

Minutes of March 3, 2004

The President called the meeting to order at 6:34. The minutes were then approved.

The Treasurer reported the balance to be after the following activity:

Collection of Deu \$45.00

Payment for ARES emergency manual \$117.40

Payment for antenna masts \$131.70

Website:

Todd suggested that someone volunteer to answer questions posted on the website. Jerry said that he would answer them.

Repeater:

There is going concern about the interference on the 440 repeater.

Adopt-A-Highway:

The Club will meet at McDonalds at 8:00 for breakfast before the cleanup.

Discussion:

- Paul III asked if anyone would be interested in the horse ride in western Kentucky. He said that he would like to have a few more people than he did last year.
- The Club discussed the possibility of getting vests for events.
- Paul III will give a presentation about Amateur Radio to the CERT class on March 8th.
- Todd will e-mail everyone about the ARES information he found for the manuals.

Net Report

2/5/04 Called by: Paul III KB4ENQ	2/12/04 Called by: Paul III KB4ENQ	2/19/04 Called by: Paul III KB4ENQ	2/26/04 Called by: Paul IV KF4YRK
Todd KE4YAH	Todd KE4YAH	Todd KE4YAH	Alan KE4OOI
Jerry KC4WZO	Greg KD4UBN	Jerry KC4WZO	Paul III KB4ENQ
Deborah KE4GNX	Jerry KC4WZO	Deborah KE4GNX	Jerry KC4WZO
Steve KA4TJD	Deborah KE4GNX	Steve KA4TJD	Deborah KE4GNX
Mike KG4IES	Steve KA4TJD	Mike KG4IES	Steve KA4TJD
	Mike KG4IES		Lou AG4LB
	Jimmy AG4LM		George KF4HOY
	Cliff K4DKO		
	Tom WB4ETG		

Members Present

Jerry Mueller	Todd Rose
Mike Brannock	Paul Harrington III
Paul Harrington IV	Deborah Harrington
Steve McFadden	Jim Hughes

Visitor: Michelle Knickerbocker

From the ARRL newsletter:

EAGLES' JOE WALSH, WB6ACU, ENJOYS FIRST VISIT TO ARRL

Well-known amateur and musician Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, of The Eagles, this week visited ARRL Headquarters for the first time in his 43 years as a ham. Accompanying Walsh to Newington March 5 and 6 was ham radio audio expert and manufacturer Bob Heil, K9EID. Both are ARRL Life Members. Besides touring ARRL, Walsh and Heil spent part of their weekend operating W1AW with ARRL staff members during the ARRL International DX Contest (Phone).

"I'm looking forward to a pileup," Walsh said beforehand. He says he was bitten by the contest bug during a visit to the station of Ali Al-Futtaim, A61AJ, in the United Arab Emirates. "There were 50 guys at a time calling me, and before I knew it, I looked up and three hours had passed and I'd been logging 350 QSOs an hour," he recalled. "Then I realized what [contesting] was all about. It was like, 'Wow!' You just have to do it to understand how much fun it is."

At W1AW, Walsh hopped from band to band working the contest, while Heil took the quieter route of ragchewing on 17 meters. He also assisted the contest effort by repairing a couple of headsets. Walsh and Heil at one point put W1AW on AM on 40 and 75 meters. During the contest, more than few operators took a moment to say hello to Walsh or to tell them they were fans.

Walsh said his HQ tour proved to be an eye opener. "You read all the different things in QST--the DX columns and technical articles--but people don't realize that there are a number of departments, and they're staffed with real people, the many people that it takes to put out QST and provide [member] services."

Walsh also marveled at Hiram Percy Maxim's rotary spark gap transmitter "Old Betsy," now residing in the W1AW lobby. "It's special just sitting here at W1AW, soaking up 100 years of Amateur Radio," he remarked. "It's everything I expected it to be, and I've met a lot of great people."

Walsh, who's also performed with The James Gang and enjoyed a solo career, says he got into Amateur Radio in 1960, shortly after moving to New York. Becoming a radio amateur was a pivotal point in his life, he said, and his personal experience was one of the reasons he's become a donor to the ARRL Amateur Radio Education and Technology Program <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>>. Recalling how the kindness of his Elmer, Jim Walden, then W2IEY and now W6ESJ, had enriched his life back when he was the new kid in town, Walsh said he wanted to somehow pay it back.

"I feel that I need to pass that kindness along and that's why I got involved in the Education and Technology Program," he said.

Walsh said he envisions "some kid like me--new in town and new in school--and there's going to be a ham station there. I want there to be something there for him." Walsh said he worked hard for his license, and he's enjoyed Amateur Radio over the years.

