

**Grand Rapids Amateur Radio  
Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 07, 2018**

The meeting of the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Tom Hansen N8DGD.

**President's Report**

Tom had us make introductions. He then thanked the membership for all they've done. He then turned over the gavel to **Thom KI8W**, the newly elected President.

Thom then commented on how beautiful the falling snow is tonight.

He then shared that Jim K8CAN is in the hospital with pneumonia.

Thom then shared a statement that the Red Cross does not allow smoking inside or outside the building: outside the building smoking gets sucked into the air filter system and reentered the building.

**RED CROSS presentation**

Thom then introduced Niki Salladay from the Red Cross, who made a presentation on all the opportunities that are available for volunteering. She also gave examples of how Amateur Radio Operators can help in crisis situations. She also mentioned the upcoming "Sound The Alarm" program.

She also explained the software program G.I.S. and how it works. She also stated that the Red Cross realizes that if cell phone service should be interrupted, the only sustainable communications system would be Radio.

The Red Cross's programs are mainly offered on line. These courses are usually from 1 hour to 4 hour long, depending on the course you select.

Niki provided her phone number and how to contact her if you have any other question.

We thanked Niki and she left us with a handout on the opportunities volunteers have.

**John Ball Zoo Presentation**

Thom then introduced Daniel Hammann, area curator for the John Ball Zoo. Daniel presented the goal of the Zoo in track birds. The transmitter they use is small enough to be able to fit on a butterfly! Battery life is the only problem they've encounter, so far. When the birds fly by the towers, they transmit data which is uploaded to the Zoo's data base. They are looking at using Forestry towers and are using the Verizon tower that is on Zoo property. They have used popup towers during bird mating season. The height of the tower is a limiting factor: due to line of sight for the signal, they must be about 50 feet. They are looking at putting up a tower in Grand Rapids to help expand the coverage. Currently, they are waiting on an increase budget to purchase more receivers. The frequency of operation is between 166 to 174 Mhz. We offered our expertise in helping the Zoo with this project.

We thanked Daniel for his presentation.

## **Survey Results**

Thom has been conducting a survey of what the members want;

1. Shorter Meetings
2. More Food events.
3. A mentor program.
4. Station operating instruction (how to use the radios)

## **VP Report: NR**

**Secretary Report:** a motion was made to post them on the web site, instead of reading them. It was seconded and passed. With one nay. We then had a discussion on best way to distribute the club minutes. By web site. or E-mail in a pdf. We left it open to the next meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Hank: . We had a beginning balance of \$ 4129.47.

Repeater expense-Wayland	\$120.00
Donation to Home School Building	\$100.00
Bok for VE Testing	\$250.00
Misc Hardware	\$53.14.
Total expenditures	\$523.14

We had an ending balance of \$3606.33

Motion to accept Thom, seconded by Dustin:. The motion passed.

Hank then made report on the difference between this December's financial report and last year. We need a budget.

## **On Air Director Report:**

Greg KN4CK we participated in the ARRL sweepstakes and the new vertical worked great. The next contest will be in January 2019.

**Tech. Director Report:** The new vertical is working great and bob Moe brought in a nice switching box so we can switch in the coil to operate 160/80 meters.

We raised the money for the vertical by selling stuff: coax generator etc.

Next up is replacing the Yaesu FT 920. We got it in 2003 and it is starting to show its age: the port for the computer doesn't work and the AM module isn't functioning.

## **Member-At-Large Reporting**

### **Red Cross Liaison Report:**

Jim: is in the hospital with pneumonia.

**VE Team Report** We had 4 people pass the technician. 1 passed the General and 1 passed the Extra. Steve has 17 people signed up to take the test next Friday, December 17th. Steve is waiting to hear from the guy who wanted to set up a test for 25 people in January.

**Thom said we can take a 10 minutes break.**

**Webmaster:** NR

**Old Business:** Hank there is a Rag chew on 10 meter this coming weekend. 7pm to 6:59PM Sunday. 28350 to 28500.

**New Business:** Steve reported on the status on the Yaesu FT 920. We've tried to fix it, but nothing we've done worked. We're looking at a Yaesu FT 3000 it has 3 antenna connectors that are assignable. Has a water fall display. The non-sale price is \$1800 and now is \$1300. We're thinking of selling other hardware to come up with the difference. They suggested selling the Kenwood Ts-480. Tom is not in favor of selling the TS-480. Thom offered to donate his TS-480 for the sale and we could keep the clubs TS-480. He thinks its worth about \$500.00.

A motion was made to purchase the Yaesu FT-3000. Seconded by Justin. The motion passed.

Jack NY8D brought up holding a mini-swap. Holding it at 2<sup>nd</sup> hand Ham store in April or May. We could hold a mini swap starting in January 2018. Starting at 6PM before the club meeting.

NY8D wanted to know if we'd be holding the "New Hams Dinner". The feeling was yes.

Hank made a motion to adjourn: Seconded by Justin the meeting ended at 8:45 PM

Respectively submitted  
Rich K8JX Grara secretary.

Dave DeVos KF8QL gave a presentation on WSPR communication. It can be used with almost any modern radio. It's not particular to Flex Radios or SDR products. A great presentation, . WSPR implements a protocol designed for probing potential propagation paths with low-power transmissions. Normal transmissions carry a station's callsign, Maidenhead grid locator, and transmitter power in dBm. The program can decode signals with S/N as low as -28 dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth. Stations with internet access can automatically upload their reception reports to a central database called [WSPRnet](#), which includes a mapping facility.

We thanked Dave for his technical presentation.

### **Tentative agenda for the January club meeting:**

We're going to be starting to hold a Mini-swap Before the club meeting. At 6PM. The room will be posted as you come in. Followed by the Christmas Potluck. Bring a dish to pass.