

Minutes of December 7, 2005

The December meeting, the Club's annual Christmas Dinner, was held at Sweet Potatoes Restaurant in Versailles. The meeting started at approximately 7:00 p.m., and the minutes for the November meeting were approved. The election of 2006 officers proceeded shortly there after, with the following results:

President:

Mike Brannock **KG4IES** **11**

Vice President:

Jerry Mueller **KC4WZO** **6**

Paul Harrington III KB4ENQ 2

Todd Rose KE4YAH 3

Secretary:

Paul Harrington III **KB4ENQ** **8**

Paul Harrington IV KF4YRK 3

Treasurer:

Steve McFadden **KA4TJD** **11**

Following the election, discussion turned to analysis of the parade operation the previous Saturday. Steve McFadden, KA4TJD, indicated that he was to attend a meeting with Melissa Lippert, the parade coordinator, on December 15 at 10:00 a.m. He collected comments, and suggestions aimed at improving the operation and promised to share them with Melissa.

Net Report:

12/1/2005	12/8/2005	12/15/2005	12/22/2005	12/29/2005
KF4YRK	KB4ENQ	KB4ENQ	KB4ENQ	KB4ENQ
KC4WZO	KA4TJD	KF4YRK	KF4YRK	KF4YRK
KB4ENQ	KE4GNX	KC4WZO	KE4VIU	KF4LRK
K4HOD	KF4LRK	KE4GNX	KE4AIE	KE4GNX
KE4AIE	KE4AIE	KA4TJD	K4MAE	KE4LZP
KF4LRK	KG4TND	KE4AIE		KG4TNA
	KI4LSG			KG4TND
				K4HOD
				KE4AIE
				K4DKO
				KQ4ZZ
				KD4SN

Upcoming Exams:

The second Saturday in March, June, September, and December, 10:00 a.m., Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY, contact Harry Sparks, KN4S at 859-272-8762.

The Second Sunday of January, April, July, and October, 1:30 p.m. Conference Room B, Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY, contact Margie Williams, KE4MAJ at 859-245-2140 or email ke4maj@arrl.net

Third Saturday of January, April, July, and October, 10:00 a.m. at Madison County EOC, Exit 90 off I-75, right to the first traffic signal, then left for about ¼ mile, contact Terry Holman, AC4PY at 859-623-1711.

The following dates have tentatively been scheduled in 2006 by the Bluegrass ARS:

Saturday February 11, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room B, Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY

Saturday May 13, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room B, Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY

Saturday August 13, 1:00 p.m., during the Central Kentucky ARRL Hamfest, Fraternal Order of Firefighters Hall 1604 Versailles Rd. Lexington Ky

Saturday November 11, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room B, Red Cross Building, 1450 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY

For information contact Fernie Williams, KE4MAI at 859-245-2140 or email ke4mai@arrl.net

Upcoming Hamfests:

Date: January 14, 2006

Name: 20th Annual Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium

Sponsor: Dial Amateur Radio Club

Location: Miami University, Middletown Campus, 4200 North University Blvd. Middletown OH

Contact: Carl Morgan, K8CM, Miami University, Middletown Campus, 4200 East University Blvd. Middletown, OH 45042

Phone: 513-727-3456

E-Mail: k8cm@asl.net

Date: March 4, 2006

Sponsor: Mammoth Cave ARC

Location: Cave City (KY) Convention Center, Mammoth Cave Street (Hyw 70)

Contact: Larry Brumett, KN4IV, 108 Withers Drive, Glasgow, KY 42141

Phone: 270-651-2363

E-Mail: lbrumett@glasgow-ky.com

What's On My Mind:

Thanks for your vote of confidence in electing me as Secretary.

It's resolution time again. This year:

I resolve to finish some of the projects that I have started. Some of our readers have visited my home QTH and have noticed many projects started with good intentions, languishing away in boxes, half-finished. I do fear the upholding this resolution will cause financial hard ship for a few organizations. If I am busy using the parts that I have ordered for projects neglected, but not forgotten, DigiKey and Electronic Goldmine may have to file for bankruptcy when orders for parts for newly hatched projects fail to arrive (apologies to Dr. Windham for that run on sentence).

