

Minutes of Board of Director's Meeting

February 24th, 1994
6:45pm

Harold Schneider reimbursed Ed Mahlum \$66 for newsletter expenses.

Ed Mahlum, Mark Skeels, Harold Schneider, and Mike Tuszynski in attendance. Agenda developed for Club Meeting.

Minutes of FVARC Meeting 2-24-94

Time: 19:30 MST

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Skeels. Twenty-seven people were in attendance. We have 26 paid up members for 1994.

Minutes of the January 28th, 1994 meeting were approved as found in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

Total in Club	\$ 1902.00
(Repeater portion)	\$ 475.00

Introductions. Each person in attendance gave call sign (if any), name, where from, and described interest in Amateur Radio.

Last Months Word of the Month "RTTY" was discussed more fully by Mark Skeels. A new word was picked from hat. It was "autopatch". Some discussion and much was really known by those attending. The discussion of the use of the autopatch on 146.62 ensued. An IUAC Individual User Access Code is granted to repeater members, who then have full use of the autopatch. All amateurs can key up the repeater and press 9111 to reach the Flathead County Sheriff's Emergency Line. That is correct it is 9111 with three 1's. This way the 911 operator is not confused by not seeing a telephone number and being told she is being accessed by ham radio.

Also the 146.62 repeater is being set in the evenings to present a subaudible tone of 203.5 hz when *911 is keyed into the repeater. In this way a person can leave there radio in the scan mode and have it set to decode the ctcss of 203.5 only. In that way you will only be interrupted by *911 calls during the night. Your radio if so equipped can act as a pager for you.

Old Business:

More discussion was held on changing the meeting night. It was generally agreed that the location here at the Flathead County Justice Center was good. We can't quibble with the County's generosity of no rent. Also, it is large, well-heated, has facilities available.

The main discussion was on changing the night to a Thursday night earlier in the month. Mark Skeels was going to talk to Kim Potter about it.

Update: Technician Classes are about over. There are about 7 students and they are meeting on Tuesday nights at Mark's home. See above for his telephone number.

Dues or don'ts :

Membership fee of \$20 is now due. This includes \$ 5 for the repeater fund. If you are out of the area and do not wish to contribute to the repeater, then the membership fee is \$ 15. New Hams get their first year membership free in our club.

It was again mentioned to plan to get your new or renewal membership in the ARRL through the club. Harold Schneider will be bringing forms to each meeting. In this way the club receives \$2 for each new member.

Presentation:

Harold Schneider told us how he worked all counties and received his WAC. When Harold completed it there were 3076 counties. Harold mentioned that he stumbled on the county hunter's nets at around 14336 khz and 7238 khz when he was travelling a lot between Polson and Whitefish. Over a period of 4 years this continued for him. WAC is basically put on by CQ magazine and there are net controls around the clock. Sometimes the frequencies shift. There are truckers with HF rigs who can give you up to 500 counties as they travel along. Most county hunters operate mobile and assist each other in getting counties that have no hams in them.

This is one of the advantages of living in Montana. A lot of people would like to get our county. Coordination often happens through a net control person.

Harold described several instances of how county hunters help each other and often go out of their way to get all those counties worked. Other tools involve a guide, county hunter's directory, and coloring book provided via CQ Magazine.

Harold also described how the county hunter's have helped in several emergency situations and of his own assistance in one.

Much interest was shown. A lot of discussion centered around going mobile with HF rigs and which antenna's worked best. It was a fine presentation.

New Business:

Don Ross has volunteered to get coffee materials from Harry Lovering and to get to the meeting place a little early on meeting nights to make coffee. He will also be stopping to pick up some doughnuts and munchies. Thank you Don.

Dave Reynolds is having a ham get together this Saturday at Alpine Nursery at 1pm for all interested. Bring some ham burger and chips and have some fun.

Ralph Ulrich will be available this fall for a presentation on SSTV.

At our May Club meeting Ted Mikita (N7JKF) will be doing a presentation on "Contesting - SSB and CW" with particular emphasis on Field Day. This should be an appropriate and timely topic as Field Day is June 25-26. Ted will cover operating procedures and special tips for the top US CW/SSB contests (Field Day, CQ WW-DX, Novice Roundup, etc.) and how to get involved and be successful. Special emphasis will be placed on visual aids, do's and don'ts, operating shortcuts, and even how to hold your pencil. The results of everyone in Montana who participated in FD93 (clubs and individuals) will be reviewed and discussed. Be sure to attend the May meeting to get prepared for Field Day.

