

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association
Business Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2020

The Business Meeting of the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 6:58pm by President Thom Durfee (K18W).

President's Report:

Thom Durfee (K18W)

Tom Behler (K8TYJ) gave a talk on Skywarn and the upcoming training opportunity.

From <http://www.kentcountyskywarn.org/>
Ottawa and Kent County SKYWARN

Registration is now open for the 2020 Ottawa and Kent County SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotter training. It will be held on February 25, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Hudsonville High School Freshman Campus.

This course covers the basics of being a SKYWARN Spotter. The goal of the course is to provide baseline training for all spotters through multiple modules covering the procedures for spotting (including communication and spotter report criteria) and safety considerations for all hazards.

Feel free to share the link with others

<https://skywarn2020.eventbrite.com>

We hope to see you there! Ottawa and Kent County SKYWARN

Due to personal matters Mike Mc Donald (AA8MG) resigned from his On-Air Director position.

A special election was held to fill the vacancy. Tom Hanson (N8DGD) was nominated and voted in to carry out the term of On-Air Director.

Vice President's Report:

Jim Hessler (K8JH)

No Report (Absent)

Treasure Report:

Steven Haueisen (KD8MEY)

Starting balance: \$4482.22

Income:

Membership Dues: \$225

Donation: \$15

Total Income: \$240

Expenses:

Postage and folders: \$16.61

Total Expenses: \$16.61

January closing balance: \$4705.61

Secretary Report:

Greg Stoike (KN4CK)

No Report

On-Air-Director Report:

Vacant

No Report (Vacant)

Off-Air-Director Report:

Ron Fredricks (K8DMR)

There will be a presentation from Ron Fredricks (K8DMR) and Richard Corey (W8IMA) on S-Meters.

Technical Director Report:

Stephen Provost (AC8QE)

Once it warms up, the generator project will start up again.

The relocation of our transmitter to a tower near 5 Mile Road NE and East Beltline Ave NE is ongoing. The location has power and an antenna is already available for us there. We are just waiting for them to be ready for us to move in.

Director-at-Large:

Chris Longcore (KE8LQH)

No Report

Liaison Director Report:

Joe Bell (WD8USA)

(Absent)

It was discovered that there were some Red Cross Radios in the pod that weren't working properly. Tom Bosscher (K8TB) will take a look into the matter.

The Comet CX-333 antenna had high SWR and needs to be looked into.

VE Team Report:

Stephen Provost (AC8QE)

On January 10th at the Red Cross there were 7 testers who passed (4 Extras, 2 Generals, 1 Technician). The next testing session will be on February 14th at 6:30pm.

Trustee Report

Tom Hansen (N8DGD)

No Report

Old Business:

There has been no updates on the Red Cross possibly moving to a new location.

On Saturday February 29th at 2pm at Pizza Ranch (3858 28th St SE, Kentwood, MI 49512) is the Get Outta the Cabin Dinner.

New Business:

[From Steve Provost (AC8QE)] Hamvention is in 90 days. Central State has dorms available and there is a new video on QRZ.com on Hamvention.

[From Tom Bosscher (K8TB)] The Extra pool is changing.

From www.arrl.org

New Amateur Extra Question Pool Released

01/27/2020

The new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website.

The 2020 – 2024 Extra-class pool incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016 – 2020 question pool, which expires on June 30. The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to changes in what was felt to be an abundance of outdated questions, while areas of new technology and subjects were added.

In addition, an effort was made to balance the difficulty level, removing or replacing some questions deemed too easy or too difficult compared to the rest of the pool. The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because the new question pool has two fewer than the 2016 question pool.

Tom is also looking for interest in an Extra class for sometime around September.

[From Tom Hansen (N8DGD)] There was a Kenwood TS 520 donated and it up for sale. It is currently listed for \$250

We adjourned at 7:38pm.

Submitted by Greg Stoike (KN4CK), Secretary.