I resolve to guide someone, at least one someone, along the way to becoming a new Ham. To me this is the second most (only to volunteering for an emergency operation) important thing for an Amateur operator to do.

I resolve to learn at least one new mode of operation, and to share this experience by demonstrating it at Field Day or via presentation at a club meeting.

I resolve to answer more nets. First on that list is Charlie, KE4AIE's net just after ours on Thursday evening. This does not sound like a big hitter, but it evolves my first resolution. My TS-711 does not have CTCSS tones. I was not smart enough to purchase the tone unit when I picked up the radio, and they are no longer available. In the amateur way, I am working on a homebrew CTCSS adapter.

I resolve to become proficient at CW and make at least 10 contacts per week in that mode. Well, I had to throw in at least one to break, didn't I? (No intention here to bash CW, I support "Know Code".)

I also resolve to clean out the basement. Yes, KE4GNX, there is a Santa Clause.

That's what's on my mind, now what's on yours. Please share with us what you would like to see in the newsletter, changed in the newsletter, or taken out of the newsletter. Send your comments to kb4enq@arrl.net, better yet give them to me on the net Thursday on evenings.

73's, see you on the radio.

From the ARRL News Letter:

==>THE TOYS HAVE LANDED! 2005 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE GIFTS GET TO GULF COAST

"Mission accomplished! " That was the word on the 2005 Holiday Toy Drive from ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, and assistant warehouse volunteer coordinator Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, on the US Gulf Coast after they'd completed unloading some 5000 toys contributed by generous Amateur Radio clubs and individual radio amateurs from all over. In addition, the second ARRL Holiday Toy Drive benefited from more than \$8000 in cash donations, which permitted the purchase of gifts for older recipients and helped defray the costs of transporting the toys.

"The 2005 ARRL/Salvation Holiday Toy Drive is about completed with the exception of the cleanup," Leggette reported this week. The toys headed to Mississippi following a December 15 sendoff ceremony in Memphis.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP--who spearheaded the drive from the League Headquarters side--says Lowenthal, a former FedEx employee, did such a professional packing job that he only needed one truck--instead of the anticipated three--to transport the toys to coastal Mississippi from Memphis, saving even more money to purchase additional toys. "The overwhelming response of hams around the country was clear as thousands of toys, games, bikes and stuffed animals headed south," he added.

The ARRL Toy Drive partnered with The Salvation Army, whose distribution network throughout the Gulf Coast remains intact. "The Salvation Army has the ability to screen recipients and will assure that the toys are used where they are truly needed most," Pitts explained. A big rental moving van took the full load directly to Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi.

Representatives of The Salvation Army and the League were on hand in Memphis December 15 to see the truckload of toys southward. Holiday Toy Drive national chairperson and country music singer Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, joined Amateur Radio volunteers, the news media, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus for the occasion.

"For those who couldn't be here, I'm sure they're here in spirit and giving from their hearts, and I just want to thank them--from all around--for collecting," Loveless told ARRL.

Bill Feist, WB8BZH, The Salvation Army's disaster services director for the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi division, represented his organization for the occasion. "We are certainly very appreciative of what all the Amateur Radio operators around the country and the ARRL have done for the people of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi," he said.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, summed it up simply in thanking Pitts for his role: "It was a great, great project."

==>KIDS' TURN AT THE RADIO: FIRST KIDS DAY OF 2006 IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

The second Sunday in January is the day to turn your shack over to the kids for some ham radio fun with a purpose. The first running of Kids Day 2006 begins Sunday, January 8, at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC with no limit on operating time (the second Kids Day will be Saturday, June 17). Kids Day provides a terrific opportunity to show youngsters what Amateur Radio is all about--and that includes its role in emergency communication. ARRL Education and Technology Program ("The Big Project") Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, says Kids Day can be a great opportunity spark change and get kids and families thinking about emergency preparedness.

"While you are coaching the youngsters who visit your shack--and their parents too--on how to make contacts and new friends via ham radio during Kids Day, why not take a few moments to ask them about their family's plans to deal with emergency challenges?" he says in December 2005 QST (see "Kids Day 2006" on p 45). "Why not use the opportunities offered by Kids Day to show the youth in your neighborhood that ham radio can be loads of fun, and that ham radio is a way that they can contribute something very valuable to their communities?"