It was moved and passed to get John, W7KNT from Stevensville, who did an excellent presentation for the Missoula club. He is away on another Dxpediton currently, but we will cover his expenses.

Roger Swearngen N7EYU has volunteered to team up with the ARRL to

provide a VHS tape relating to HAM Radio for each or any club meeting where there is time. The ARRL has some fifty tapes and beginning in March, Roger will make sure there is one on hand for viewing at club meetings if time allows. Thanks Roger.

Ed Mahlum (AA7TN) has new 610 form via the W5YI VEC testing team here in the Valley headed up by Darryl Christopherson KG7MO. Ed will have these forms at the March 19 Exams. They will not process the old forms after March 1st.

Montana Call Books will be coming in march...

THINK about Field Day Location.....

Tracy (N7SPI) moved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 20:30 MST. Respectfully submitted. Ed Mahlum Vice President. Jeff Christiana Secretary.

Feel free to bring stuff to the Club Meetings that you would like to sell or trade.

Russ Larson KC7HJ 857-3304 has the following goodies for sale:

400 channel Radio Shack Pro 2006 (their best scanner) like new for \$ 289.00.

Tempo S1 5watt 2M handheld just \$ 80.00.

Fillers:

No more free newsletters after March.

It was decided that the cut off date for free Newsletters being sent out to all hams regardless of whether they are dues paying or not will be March of 1994.

We have been sending out newsletters to about 75 hams that are on one or the other of the mailing lists that are in the Valley. But beginning with the April newsletter, the newsletter will only be sent to paid up members of the FVARC.

Montana Callbooks:

Montana Callbooks were at the printers as of December 10th. Should be ready by now. Contact FVRG P O Box 808, Bigfork, MT 59911. \$8.00 includes shipping and handling.

A Big Thankyou to Mark KA6YSC and JoAnne Miller N6SLM for folding the newsletters, stamping them, labelling them, and getting them out in the mail.

Do Amateur Radio (and Yourself) a Favor:

Make this your New Year's Resolution Number one: Write a letter NOW to your representative and senators asking them to sign on to a bill that would make Amateur Radio a congressionally recognized, national resource. This measure, if passed, would recognize amateurs' efforts in emergency communications, support us as "national policy" and would call for regulations that "facilitate" Amateur Radio operation as a "public benefit." This is not a "motherhood and apple pie" motion. There is real substance here, with significant, tangible benefits for Amateur Radio. (For the complete text of the joint resolution,

see July 1993 QST, page 74, or write to ARRL HQ for a copy.) There's only one way it will happen: if we make it happen.

So far Rep. Pat Williams has signed House Joint Resolution 199 as a cosponsor. However, neither Conrad Burns or Max Baucus have put their signatures on Senate Joint Resolution 90.

Send them each a letter. Address to The Honorable Conrad Burns, Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 and The Honorable Max Baucus, Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

The ARRL Points Out... Flaws in RF Safety Proceeding

The ARRL has found plenty of things to question in the FCC's investigation of a new RF exposure standard (ANSI/IEEE C95.1-1992). The FCC is considering whether to adopt the new standard, which is believed to be more restrictive of RF exposure than previous standards. In comments filed with the FCC in ET Docket 93-62, ARRL urged that the matter be dropped entirely and revisited later in a more comprehensive proceeding:

Hand-held units, indoor antenna, restrictive covenants

"There are infrequently encountered amateur radio activities which can, for short periods, produce significant field intensities. Hand-held transceivers which are widely used and indispensable in emergencies, may produce significant, highly localized fields. Unless he or she uses a remote microphone, it is conceivable that the licensee may occasionally be exposed to RF levels at or even slightly above the ANSI/IEEE maxima."

Under the old 1982 ANSI standard any RF instrument with an output of less than 7 watts was categorically exempt from regulation in relation to harmful radiation considerations. Under the new exposure standard this would be dropped to 1 1/4 watts.

The ARRL further argued that "some amateurs have no choice but to employ indoor antennas in the face of typically restrictive land use covenants that preclude the use of appropriately high, outdoor antennas."

