

Northeast Iowa Radio Amateur Association
WØMG MEETING MINUTES; 14 September 2013

The September meeting of the Northeast Iowa Radio Amateur Association (NIRAA) was held at 7:00 pm at the American Red Cross building in Waterloo on September 14, 2013.

President Dave Knittel (KØCQH) called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and passed a sign-up sheet for attendees to sign.

Twenty (20) members signed the attendance sheet including: Mark Colby (N8TWO), Chuck Angel (WØALO), Scott Lowe (WAØTPN), Tom Bicket (AEØTB), Nathan Fisher (NØZYC), Dave Knittel (KØCQH), Don Russell (W9DRR), Don Talaska (WØDT), Stan Johnson (WØSJ), Eric Henely (KBØQND), Chris Conklin (NØCF), Doug Vernier (KØDV), David Brandon (WDØBWQ), Curtis Wilson (NKØT), Wendell Wagner (NØRXB), John Peacock (WØJFP), Chris Conrad (in training), Rich Jones (KBØQAV), Joe Leto (WØIW), Paul Manning (K6PWM)

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

Secretary and Treasurer's Reports: The Treasurer's Report is as follows:

Per Veridian bank statement for the period ended 8-31-2013: \$ 1,270.39
Plus deposits made between 8-31-2013 and 9-13-2013: 15.00 (Craig Hundley, N7PSA)
Plus cash received from Paul Manning for membership: 15.00 (Paul Manning)
Balance on 9-14-2013: \$ 1,300.39

Outstanding payments due to members:

To David Knittel: \$20.00 for Lookout Park Field Day reservation

To Chuck Angel: \$24.89 for Field Day 2013 supplies

The Secretary Report was posted to the WØMG website.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's and Secretary's Report moved and seconded; all voted in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Nomination of Officers and Director for 2014: Nominations for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer plus one (1) Director will be accepted during the October meeting. All members are encouraged to get involved. The Director position is for a 3-year term with one director rotating each year.
- Volunteer Examiner (VE) testing: A VE Testing Session will begin at 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 12, 2013, prior to the regular WØMG ham club meeting at the American Red Cross building on University Ave. in Waterloo.

Please contact Dave Knittel (KØCQH) or Chris Conklin (NØCF) to express your interest in testing prior to October 12, 2013, so that testing supplies can be ordered from the ARRL.

- Programs: Members were asked to suggest topics for meeting programs that they would like considered during the next year. The following topics were suggested with several members volunteering to provide the program for the months indicated.
 - Contesting, Working DX, County Hunting:
 - Presenter: Joe Leto (WØIW)
 - Meeting date: December 2013

- ARRL National Traffic System (NTS):
 - Presenters: Chuck Angel (WØALO) and Chris Conklin (NØCF)
 - Meeting date: January 2014
- Earth-Moon-Earth (EME – moon bounce), Satellite, and ISS communications:
 - Presenter: Don Russell (W9DRR) (perhaps with Jason Jones assisting)
 - Meeting date: February 2014
- Operating QRP:
 - Presenter: Curtis Wilson (NKØT)
 - Meeting date: to be determined
- Linux In the Ham Shack:
 - Presenter: Don Russell (W9DRR)
 - Meeting date: to be determined
- Ham Shack Automation and Remote Control:
 - Presenter: Doug Vernier (KØDV)
 - Meeting date: May 2014
- Operating Digital Modes and SSTV:
 - Presenter: to be determined
 - Meeting date: to be determined
- Emergency Communication Procedures, Protocol, ARES and EOC:
 - Presenter: Chuck Angel (WØALO) and Tom Bicket (AEØTB)
 - Meeting date: to be determined
- Voltage Standing Wave Ratio (VSWR), Transmission Lines, and Impedance Matching:
 - Presenter: to be determined
 - Meeting date: to be determined

Note: The WØMG clubs objective is to offer interesting educational and inspiring programs that appeal to the diverse ranges of interests and ham radio activities practiced by the membership at large. Members are encouraged to suggestion addition topics of interest and take the lead to present programs where they have a personal interest that will benefit other WØMG club members.

- Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA): Mark Colby (N8TWO) reported that the ARRL's Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) would be held on October 19 and 20, 2013...from midnight on Friday, October 18, through Sunday evening at 12:00 midnight.

The WØMG club agreed to open the WØMG club radio station located at the American Red Cross building for use by the Boy Scouts who will be operating the station between the hours of 8:00 am through 6:00 pm on Saturday, October 19. Six (6) or so scouts are expected to participate.

Chuck Angel (WØALO) will coordinate reserving the room with Red Cross officials.

Additional activities under consideration for the Boy Scouts include a mini fox hunt, antenna building for use with ISS contacts, and APRS tracking exercises ("find the scout").

- Repeater Status Report: Chris Conklin (NØCF) reports the following:
 - A **new repeater** is now operating on 927.1375 with a DPL tone of 411 from the Kimball Ridge location. In addition to operating on the analog mode the repeater will also operate using the P25 mode. Early tests indicate that the repeater is operating well within a 20 or 25-mile range of Waterloo.
 - The WØMG 444.975 club repeater that was previously used for D-Star is now operating as an analog voice repeater with the PL tone of 136.5 at 100-watts.
 - The 444.650 D-Star repeater remains in use from its location at the University of Northern Iowa.
 - The WØMG 146.94 club repeater is acting up with intermittent problems related to the antenna and feed line. Chris suggested that the following upgrades for the 146.94 repeater be completed before winter:
 - Purchase a new commercial quality 4-bay phased dipole antenna (cost estimated in the \$700 range)
 - Purchase new feed line (estimated cost of \$300)
 - Employ a tower climber to install the new antenna and feed line (estimated cost of \$200)

Discussion: It was noted that the \$ 500 expense to purchase new feed line and employ a tower climber to complete the work was previously approved by the membership although the funds have not yet been disbursed and are part of the \$1,300 fund balance.

Concern was expressed that having the club purchase the new antenna for \$700 would deplete the clubs fund balance. $\$500 + \$700 = \$1,200$

The membership agreed that one of the purposes of paying \$15 per year annual dues is to maintain the WØMG club repeaters in good working condition.

Motion: Scott Lowe (WAØTPN) made the motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$700 for the purpose of the new antenna that Chris suggested. Doug Vernier (KØDV) seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

The 2014 membership dues will be used to replenish the treasury, and “passing the hat” or accepting donations may be required to meet future expenditures in the short run.

- Repeater “Kurchuncking” is a continuing issue. Repeater users are reminded that FCC regulations require that a station’s call sign be identified while transmitting. Operators testing the status of their equipment need only to include their call sign when testing a repeater followed by the word “testing” if desired.

Program: Doug Vernier (KØDV) facilitated an excellent PowerPoint presentation and discussion on “The Fundamentals of Wire Antennas”.

Submitted by:
Scott W. Lowe, Treasurer