

**Grand Rapids Amateur Radio  
Association**

**General Meeting Minutes**

**May 3, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**President's Report**

Thom greeted all present and then had us introduce ourselves. Thom reminded us that the June meeting, which will be held at the I.R.A. Road kill Chili dinner, will take place on May 31th after we have dinner. He then welcomed back Bob Moe and Dave. The Cadillac swap is tomorrow, May 4th. Thom then stated that Pete will be climbing the Verizon tower on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Then at 2PM W8QZ John will climb our tower to place a side bracket and remove an antenna. Internet is only working on one laptop. Thom then shared with us his 12 cup coffee pot cup.

**V.P. NR**

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary read the Board meeting minutes. Correction: smoke alarm installation will be on May 10<sup>th</sup>, not the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**RED Cross:** Jim said if we're going to help with the smoke alarm installation, show up at 7pm for registration at the Kentwood district library. A "Sound the Alarm" tee-shirt will be provided. They will provide lunch between 12:00PM to 1:00PM. Pizza.

**Treasurer's Report**

Steve, our treasurer, gave his report.

**We had a starting balance of: \$3792.02**

**Our ending balance is: \$4186.65.**

**Member-at-Large:** Bob mentioned a letter he has received to get us Ham's excluded from the MICHIGAN DISTRACTED DRIVING LEGISLATION UPDATE ACTION REQUIRED! (below is an example of a letter that Ron has sent)

Here is an example of what I wrote to Rep David LaGrand (House District 75) even though I now live in Jenison. Please do likewise with your state Senator or Representative, especially if he/she is on the list referenced below. The letter to Rep LaGrand was prompted by the E-mail I received earlier today from the MI ARRL Section manager and MI ARRL Government Liaison Coordinator.

Ron Fredricks

K8DMR

-----

Dear Rep LaGrand,

As a licensed radio amateur since 1956 (call sign K8DMR) and mobile radio operator since my college days I want to express my support for the exemption for amateur radio operators and other two-way radio services from being considered distracted driving. In no way does amateur simplex or repeater operation (our usual form of mobile communication) constitute distracted driving. In these modes the vehicle operator cannot receive and transmit at the same time. Depending on traffic, weather or road conditions the mobile station operator can always moderate his/her conversation flow in response to the external conditions. Further, amateur operators frequently use their mobile equipment for Red Cross drills and in real emergencies to support relief work and pass message traffic. I have personally participated in several such drills with the local Chapter and other mobile and fixed base amateur radio stations. I have never felt my driving was the slightest bit impaired operating simplex.

Obviously emergency responders such as police and fire would also be impacted without this exemption even though they usually also communicate with their base stations in simplex mode.

Thank you in advance for retaining this exemption in the proposed legislation.

Ron Fredricks  
K8DMR (extra class)

### **On-Air-Director**

Greg said we made 100 contacts during the Michigan QSO contest. Over 8000 points.

FD: Cedar Springs has to ratify our request to use the park.

Greg wanted to test out the network to be sure it is working. We are planning at having breakfast before setup at Kelly's restaurant.

**V.E.** Steve wanted to thank Philip and his Linda for operating the V.E. session: Steve had to go to Chicago. Last month, we had 7 people take the exam: we ended up with a Gen, tech, Gen Tech and extra.

**Technical Report:** Steve reported they had discovered some gear the club is selling the alnico is a 300 mw duo-band handy and Kenwood TS=480. The Kenwood is offered at \$600.00.

We then had a discussion on how to loan out and track the Go kit.

A motion was made to buy the Yaesu Radio for \$1199.00. Dustin made the motion and seconded by Ron: it passed.

Steve then proposed buying new routers that will work with our laptops: He wants to test a few out first before he gets all 6 of them. A motion was made to give him \$350.00. Motion made by Steve H. seconded by Dustin. The motion passed.

Steve then mentioned the Dayton trip: there is going to be a caravan leaving at the Lowell club.

Jack, NY8D mentioned that he has reserved flea slots to sell stuff at Dayton.

**OB** Jack NY8D, just discovered that central Michigan club has changed their swap date to September 7<sup>th</sup>. The same date as our swap. Jack suggests we should promote our swap and have it listed in the ARRL swap list page. Jack will once again be handling the food for our swap: hot dogs, donuts and coffee.

Thom shared that we used to have commercial vendors. We don't anymore.

**NB** Tom K8TB brought up the wide coverage packet has now. A motion was made to reimburse Tom for his packet project: \$158.22. Motion made by Steve, Seconded by Jim. It passed.

Jack, NY8D, brought up the GRARA Face-Book page. It hasn't been updated in years. The old FB is gone. Jack suggested we put up a new FB page. Jack volunteered to create and maintain the page. Jack will forward information on how to update and operate the FB to all the officers.

A question was then raised about who Thom's backup is, if he can't perform the web site maintenance; Greg. But after the By-laws have been settled.

Thom asked how many folks watch the solar report: she isn't going to be doing this forever.

Rich made a motion to adjourn: Seconded by Steve the meeting ended at 7:54 PM  
Respectively submitted  
Rich K8JX Grara secretary.

Tonight's program is about antennas. Presented by Ron K8DMR