

2007 January Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by president Chuck, W8GCW, and introductions were made. 28 people, including 6 guests, filled in the sign-in sheet.

* The minutes for the December 12, 2006 meeting as compiled by outgoing secretary Jeff, KB8QAP were passed around, and a brief summary of important points was read by secretary Joe, N8FQ.

* Treasurer Jim, KC8KE gave his report, stating that the balance of the swap account is \$129.54, and the main account held \$5,974.51 after a few bills had been paid.

* Secretary Joe, N8FQ enumerated and passed around the month's correspondence.

** The club received a Thank-you letter from Abe, W8HVG of the Independent Repeater Association for our cooperation in their effort to install a receive site for the IRA linked repeater system at Holland Hospital, along with an announcement that the receiver was now on-air. The announcement stated that this receiver operates at the same frequency as the main site in Grand Rapids, but with a PL tone of 118.8 Hz. It should be noted that the transmitted signal still originates from the Grand Rapids site, so an HT with a rubber duck antenna may not be sufficient. Give the system a "kerchunk" to ensure you can hear it before calling to reduce the possibility of interference.

** Bill Booth, KD8CDS sent us a flyer and two free tickets for the Michigan Crossroads Hamfest in Marshall on March 17.

** The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association sent us a package of flyers for GRAHamfest 2007 in Lowell on September 8.

* Education committee chairman Ed, KF8EV, reports that the winter Tech/General class will begin on January 22. 11 people have signed up for the theory segment, and a few are interested in learning code. The code classes will be offered in two levels: one for those entirely new to it, and another for those with some experience. It was also suggested that a "construction night" be established, coinciding with the open radio room night, and feedback via the HARC reflector was requested.

* Ernie, W8EL has announced that a QRS CW net will be held on 10 meters, which will begin when the elimination of code testing goes into effect and current no-code Techs are granted Tech Plus privileges. He has asked for net control volunteers and general feedback. Suggestions for net activities include the “telephone game”, “20 questions”, NTS traffic handling, call recognition, “chase the station”. “Talkback” may be provided via 2 meter FM simplex or the Warm Friend repeater.

* John, WD8BWK, suggested that the open radio room night be moved to Tuesday nights in an attempt to reduce heating costs and improve attendance. Chuck, W8GCW suggested the club look into obtaining small space heaters for the rooms to be used during these events. Jim, KC8KE suggested the club acquire a multi-kilowatt amplifier to heat the radio room. Jim moved that the open radio room night be moved to Tuesdays at 7 PM. The motion was seconded and passed.

* Dave, WA8RSA, reported that the IRA link system receiver had been installed at Holland Hospital and was operational. While there, adjustments were made to the HARC 2 meter repeater.

* Chuck, W8GCW, announced his plans for “Operation Seek You”: an effort to contact inactive hams in the Holland/Zeeland area to gather updated information about them and ask them to join the club. He asked for at least 10 volunteers to call approximately 350 hams in the area and present them with a list of questions.

* Dave, WA8RSA, reported that negotiations with the Red Cross over their volunteer requirements are in progress.

* 4 visitors introduced themselves.

** Dan, N8ZJV has recently returned to the Holland area after spending the last 8 years working in Germany. He is attempting to persuade 2 of his coworkers to get their licenses, and brought them to the meeting.

** Simon, WB8GON, told stories of mischief, playing poker upstairs at the clubhouse in the 1940s. He mentioned the Applesauce net at 8:30 PM on 28.700.

* A short break occurred at 7:47 PM, during which Jim, KC8KE sold tickets for the 50/50 drawing. The winning tickets were drawn at 8:05 PM. The cash prize was won by Chris, KC8RQT. Tickets to the Marshall hamfest were won by Charlie, N8QEM and Charlie, WB8WTZ. Ed, KF8EV originally won the second ticket, but declined it.

* Kim, N8KAL called for ideas for programs over the coming year. Suggestions included a foxhunt, a GPS demo, discussions of fast-scan television by Ron, K8DMR and satellites by Jim, W8MRR, Chuck's videos, plans for the activation of the Big Red Lighthouse, antenna modelling, and a discussion of the amateur radio activity relating to the funeral of former US president Gerald Ford.

* A long, meandering discussion was held about the merits and drawbacks of various sorts of amateur radio equipment. Jim, KC8KE, suggested that everyone bring in their rig one evening and describe what they think of it.

* It was reported, Alan, NV8A crank-up tower was successfully raised with the help of 18 hams from around the area. His wife took pictures.

* The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Joe, N8FQ

HARC secretary