

WEST VOLUSIA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

SECRETARY REPORT

May Minutes 2020

Tom Lantzy

05/26/2020



Secretary _____

President _____



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Meeting Notes

Meeting Opened (President Ken Peck)

Secretary Report (Tom Lantzy)

Treasurer (Michelle Lea)

Receivables

Payables

Repeat Program Manager (Dave Sutherland)

Program Manager (Jim Lowry)

Public Information Manager

Testing Manager (Dave Templeton)

Equipment Manager (Charlie McCrary)

Net Manager (Bob Clarke)

Old Business

New Business

Closing

MEETING NOTES

Meeting opened (President Ken (AE2KP)

Using ZOOM video. He hosted the meeting

There were 21 members online.

A Quorum of 14 members would be needed if necessary. There were enough members to constitute a quorum.

Announcements: There were none

SECRETARY REPORT (Tom Lantzy)

April 2020 minutes posted on our web page. There will be a need to reread new members from last video meeting as they did not get in the minutes. Names will be under new business,

There was a motion to approve by Guy (N4DEL) and seconded by George (AC3EA) Unanimous approval by members

Minutes are posted on the web at <http://westvars.org/monthly-meetings>

TREASURER (Michelle Lea)

April 2020 Treasurer report posted on the web. Michelle received some late statements from the bank and there was some confusion regarding the system previously use. She has now reconciled everything, and the treasury report is up to date.

A Motion to approve the amended Treasurer reports January through April and the May report was made by Jerry (KM4DGL) and seconded by GUY (N4DEL.) Unanimous approval by members.

Treasurer reports are posted on our web site.

REPEATER PROGRAM MANAGER (Dave Sutherland)

Reed (WW3A) gave an update on the repeater. In conjunction with the discussion regarding the use of digital radio he stated that Scott (KN4EHC) inquired if the club would be interested in the use of his DMR repeater. He would retain ownership. It could be connected to our repeater system. He would provide all the equipment and just piggyback on to our internet system. There would be no cost to the club. Scott proceed to use a slide demonstration with Reed narrating about the history of DMR and the various radio manufactures for DMR. A handheld can be purchased for as little as \$50.00. Reed indicated that the DMR repeater would be connected to the BrandMiester network. It would be set up so one side time slot would be for a local talk group and the other side for anything else. Also, it is proposed that it use UHF so as not to interfere with our VHF repeater. This will have to wait awhile as there is no access now to Hugh Ash Manor where the repeater is located due to the COVID 19 virus. The DMR repeater would have about the same coverage as our VHF repeater. Scott indicated that he and Reed could have the system installed in a couple of hours. There was a question of the need for insurance on the DMR system and Greg (N4ZZN) the former treasurer indicated that it would probably be around \$50.00

A question was asked concerning the use of the College Arms Tower which is higher than the Hugh Ash Manor as a future location for our repeater, but there has been no response from the management. It was decided that our present location is good especially for ease of access.

Ken made a proposal that we proceed with the installation of the DMR repeater and cover it with insurance. Guy (N4DEL) made a motion to approve and was seconded by Dave (N4GMU) Unanimous approval by members.

PROGRAM MANAGER (JIM LOWRY)

Not present

PUBLIC INFORMATION MANAGER

Not present

TESTING MANAGER (DAVE TEMPLETON)

Not present

EQUIPMENT MANAGER (CHARLIE McCRARY)

Not present

NET MANAGER (BOB CLARKE)

Bob (W4RWC) Not present but relayed the net report to the secretary for reporting purpose. The nets yielded 83 on the 2 meters, 30 on the 10 meters and 25 on the 6 meters.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominations for the Vice President position:

Guy (N4DEL) nominated himself at the last meeting. Joe (N9CLD) nominated himself. Michelle (N8ZQZ) nominated James (WX4TV.) Reed (WW3A) moved to close the nominations and that was seconded by George (AC3EA.) Membership acknowledged the closing of the nominations. Voting for the Vice President, who will complete this year's term, will occur at the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Three new members were voted on and approved by the membership:

Sam Mason (WB5YPB,) Travis McBride (KK4LNZ,) and Joseph Halegua (KO4BAX.)

James (WX4TV) indicated that the next contest will be on Field Day.

From a question, James relayed the information that last Saturday for the AREAS exercise the vhf frequency was 147.555 simplex and the roving units used 446.000 to 446.250.

After discussion it was decided by consensus that the June 23rd meeting would be at the Elks Lodge with social distancing and video technology would be provided for those unable or not willing to attend in person.

Field Day:

ARRL has expanded the area for operating and recommended that operators could work the radios from home using the club call sign.

Wallace (WU1Y) mentioned that for Winter Field, the club placed 29th out of about 300.

It was agreed that if ok with the Elks Lodge, we would use it for Field Day again. Wallace indicated he could coordinate it with help from Kegan (K3GAN) and others. One of the things Wallace suggested was to try some remote operations especially digitally.

One item Wallace indicated we should be cognizant of is the risk there are to the older people over 65 in relationship to the COVID 19 virus and gathering.

DIGITAL MODES

Ken (AE2KP) started the topic of digital radio. He indicated there has been some interest in the club regarding digital radio. He had some slide presentations which showed the three main digital modes of DSTAR, DMR, and FUSION. Echo Link has served us well, but we may consider additional digital for the club. Our Echo Link is down right now so it would be nice to have additional sources. With a hotspot you do

not need the repeater to get on the digital system. The closest repeater for DSTAR is in Sanford and for DMR it is in Daytona Beach and hard to reach with a HT. There is no nearby Fusion repeater. Ken displayed various charts outlining the differences in the systems as to ease of set up and cost. There was much discussion among the members on the digital systems and the various aspects. One of the items mentioned was that with all the systems there is a learning curve.



Closing

The video meeting was closed and members left the site.