

Tri-City Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 552, Groton, CT 06340

March 16, 2020

Minutes of the March 11, 2020 regular meeting of the Tri-City Amateur Radio Club.

The March meeting of the Tri- City Amateur Radio Club was preceded by a very interesting presentation by Mark Noe, KE1IU describing his experiences operating through the amateur radio OSCAR satellites.

Following Mark's presentation, club president Bob Nazro, K1RMN, called the regular business meeting to order at 1950.

The secretary's minutes of the February 11 regular meeting were read and approved.

The club treasurer was not present but the report that she provided was read and approved.

Committee Reports:

Antenna Committee: K1RMN reported that the antenna support towers and related parts that were approved at the February meeting had been received. The remaining items to be ordered under this authorization, include mast guy lines and related guy rings will be ordered. Wire antennas will be fabricated to support Field Day operations.

Bylaws revision committee: Markups showing proposed changes are shown on the club website. A suggestion was made to consider changing the club's schedule for nomination/election/installation schedule in the By-Law to reduce the interaction between these activities and scheduled spring/summer activities. The committee will consider this and other suggestions. It was mentioned that if the club wants to IRS

501.c(3) tax exempt status, there are specific clauses that need to be included in the By-Laws.

Communications committee: Work by the committee on the club's new website continues.

Field Day committee: The club's ARRL Field Day will be held at Camp Oakdale, in the town of Montville. There are several potential sites within the camp, and each would be great. The Region 4 ARES MCU will be used, along with the new club rigs, generator and antennas. Members should commit other equipment that they will bring by the May club meeting.

Program Committee: Next month's program will be K1RMN speaking about the FT-8 mode.

Tips Net: KC1TWR reported that the TIPS Net has been having an average of 7.5 checkins weekly, on the 147.06 repeater. The net's current format of discussing a variety of topics continues to be a success. Recent topics have included Net control station duties, signal reports and Radio memories of the "good old days." Additional Net Control Stations are needed. A suggestion was made to run the TIPS net on the 146.97 or 146.73 repeater so that it would be available to Echolink stations.

Old business:

A proposal by SCRAMS to put together a PR brochure that summarizes amateur radio activity in Eastern Connecticut was presented. The concept is to put together a tri-fold flyer that gives each area club space to present info on their repeaters, programs and meetings. Expenses would be shared by the clubs. A motion was made, seconded and approved to participate in this effort. The Communications Committee will work on this. March update: The target audience and purpose needs to be clarified and agreed to by the clubs.

New Business:

Harry Solt, N1FAM, inquired about using some of the club's equipment for the Museum Ships operation. Harry will be invited to the club's April meeting to discuss the specifics of this request.

Does the club have interest in providing VE exams on a regular, scheduled basis, in the SECT region? (Food for thought)

More food for thought: Would a "Ham Radio Boot Camp" program be of value and practical for new hams/recent tech class graduates. A 2-3 session program covering HF radios, VHF/UHF radios, practical antennas, getting on the air, grounding, radio programming, DMR is being proposed.

More food for thought: The club's "island" operations in the last two years have not been particularly fulfilling due to poor band conditions and limited participant space. Should we continue with this sort of activity, or expend our energies elsewhere?

Russell Shaw, a recent Tech class graduate, presented an application for membership and dues check. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept Russ into the membership.

Annual elections are coming up. It is expected that the club will be looking for a new president, treasurer and secretary.

KOJEB discussed the potential impacts of the Corona virus pandemic that is sweeping the world. There will be may, including cancellation of social activities and scheduled events and closures of schools and businesses.

Other information:

- The New England ARRL Convention ("Boxboro") is changing its name and location. It is now the NE Ham Expo and will be held at the Best Western Convention Center in Marlboro, MA on July 24-26, 2020
- The RASON Auction will be held at the Gales Ferry Fire Station on April 25, 2020.

- The Annual TCARC Auction will be on October 31 at the Gales Ferry Fire Station.
- Saturday AM breakfast at Old Tymes, 7AM
- Thursday AM breakfast at Uncasville Diner, 8AM

The meeting was adjourned at 2053.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Scott, WA2RYV, Secretary

Mar 16 Late Breaking News...The TCARC April meeting has been CANCELLED due to the Corona virus pandemic