Call "CQ Kids Day." The suggested exchange for Kids Day contacts is first name, age, location and favorite color. It's okay to work the same station more than once if the operator has changed. Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.380-21.400 and 28.350-28.400 MHz. Contacts via VHF repeaters are okay too, with permission from the repeater owner. Observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html>>.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate, which becomes the youngster's personalized "sales brochure" for ham radio, Spencer says. The League asks everyone taking part in Kids Day to complete a short survey and post comments afterward <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html>>. Doing this provides access to download the certificate page, or participants can send a 9x12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Spencer notes that this year's hurricane season highlighted one of the real values that ham radio brings to the community--a spirit of resilience. "By their very nature, ham radio operators are interested in personal preparedness and community service...this is resilience," he says. Spencer suggests that Kids Day sponsors take advantage of the opportunity to show how ham radio offers a way for participants to contribute something very valuable to their communities.

"A very effective advertising strategy is to get kids hooked on an idea," he says. "The kids in turn go home and 'bug' their parents about the idea. You plant the seed in a young mind, and they will take care of the rest!"

Spencer believes Kids Day activities can result in a family emergency plan campaign that could save lives, and future community planners who know communication and how to communicate.

"Make that personal connection that may result in a new licensee and, perhaps, more resilient individuals by opening your station and inviting kids and neighbors to share in your hobby," Spencer urges. "You just might find yourself re-infected with that enthusiasm that you once had."

Visit the ARRL Web site for full information on Kids Day <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>>.

==>ISS COMMANDER SHOOTING FOR WAC, WAS AND MAYBE DXCC FROM SPACE

ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, has proven to be one of the more active Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) operators among ham radio operators who have occupied

the space station. Early in his ISS duty tour, McArthur got on the air from NA1SS for Scouting's Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) event in October, but he's also been available during his off hours to make some quick, casual QSOs on 2 meters as well. In fact, McArthur's having so much fun operating from space that he's hoping to complete Worked All Continents (WAC), Worked All States (WAS) and maybe even DXCC from space.

"Bill McArthur continues to be active on voice and now has a couple of personal goals he is trying to achieve," says ARISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO. "He is trying to talk to someone in every state in the United States. According to his log, he has managed to work 37 states so far." In addition, Ransom says, McArthur wants to work as many countries as he can.

"He's off to a good start with 28 DXCC entities in his log as of December 12," he said. "These contacts have been with amateur stations on every continent with the exception of Antarctica." That contact could happen this weekend, however. Although the IARU does not require WAC applicants to have worked Antarctica, Ransom says that ARISS tradition calls for an Antarctica QSO to achieve WAC from space "since the astronauts seem to have an unfair advantage."

Expedition 9 astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, became the first ISS crew member to contact all seven of the world's continents via Amateur Radio from NA1SS. Fincke worked KC4AAC at Antarctica's Palmer Research Station for his last contact.

States on McArthur's most-needed list are Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

"The list of DXCC entities is just starting to grow, so he needs a lot right now," Ransom conceded this week. "I figure he can get it if we are able to add a handful of smaller entities." Ransom says he hasn't included ARISS school group contacts in his counts and hopes McArthur will achieve his goals without them. "We won't know the official results for months after the mission," he added.

McArthur is about halfway through his approximately six-month duty tour aboard the ISS. He and crewmate Valery Tokarev will return to Earth in April.

During Thanksgiving week, McArthur reportedly made some three dozen casual contacts, most of them over North America and a few over Europe and New Zealand. Nine-year-old Mattie Clausen, AE7MC, of Oregon recently enjoyed her third QSO with McArthur, and the two now are on a first-name basis. McArthur made contacts with stations in the US on December 6. He also had QSOs with Australia, New Zealand and the US on December 11.

The NA1SS worldwide voice and packet downlink frequency is 145.800 MHz. In Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas, and the Pacific), the voice uplink is 144.49 MHz. In Region 1 (Europe, Central Asia and Africa), the voice uplink is 145.20 MHz. The worldwide packet uplink is 145.99 MHz. All frequencies are subject to Doppler shift. The Science@NASA Web site provides location information for the ISS <<http://science.nasa.gov/temp/StationLoc.html>>.

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> program is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.