

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association
Business Meeting Minutes
December 06, 2019

The Business Meeting of the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 6:59pm by President Thom Durfee (KI8W).

President's Report:

Thom Durfee (KI8W)

When Thom came in today he noticed the Radio Room's door was ajar. Make sure this gets locked up before leaving.

The Open Radio Room will not be open on December 25th and January 1st due to the holidays. There will also not be an Executive Meeting on January 1st due to the holidays.

We will be having a club dinner and mini-swap at the January 3rd Business meeting. Bring a dish to pass if you are able.

The next VE exams will be on December 13th.

Introductions were given and we had 26 in attendance.

Vice President's Report:

Jim Hessler (K8JH)

No Report

Treasure Report:

Steven Haeisen (KD8MEY)

Starting balance: \$4493.46

Income:

Membership Dues: \$50

Total Income: \$50

Expenses:

New Hams Dinner: 30

Total Expenses: \$30

November closing balance: \$4513.46

Secretary Report:

Greg Stoike (KN4CK)

No Report

On-Air-Director Report:

Mike Mc Donald (AA8MG)

Mike (AA8MG) visited Calvin College and while he was there reached out to the Engineering Department and is working into securing leads for potentially using the site for Field Day. Planning is ongoing.

Winter Field Day is January 25-26, 2020. We plan on operating in the Radio Room. Details as the contest nears.

Off-Air-Director Report:

Ron Fredricks (K8DMR)

There will be a smith chart demonstration and will use this to prove or disprove a QST article by Ward Silver.

Next month the plan is to watch a video relating to a DXpedition.

Technical Director Report:

Stephen Provost (AC8QE)

The storage area in the garage has been cleaned and mostly cleared out.

Stephen (AC8QE) and Tom (N8DGD) made a visit to the potential new transmitter site near 5 Mile Road NE and East Beltline Ave NE. They didn't have access to the site, but they were able to look around. They've made contact with the owner and it seems like everyone is excited for us to use the site. This is ongoing.

Bob Moe (AC8ZX) and Thom Durfee (KI8W) worked on the 43ft vertical. The relay for the 160m portion of the antenna needed to be replaced. This has been fixed and is now working again. We will need to replace the relay box (planned for the spring). If anyone has an appropriate box measuring about 12x9x6in let Stephen know.

The generator project is ongoing. The generator is in the trailer and the next part is working on the muffler.

Director-at-Large:

Chris Longcore (KE8LQH)

No Report

Liaison Director Report:

Joe Bell (WD8USA)

On December 19th at Noon the Red Cross is having a potluck. All are invited.

Nothing new yet on the Red Cross Building move.

VE Team Report:

Stephen Provost (AC8QE)

On November 8th at the Red Cross there was 1 tester who passed (Technician). The next testing session will be on December 13th and so far have 5 scheduled to test.

Trustee Report

Tom Hansen (N8DGD)

(Copied from the Technical Director Report) Stephen (AC8QE) and Tom (N8DGD) made a visit to the potential new transmitter site near 5 Mile Road NE and East Beltline Ave NE. They didn't have access to the site, but they were able to look around. They've made contact with the owner and it seems like everyone is excited for us to use the site. This is ongoing.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

[From Rich (K8JX)] In the past, if someone timed out the repeater during a net they were given the award of "The Purple Crystal". On the last Tuesday Night Net, Ed (N8UXN) did so and was given this prestigious award.

[From Richard "Doc" (AC8AL)] The American Legion Radio Club came to present awards to members of the club who helped out getting some scouts on the air during their latest event.

- Stephen Provost (AC8QE)
- Jim Hessler (K8JH)
- Mike Stark (KB8KB)

There were 120 scouts, 30 adults who were there.

They would like us to help them again next year. The event will take place on the 3rd full weekend in October.

[From Tom (K8TB)] The Holland Club recently had a General-in-a-Day class. This hasn't been tried before by the Holland Club and was trying it out. There was a condition that the students still needed to do some studying on their own before hand. They had 8 participants and all 8 passed!

[From Greg (KN4CK)] He participated in the Radio Rally that was put on by Jay (K8DC) & Liz (K8DCL) McClellan. He had a great time and was even part of one of the winning teams. He is hoping to recreate this event and put it on sometime in the spring.

From <http://wa8rra.org/radio-rally/>

This event is a combination road rally, scavenger hunt and trivia contest coordinated using ham radio. Teams of 2 or 3 drive to checkpoints and compete to solve puzzles, find items and answer questions while communicating with a Net Control Station. Bonus points are earned by answering trivia questions over the air, and there's a bonus for having a non-licensed person talk on the air under supervision of a licensed control operator so non-hams are encouraged to participate.

Our first-ever Radio Rally was held November 16th, 2019 and we had 15 people participating on 6 teams, including several non-hams. Participants had a great time, as

did we. Congratulations to our two winning teams, who tied for first place and split the \$100 prize donated to charities of their choice.

[From Ed (N8UXN)] He heard there was a rumor that the Hamvention tickets were increasing and was wondering if that was the case. It was confirmed that the ticket prices are increasing \$4.

From the ARRL website:

Dayton Hamvention® is increasing the cost of admission and its booth fees. Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, announced this week that general admission would rise by \$4 per ticket to \$26 in advance or \$31 at the gate for all 3 days. The cost of flea market spots will go up by \$5 per space, and inside exhibitors will pay \$30 more.

We adjourned at 7:28pm.

Submitted by Greg Stoike (KN4CK), Secretary.