

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

April 18, 2020

Minutes of the April 14, 2020 regular meeting of the Tri-City Amateur Radio Club.

The April meeting of the Tri- City Amateur Radio Club was conducted as a directed net on the 147.06 Salem repeater, due corona-19 virus pandemic related public health restrictions on gatherings of greater than 5 people.

Club president Bob Nazro, W1RPQ (fomerlyK1RMN) called the regular business meeting to order at 1905.

The secretary's minutes of the March meeting were distributed to club officers and posted to the club website. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the March minutes as posted. (KE1IU/W1RPQ).

The club treasurer was not present but reported informally that no transactions had taken place since the March meeting and the club account balances have not changed.

Committee Reports:

Antenna Committee: K1EV reported that all antenna related materials ordered from MFJ have been received. The guy rings do not fit properly and replacements have been ordered from DX Engineering. Wire antennas will be fabricated to support Field Day operations.

Bylaws revision committee: (WA2RYV) 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. No additional progress has been made on this item.

Communications committee: (K1JMN) Press releases will be forwarded to area news papers as the field day date approaches.

Field Day committee: (KC1TWR) Corona-19 pandemic and related restrictions on group gatherings has thrown a wrench in the gears of Field Day planning for 2020. The ARRL is still planning on conducting the nationwide event, but its most recent guidance suggests that clubs planning should shift to Class D and E events...single operator operations from home or field locations. Whether such individual operations could be consolidated into a club submission is unclear. Needless to say, Field Day planning has been disrupted until further guidance is received from the ARRL.

Program Committee: (K0JEB) The corona-19 pandemic and related meeting restrictions have interrupted our pre-meeting programs. The club has started a "Wellness Net" on the 147.06 Salem repeater at 1300 daily as a vehicle to keep members in touch with each other during this medical crisis.

Tips Net: KC1TWR reported that the TIPS Net has been having an average of 8.75 checkins weekly, on the 147.06 repeater. All sessions are being recorded and are available from KA6PDG. The net's current format of discussing a variety of topics continues to be a success. Additional Net Control Stations are needed.

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. April update: On hold

Execution of monthly VE exams is on hold. An exam session is planned for May 30, 10 AM at Norwich Free Academy, Latham Bldg, Room 1101, if pandemic related public health limitations permit. Those interested should contact WA2RYV as the date approaches. Several alternate approaches to VE examining in view of the current pandemic related restrictions are being looked into by ARRL VEC. M1MCT and N1MIE have expressed interest in assisting with exams under these alternatives. Proctors would still have to be VEs.

Ham Radio Boot Camp planning is also on hold.

New Business:

Club elections are coming up. Opportunities to serve include President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Members interested in serving in one of these positions should contact club president Bob Nazro, W1RPQ.

The 2020 Museum Ships on the Air activity has been cancelled nationally by its sponsor.

Other information:

The Tri-City ARC auction is scheduled for October 31 at the Gales Ferry Fire Station. KE1IU will officiate.

- The Saturday AM breakfast at Old Tymes, 7AM and Thursday AM breakfast at Uncasville Diner, 8AM have been suspended due to the pandemic. As an alternative, a Breakfast Net is being held at 8AM Saturdays on the 147.06 Salem repeater. Bring your own breakfast and coffee.

- Douglas, the DEC for Region 2, is conducting net management and ARES training on the 145.29 (p1110,9) Killingsworth repeater at 1600, m-f. Sessions are well planned and open to all that can make that repeater.
- The ARES schedule of events for this summer has had a number of changes due to the pandemic. Consult the CTARES Reg 4 website for ongoing updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 1935.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Scott, WA2RYV, Secretary