion.

Class size was also discussed, but did not seem to present any instructional problem since it would probably only be limited by room size and audio-visual equipment capabilities. It was generally decided that it would be better for the students alone to be responsible for obtaining their textbooks rather than the club being heavily involved obtaining them. The consensus of former students in SVARC courses was to continue to have a general introduction to amateur radio as part of the first class session.

New Business: An e-mail from Diane Harvey, David's wife, was read regarding David's status following successful open heart surgery the day before the club meeting. Steve Walser also reported on his hospital visit with David following the surgery. A get well card was signed by those present at the meeting.

David, KE7GOY, gave a run down of Red Cross amateur radio activities during the recent area flooding.

Dave, W7AGJ, displayed used equipment given to the club by Garey Markley, KN7YGE. An auction of these items is scheduled for the December meeting. Equipment includes two Motorola MICOR 100 watt four channel transceivers currently tuned in the 153-155 MHz range, two Motorola lunch box rigs on 28 MHz, and some commercial handhelds.

Adjournment: By John at 0945.

DAVID & DIANNA HARVEY

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