"I don't want those traditions and that fellowship to be lost," he said.
"I'll do what it takes to have that survive."

More information about Walsh's and Heil's visit is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2004/03/11/1/>>. A commemorative QSL card is available for those who worked W1AW during the contest. QSL requests go to W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with each request.

MAINLANDERS KEEPING EYE ON HAWAII AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA BILLS

Two Amateur Radio antenna bills are continuing to progress through the Hawaii State Legislature. House Bill 2773 would allow Hawaiian amateurs living in condominiums to install antennas on their units under certain guidelines. HB 2774 would permit antenna installations, with conditions, by Hawaiian amateurs living in subdivisions subject to homeowners' association covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs).

The progress of both bills also is under close scrutiny by amateurs on the mainland. The ARRL submitted testimony on the bills' behalf when they were heard last month by the Hawaii House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, chaired by their sponsor, Rep Ken Hiraki.

ARRL Pacific Section Manager Kevin Bogan, AH6QO, says the two measures passed a third reading in the House and are continuing their legislative journey in the Senate, where they passed first reading March 9. The bills likely will be referred to the Senate Consumer Protection and Housing Committee.

"Several hams are working on the text of amendments to the bills, so the bills aren't as broad and will have more chance of passing," Bogan said. What he termed a "small working group of hams" also plans to visit committee members to acquaint them with the bills, once they're referred, ask for their support and answer questions. Bogan is calling on Hawaii amateurs to draft e-mails or letters to their state senators or to even visit them, if convenient.

"We aren't preparing form letters as we feel it is much more effective to say it in your own words," he added.

Bogan is asking hams in Hawaii to develop written testimony in preparation for an eventual Senate hearing and to attend the hearing, once scheduled. He reminded amateurs to be sure to reference the bill numbers and their descriptions when writing lawmakers and to clearly state why they're seeking their support. He also asked amateurs

to e-mail <kbogan@hawaii.rr.com> him to report any correspondence or contacts with lawmakers regarding the bills.

Both bills are available on the Hawaii State Legislature Web site: HB 2773: <<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/docs/getstatus2.asp?billno=HB2773>>; HB 2774: <<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/docs/getstatus2.asp?billno=HB2774>>.

A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR AO-40

A weak "noise" on the AO-40 2.4-GHz beacon frequency has raised hopes that AO-40 may still be alive. AO-40 has been silent since January 27 (UTC), in the wake of a precipitous voltage drop. The satellite's controllers believe that one or more shorted battery cells are at the root of the problem.

Colin Hurst, VK5HI, of the AO-40 command team reports that on March 9 between 0310 and 0320 UTC (orbit 1541) he "noted a noise peak of 4 to 5 dB" in the vicinity of the expected beacon frequency after he'd issued a transmitter reset command sequence to the satellite. After listening for about 15 seconds, he issued a command to shut down the transmitter, and the noise disappeared. Hurst said he also transmitted several commands involving the auxiliary batteries but did not attempt to turn the beacon on again.

"This tends to suggest that the IHU [Internal Housekeeping Unit computer] and L Band [1.2 GHz] receiver are operational," Hurst said.

The AO-40 command team theorizes that a cell in the main battery pack has shorted, clamping the bus voltage below the point where it can operate the satellite. The spacecraft's auxiliary batteries are believed to be in parallel with the main batteries, and AO-40 Earth stations have been attempting to command the satellite to switch to the auxiliary batteries.

Updates on AO-40 are available on the AMSAT-DL Web site <<http://www.amsat-dl.org/journal/adlj-p3d.htm>>.

MOONBOUNCE PIONEER BOB SUTHERLAND, W6PO, SK

Robert I. "Bob" Sutherland, W6PO (ex-W6UOV), of San Mateo, California, died January 11. He was 78. An active VHF-UHF operator in the 1960s through the 1980s, Sutherland was on the West Coast end of the first Amateur Radio moonbounce (EME) contact in 1960 when the Eimac Radio Club's W6HB and W1BU worked each other on 1296 MHz EME. An employee of tube manufacturer Eimac for nearly 50 years, Sutherland developed some of the more famous Eimac tube-based amps.

"His contributions to the Amateur Radio field are legendary," said well-known VHF-UHF and EME operator Dave Olean, K1WHS. Olean says that while most amateurs know Sutherland for his EME work and his Eimac accomplishments, "most of his great deeds went unnoticed by many except for the legion of moonbounce operators whom he helped

along the way." Olean says he was one of them, recalling how Sutherland helped him set up an EME station for 432 MHz.