

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio

Association

Meeting Minutes

July 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM.

President's Report: Thom mentioned that Frank needed help putting up his dipole: it came down last spring.

He thanked Jack Ny8D for bringing the donuts. He then had us introduce ourselves.

He announced that the program for tonight would take place after the meeting, in our parking lot. K8JH will show his "Ham Van".

Thom had detected a problem with the Radio Rooms coax: it appears somebody had pulled out the cable, without unscrewing it.

Vice President: No Report

Secretary's Report: No Report.

Treasurer's Report

Steve gave his report.

STARTING BALANCE \$2,677.21

INCOME

Donations \$0.00

Equipment Sales \$250.00

Membership Dues \$25.00

Total Income \$275.00

BALANCE \$2,952.21

EXSPENSES TOTAL \$155.92

JUNE CLOSING BALANCE \$2,796.29

The report was accepted.

OFF-THE-AIR Director: Ron, K8DMR at next month's meeting, will have a demonstration and comparison of Beverage antennas.

RED Cross: Jim, K8CAN, Report. Fiscal Year 19 has been one of extraordinary accomplishment for the Michigan Region's Disaster Cycle services team. Most notably, we opened disaster relief operations in

support of 12 life-altering events over the past 12 months, providing 625 overnight shelter stays, distributing 1,994 clean up kits, 770 comfort kits and 5506 bulk items, and opening 443 cases serving 1142 clients.

Having served on, or at least, one of these operations, each of you can proudly say that you had a direct hand in making sure our clients received the resources they needed to begin their road to recovery.

Thank you for your hard work!

Leslie Montgomery- Bean has been chosen to be the next Regional Disaster Office of the Indiana Region. Her last day with "Team Unstoppable" will be Wednesday, June 26th.

All of our ERV fleet is well over 15 years old and nationally we are beginning to make the transition to Next Gen ERVs. We have found that by adding ANY additional weight to the current ERVs it would actually be required to have Commercial licenses for anyone to drive them. Additionally, many are beginning to show the wear and tear of their ages and use. The initially plan for phase out was to retire our local "Radio" ERV located in Grand Rapids and the Canteen vehicle in Zeeland. These have both already been returned to their proper locations. Unfortunately, the other ERV located in Grand Rapids, has significant repair needs to continue being safe on the roads and the decision has been made to salvage it a year earlier than anticipated. Currently, this leaves us with the ERV in Muskegon (which will be retired in May/June 2020). We are working with Regional leadership on several options for how to make this work in our chapter and I will let those who have a vested interest in these vehicles know as soon as something concrete has been determined.

Thom mentioned that he had helped remove one of the generators from one of those ERV: and it almost took a Hi-Lo to move it.

Member-at-large left due to illness.

Technical Report: / VE Report: 4 examiners took the test: we got 2 tech and one Extra. We have a VE session next Friday. Several people have signed up already.

Technical: Steve notice that the 147.260 Repeater was hanging up longer than it should. He drove to 92nd street site and adjusted the squelch settling: it appears to be working better. This month, He's going to be moving the Transmitter from the Moline site to the Red Cross site. Help would be appreciated. Steve also tested out the new Yaesu Radio: it works well. He is planning on examining the 146.760 repeater: its' performance seems to have degraded over the past month. Steve noted people had mentioned we should purchase a Honda Generator. Steve thinks they are a bit pricy, but we'll decide how to go about this later.

ON-THE=AIR Director: Greg reported on the success of our Field Day operation. We made more contacts this year than last! Greg reported on each station and how well it performed. We had several noted officials stop by from the local city/government. We also had a neat experience of a family who wanted to participate on Ham Radio. And we encouraged them to participate in FD.

Greg also listed all the antenna's we used and the trailers that were used. The new Network worked beautifully. Well worth us buying it. Greg is already thinking about next year's FD. He was thinking how desirable it would be to hold it in Grand Rapids. Let Greg know what sites you think would be workable.

Trustee Report: Tom has talked with the MARC about the move: he was told to go ahead with the paper work.

P.I.O.: Jack, NY8D, mentioned an antique Radio convention will be held. This is being put on by Michigan Antique Radio.

OB. NOB

NB: Thom wants to start the nominating process earlier this year. If anybody is interested, please contact him.

He also has noted that the web site traffic is way off. He thought maybe we could drop the web site and keep the Face Book page. The general discussion was to keep the web site and FB.

Steve reminded us that we have a Tuesday night 2 meter net at 7PM on the 147.260 repeater.

Rich made a motion to adjourn: Seconded by Jim the meeting ended at 7:38 PM

Respectively submitted
Rich K8JX Grara secretary.