

Fayette County Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 24 July 2014

Time Started: 7:00PM

Location: First Methodist Church, Room C-260, Fayetteville, GA

Members Present:

President John Secrist K4TXQ; VP Jeff Cantor K1ZN; Sec. Steve Yothment WD0HGB; Huey Kenmar KI4NGD; David Benoist AG4ZR; Bill Lackey KV4UD; Steven Rambeck KK4ECL; Tim McKibben KV4UE

Pres. John Secrist K4TXQ presided.

Old Business:

- 1) Minutes of the May 2014 meeting were read by Steve Yothment WD0HGB. The minutes were approved with no changes.
- 2) Jeff Cantor K1ZN announced that he sent a letter to Larry Owens, the Mayor of Senoia, thanking him for our use of the cabin at the Merrimac Lakes Park in Senoia for Field Day.

New Business:

- 1) Steven Rambeck KK4ECL suggested FCARC have a banner at the next Field Day event so that people will better understand what we are doing there.
- 2) John Secrist K4TXQ asked about what went right or wrong on Field Day. Many good ideas and comments were given.
- 3) The group talked about the possibility of the club purchasing another transceiver, to be used on Field Day and other outings. The rig might include a Tigertronix interface and a laptop for operating digital modes. But there was no decision to purchase any equipment. Steve WD0HGB reviewed the club bylaws and noted that expenses above \$150 require board approval. John K4TXQ said that he would like to discuss such a purchase at the next (July) meeting and take a vote of members to see if they want the board to make such a purchase.
- 4) David Benoist AG4ZR talked about a possible program on August 23 (a Saturday) for a presentation on Digital Modes and RMS Express using the Winlink Network.
- 5) David gave an update on DStar. He has obtained a frequency assignment for a DStar repeater on 145.21 MHz. David has talked with local officials about the possibility of updating our repeater to be a DStar repeater. He is working with Joe Domoleski on getting AT&T to provide an internet connection for the repeater. (The internet connection would be in FCARC's name, not that of the county.)
(David is the Trustee for FCARC's two repeaters on 145.21 and 146.685 MHz.)
David explained that a DStar repeater is composed of a Controller and Radio Stack. The Controller connects to the internet. There is also a computer involved. We may get the controller for free. The radio stack may not be free. David is working with John Secrist on the possibilities of obtaining the necessary equipment. GEMA (Georgia Emergency Management Authority) has already paid for a Controller. If we can get the Radio Stack for free, the only club expense would be maintaining the repeater and paying for the monthly internet fee.
Jeff Cantor K1ZN said that the club members should say whether they even want a DStar repeater before we pursue it too far. He suggested that we post on the club website that we are considering this and see if more members can come to the next meeting to vote on whether we should investigate it more.
- 6) Jeff K1ZN suggested we encourage people to pay their membership fees. The club's membership has been dwindling for the past 4 years. He felt that people who use the repeater a lot should be encouraged to become members and pay the membership fee. This helps the club to grow.

- 7) David AG4ZR suggested we put an announcement on the reflector (the 521 Yahooogroup) for repeater users to become members. John asked Huey KI4NGD to add a statement on the Tuesday Night Net script to encourage repeater users to become members.
- 8) David AG4ZR suggested that we be alert to racist or obscene language on the repeater, and to confront anyone who uses such language. Jeff suggested recording any repeat offender so that there is an evidence trail.
- 9) Jeff K1ZN suggested we alert members that there will be discussion at the next meeting on a possible DStar repeater. If we get a DStar repeater, should we convert one of our repeaters or start up a third repeater which would be DStar? Or should we not pursue a DStar repeater at all? These are questions to be considered. Jeff also mentioned that we should consider insurance for the equipment since it would probably be new equipment and thus rather valuable.
- 10) John K4TXQ announced that he would like to have a foxhunt in October. The members agreed.

Adjourn:

- 1) The business meeting was adjourned at 9:06PM.