

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

Executive Meeting - July 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by President Greg Stoike N8HR.

President's Report- Greg N8HR

Bob Moe would like to donate his antenna tower trailer to the club. We will need some more instruction on usage, but Greg has a better idea how it works after operating it on Field Day. Storage will also need to be addressed. Club will have to pay for a one-time plate/registration. Additional safety mechanisms would also be a good idea, and the club will need to supply coax. Antennas and rotor will be included with the trailer.

Tech Director's Report- Stephen AC8QE

New general license test is coming out for the July VE session.

Vice President's Report- Steven KD8MEY

220 MHz project is still in progress. 92nd-Street hill might be a possibility, or the location of our 2 m repeater.

On-Air Director's Report- Chris KE8LQH

Field Day was good, and we had a decent turnout. Averaging 4-6 people visiting during open radio room. We're still trying to arrange for Flex radio training.

Secretary's Report- Dave KD8DB

Recap of previous officers'-meeting minutes.

Director-at-Large's Report- Lisa W8LSA

Twitter posting is currently on hiatus due to technical issues with the site. Lisa has been tinkering with Canva and creating some advertising and PR materials.

New Business

Dave KF8QL was unable to attend tonight, but provided a list of ideas/prompts to discuss.

1. Super System - This will be a longer-term plan. Could potentially look for grant money here (e.g. from the IP address block sale). Internet-based links make the idea more feasible. Year 1: plan, research, apply for grant. Year 2: implementation.
2. State-of-the-art club station - Year 1: finishing up the radio room and setting up remote radio operation. FT-991A will be used either for remote operation or as a VHF station.
3. Training for new hams - club is in need of an off-air director ASAP for presentations and events. We will ask if Carl is interested.

4. Financial stability
5. Host and participate in public events

Steven KD8MEY is interested in RTTY contesting and would be willing to give a presentation on it after learning the ropes himself.

What would entice more members to be active?

- Social events
- Motor coach day trips to Hamvention
- Fox hunts
- Memorial ships weekend
- Lighthouses
- Quarterly pot-luck and/or mini hamfest (Life EMS garages are heated)
- Special-event station for Halloween
- Bowling, disc golf, etc.
- General contesting in the radio room

5-year plan: 6 m repeater project

Antennas are a high priority so we can get more stations on the air at once.

Updated constitution and bylaws are still pending. Looking at sending a postcard to notify of the update, with the new constitution available online. Would include a phone number to call and ask for a mailed copy.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. Minutes prepared by GRARA Secretary Dave Britten KD8DB.