The ARRL said that if the FCC adopts its proposal, the Commission will be obligated to facilitate installation of amateur antennas in configurations that will permit compliance with the RF exposure guidelines.

We interpret this comment to mean that the FCC would have to protect amateurs who would have to mount their antennas on high towers or roofs and farther away from people in order to comply with the rules - and just such installations are often the targets of restrictive real estate covenants. The ARRL said that the FCC "must completely preempt the judicial enforcement of restrictive covenants which cause amateur antennas to be installed indoors or at locations on a horizontal plane with human occupants of residences. Indeed, such an order is overdue anyway; but the combination of a strict RF exposure standard and continuation of a hands-off attitude with respect to antenna covenants is tantamount to a license revocation, as it would preclude the operation of any amateur station subject to both restrictions."

On February 1, 1994 the VEC's Question Pool Committee released a new syllabus for the Advanced Class Written examination: Element 4(A). This outline will be used as a guide to prepare new Advanced Class questions. A newly revised Element 4(A) question pool is scheduled to be released on December 1, 1994.

An interesting idea appeared in the March

QST. We might want to have our own local contest.

We could create a contest that would be open to Novice, Technician and Technician Plus licensees only. The contest could begin on a Saturday at 8AM and run six hours until 2PM. The object would be to work as many stations as possible in Flathead Valley County. We could make five frequencies valid for the the contest: 28.150 MHz (CW), 28.400 MHz (SSB), 144.105 MHz (CW), 144.205 MHz (SSB) and 146.44 MHz (FM). All contacts would have to be direct-no repeaters allowed. Each CW and SSB contact would be worth two points. FM contacts would be worth one point. During each contact, each station will have to exchange a signal report, its location and a contact number. For example, "W7XXX, this is WA7STA. You're 59 in Columbia Falls, Contact number 7."

By using single frequencies we should create some mini pileups. This would give our newest hams the experience of making contacts in some congestion. Other hams can act as advisors or become roving stations, making contacts in one area, and then moving on. This might give us all a little practice for field day.

NEW AMATEUR BOOKS

1994 Amateur Radio Almanac (by Doug Grant K1DG) contains just about everything you would ever want to know about past, present and future ham radio. Rules, question pools, propagation, contests/awards, QSLing/postal regs, Silent Keys, operating tutorials, ham census... plus thousands of facts, tables, graphs, maps... and more. Cost \$ 19.95 plus \$4 shipping and handling. 500 pages. (CQ Communications, Inc. 76 N. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801)

Master Frequency File (\$29.95 + \$4 shipping/handling, 544 pages) by James Tunnel and Robert Kelty, WA6GEL. Contains every known (and unknown) VHF/UHF (25MHz to 2.1GHz) frequency and call sign used by the federal government - including the military, FBI, DEA, Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service, Customs Service... and more. Even has the code words, names and signals used to obscure those officials being protected. One has to wonder how this book could be legally published. (TAb Book Div. McGraw-Hill, Inc., Blue Ridge Summit, PA).

Letter from the editor

Hope everyone had fun at the picnic on Saturday. We had a sunny day but still a bit nippy. Mark Skeels class is taking off fine.

Hope I see all of you at the next testing session. Glad to see you all on the 146.76 repeater. We are having a good turnout.

Remember March is going to be the last newsletter you will get if you have not paid up yet.

We also need to get together and help Dick Conway set up his station. For the loaning of his property for our past field days. Dick will be letting us know.

I would like to say hello and welcome to Dick Lindeman KC7ALT, and Don Ross KC7AJT. They are new hams that just passed there license. Dick has the tech and 5 WPM. Don Ross has his tech and is working on the 5 WPM. Greg KB7QPS is working hard to get his 13 WPM. Good Luck!!!

Amateurs Do Good:

Harry Johnson (NV7K) is the new president of Artists and Craftsman of the Flathead, and was among the new slate of officers installed at the association's January meeting. His wife Joyce Johnson (N7ISX) was also in the Daily newspaper recently. She is a Flathead County librarian and was recently featured in the article "Video Helpers".

The article told of Joyce's involvement with the video section at the county library and the increasing popularity of checking out a video. Keep up the good work.

Thanks to George Hanson (W7BKB) for this timely addition to our newsletter.