

Northeast Iowa Radio Amateur Association
WØMG MEETING MINUTES; 11 January 2014

The January meeting of the Northeast Iowa Radio Amateur Association (NIRAA) was held at 7:00 pm at the American Red Cross building in Waterloo on January 11, 2014.

President Dave Knittel (KØCQH) called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm and passed a sign-up sheet for attendees to sign.

Sixteen (16) members signed the attendance sheet including: Mark Colby (N8TWO), Chuck Angel (WØALO), Scott Lowe (WAØTPN), Dave Knittel (KØCQH), Don Russell (W9DRR), Stan Johnson (WØSJ), Eric Henely (KBØQND), Chris Conklin (NØCF), David Brandon (WDØBWQ), Curtis Wilson (NKØT), Wendell Wagner (NØRXB), Rich Jones (KBØQAV), Dave Kelly (KDØDK), Craig Hundley [N7PSA], Dick Nelson [WØHHF], Judi Nelson [NØHHF]

Introductions: Each member present introduced themselves and welcomed new members.

Secretary and Treasurer's Reports:

Scott Lowe presented an invoice from Tom Bicket to pay for a 2-year domain registration in the amount of \$29.98. The motion to pay the \$29.98 was made, seconded, and approved.

As of January 11, 2014, the balance in the Veridan bank account is \$ 596.34. The motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.

The Secretary's Report was approved as posted on the NIRAA website.

New Business:

- Public Service provided for Waverly Fire Department: Dave Knittel reported that he was asked to locate the source of radio interference in Waverly that was disrupting communications for the Waverly Fire Department. Using fox hunting antennas, portable amateur radio equipment, and direction finding skills the source of the RFI was identified and the problem resolved. The Waverly Fire Department was impressed with the skills demonstrated by amateur radio and public service to the community.
- Repeater Report: Chris Conklin reported that the 444.975 mhz repeater is operational.

Don Russell reported that he has secured a d-star server dedicated to the D-star system which provides additional capabilities for D-star users. Don explained that there are currently three (3) types of D-star systems in use; (1) US Trust, (2) IRCDDDB, and (3) QuadNet. The D-star repeaters in Cedar Falls and Reinbeck are now setup to use the QuadNet system.

Noting that US Trust authentication has been restrictive for d-star users with limited interconnect ability, and the IRCDDDB repeaters must use only a club call sign, the new QuadNet system provides additional benefits for users of the Cedar Falls and Reinbeck d-star repeaters which includes:

- easy entry of personal call signs to access the repeater.
- Group call sign routings
- the same IRCDDDB protocols are used

- VE Testing: Chris Conklin reported that VE testing would be held on February 8, 2014 at the American Red Cross building on University Avenue in Waterloo. Testing will begin at 5:00 pm and end at 7:00 pm. Joe Hoefner, Tom Bicket, and Eric Henely will conduct the test sessions.
- February meeting program: Don Russell will make a presentation on operating “EME, moon bounce, International Space Station (ISS) ,and satellite communications” at the February 2014 meeting.
- RTTY contest participation: Scott Lowe reported his participation in a recent RTTY contest for approximately 18 hours last weekend with 477 contacts with 45 US states and 40 DX entities.
- NWS Storm Spotting training: The NWS Storm Spotting training session will be held at the Hawkeye College in Tama Hall at 6:30 pm on March 24, 2014. The training typically last for 2-1/2 hours.
- Chris Conklin reports that WOMG now has a FaceBook page. Click on the “like” selection to receive meeting announcements via FaceBook.
- Curtis Wilson reports that he will operate the W0FSB Special Events station on Saturday, February 22, 2014. Participation is by invitation only.

Chris Conklin made motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Chuck Angel. Carried.

Program: Curtis Wilson demonstrated how to use service monitors to align and repair radios. Demonstrations of how to use the tracking generator, synadder, and scope functions and tests of sensitivity tests, tone squelch, modulation, power out, PL tones, deviation, DTMF deviation, DTMF decoder and encoders, voltage tests, and use of the spectrum analyzer were performed.

Submitted by:
Scott W. Lowe, Treasurer on behalf of Dick Nelson, Secretary.