



Piscataquis Amateur Radio Club

Secretary's Report for the June 23rd, 2020 Meeting

In attendance were: Ben-WA1PBR, Dave R.-KB1WRZ, Rob, George-WA1JMM, Karen, Debbie-K1DAE, Kevin-W1KMC, David H.-KC1MPB

GUESTS: Michelle H. (XYL of KC1MPB)

Piscataquis Amateur Radio Club president George Dean (WA1JMM) convened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The secretary's report was read, (will be posted to K1PQ website as soon as migration to new server is completed), and accepted as posted on website and the treasurer's report was read and accepted. Treasury had \$ 1,109.67. Emera bill of \$26.00 was paid.

Ben-WA1PBR did a presentation on early methods of getting a 2-meter /70cm public service radio tuned to amateur bands by tuning crystals. The 2-meter band is between 144.00MHz and 148.00MHz where as public service radios were just above this at 150MHz

Debbie-K1DAE and Kevin-W1KMC did a short presentation on the Online remote testing that is available from a few VECs – ARRL is training a few teams now but KL7AA (Anchorage Alaska group), W5YI (out of Texas) and GLAARG (Greater L.A. Amateur Radio Group) are busy at doing remote testing on a regular basis.

If you have ever used hamstudy.org (the .com is a Canadian version but paid subscription), the program these VECs (W5YI, GLAARG, and slowly ARRL) use is called examtools. This was meant for in person testing but adapted quite nicely to remote testing. For info on a remote test, you can call us at the club phone # 207-631-2593/888-587-9296 and we can give you more details. We use Zoom for video and we have the examinee share their screen so we can watch them take the test.

Both W1KMC and K1DAE used this. W1KMC for Upgrade to General and AmExtra, and K1DAE for all 3 of her tests.

One way to support both hamstudy.org (take practice tests here first, exam tools is based off of hamstudy), and also Exam Tools is by the developer's sister site signalstuff.com – They sell antennas for HTs for about \$20/each. SMA-F (Baofeng, Anytone) SMA-M (Tytera) and even BNC can be made for scanners and HTs with BNC connectors. Orders over \$50 is free shipping (W1KMC has 2 of these antennas and wants MORE).

Remote testing turnaround time for a passed tech to get a call sign is a few hours (on a weekday, depending on the VEC, GLAARG has seen 3 hour call signs), to just 48 hours or less (weekends FCC doesn't process until Monday).

George-WA1JMM presented reports from Bill-KB1WEA and Paul-N1BUG on the status of the repeaters.

Bill-KB1WEA will be working from home QTH until further notice. He also suggested an informal Sideband net on 10, 6, or 2 meters, says 6 meters is hopping these days.

Neal-K1CWO is still having radio issues. Dave-KB1WRZ said the N1BUG 147.105 has timed out twice on him.

OLD BUSINESS

Field Day will be conducted at Stickney Hill on June 27th and 28th, social distancing will be observed. Club will operate as a 4A again. Activities will start around 2:00pm.

VHF Contest – Ben-WA1PBR put up antennas for 2-Meter 440 and 1296 (1.2GHz). George had 80 contacts and worked 50 grid squares. Optimum time for contacts was 3-6 pm.

NEW BUSINESS none

Net Control Stations for the month are:

06/24 – KB1WRZ-Dave R. | 07/01 – WA1JMM-George | 07/08 – Call-Name | 07/15 – Call-Name | 7/22 – Call-Name

Acknowledgements:

Ben-WA1PBR for the VHF contest. Everyone for what they do for the club.

Next Meeting will be July 28th, 2020 at 19:00 (7:00pm) at the Milo Town Office.

ADDENDUM:

After the meeting Debbie-K1DAE, Kevin-W1KMC and Ben-WA1PBR conducted an inperson exam (ARRL VEC) for Michelle H. to get her Tech license. She PASSED!!! Ben submitted to ARRL and she had her call sign issued on June 29th (via mail and a weekend in there, that is a quick turnaround. Michelle is KC1NJD and was heard on our on-the-air net that Wednesday. Since she passed before field day, and it was stated by KC1MPB that the vehicle with the radio was in use on the 6/24 net, Kevin-W1KMC had a VHF radio that was ‘collecting dust’ that had been given to him by one of his elmers when Kevin though his very first mobile (an Icom, IC207H) had been fried, (all it needed was a new fan—that was replaced and is operable, but not in use, but Kevin has ideas

[run, hide, Kevin has ideas! 😊]). The Elmer, KT1R-Lou, who is no longer in the area had given him an Icom IC2300 65Watt VHF only mobile. As a welcome, Kevin passed along this unit to someone who could really use one. It also encourages a new ham to get on the air!

Congratulations Michelle-KC1NJD on your license. Welcome to the worlds second most expensive hobby, oh and to the Piscataquis Amateur Radio Club. 😊

Respectfully submitted by K1DAE Debbie Ellis – Secretary. Transcribed, expanded on and commented on by Kevin-W1KMC (just call me the assistant secretary).