

CRAWFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Minutes 16 March 2010

The monthly meeting of the Crawford Amateur Radio Society was held at St. Brigid's Church on 16 March 2010 with 29 in attendance. It was called to order by President Jim K3TLP at 7:30PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed for the deceased members of our hobby.

Minutes of the February 2010 meeting were read by Mark KB3DTN. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Barry WA3GSH and seconded by Gary WA3NSM. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Rich WA3MCH. A copy of this report is attached. A motion to accept was made by Dave KB3EHA and seconded by Ginny KB3GFY. Motion carried.

At this point everyone introduced themselves.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPEATER – John N3CUP reported that the power jack on the C.A.T. 1000 Controller needs fixed. Rather than have a jack on the cabinet he and Jim K3TLP will solder wires directly to the circuit board and then place a disconnect outside of the cabinet. The weather radio seems to be working fine and they will attempt to re-install it when they work on the power jack. Mark N3PBQ reported that the power output seemed down one day but the problem has since remedied itself. Jim K3TLP reported that the New Yaesu Repeater and Cavities that we requested from FEMA have been approved and we can expect receipt of them in the future. Gary WA3NSM inquired about placing a separate receiver for 145.13 at the Norrisville site. If a receiver with a different PL is used the C.A.T. 1000 controller may be able to differentiate between receive sites. A Voter System is the best way to go to accomplish multiple receive sites. Mark N3PBQ believes there is a way to wire the C.A.T. 1000 controller so that it automatically mutes the receiver not being used when another receiver is receiving a signal.

SKYWARN – Jaime WW3S reported that attended the Skywarn Coordinators Meeting via telephone. Skywarn Training will be held at St. Brigid's Church on Wednesday, 07 April 2010 at 6:30PM. Jaime needs a couple of people to assist with registration and he needs to talk to those people before as the National Weather Service has changed the format slightly. They also have changed the criteria for which they will issue a weather event containing hail. They still want reports of any size hail though. The Severe Weather Exercise will be on 18 March 2010 and will start at 9AM. The Hospital has asked that we not be at either of their facilities. This is because of a miscommunication due to Laura Smith's ruling on Amateur operations on behalf of an employer. The Hospital Council of Western PA has said that no Amateur Radio Operators are allowed to communicate from any Hospital. Two people will be needed at the Courthouse, one will be needed at the Red Cross, and someone will need to be on 80 Meters to communicate with the surrounding counties and Harrisburg. Jim K3TLP said all organizations involved will be using the 'Knowledge Center' software system;

with this all organizations can see messages being sent to and from everywhere. Jaime said the National Weather Service in Cleveland has a Net every Wednesday Evening at 8 PM on 52.68 for those who operate on the Backbone. He also stated the local ARES nets in addition to our Sunday Night Net. On Monday's the North One ARES District net meets at 8PM on the 146.445 repeater. On Saturday's the Section wide ARES net meets at 10AM on 3.983 LSB. Also the Western Region RACES Net meets on Sunday at 9AM on 3.990.5 LSB. Jaime also needs volunteers to be Net Control's on Sunday Nights.

NET – Jerry WA3ZSC said all is going well. He needs a Net Control for Wednesday night while Ralph KA3CDH is recuperating. John K0ZP volunteered to fill in until Ralph feels he is ready to resume being Net Control.

SPECIAL EVENTS – Mark KB3DTN read a letter from the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society requesting our assistance with the Bike MS: Escape to the Lake event that will be held on 12 and 13 June 2010. A copy of this letter is attached. Anyone wishing to help can contact Mark N3PBQ for details. Jaime WW3S received an e-mail requesting help for the Pittsburgh Marathon on 02 May 2010.

FIELD DAY – Mike N3QQH reported that he reserved Shelter # 3 for Field Day and he will attend the next Vernon Township Supervisor's Meeting to reserve our use of Roche Park for Field Day weekend.

CORRESPONDENCE – A letter addressed to the club was received from Marsh Insurance Company denying our application for Liability Insurance. The reason for our being denied was because we own property. Jim K3TLP has spoken with the Petruso Agency and they will be glad to assist us with obtaining Liability Insurance.

PUBLICITY – Mark N3PBQ reported on the recent meeting of the Publicity Committee. Currently the Website is maintained on QSL.net and a mirrored copy is available on Tripod. If one goes to www.w3mie.org they are forwarded to the QSL.net site. We have to pay for the domain name www.w3mie.org and it must be renewed yearly. Mark suggested we totally move the site to QSL.net as they do web hosting for free. If we decided to do this Mark suggested we give QSL.net a donation every year for use of their servers. Jaime WW3S would prefer we keep the domain name we have and offered to donate the funding to allow the club to keep it. It was decided to let the Publicity Committee meet again and discuss this issue further. Mark said that he needs help in keeping the site updated and people can help him with this by sending him pictures of club events, any Articles, etc. He said that if things are old hit your "refresh" button to bring up the new page. Mark also suggested that everyone sign up for the club's Yahoo Groups page as many people can be informed with information by a single e-mail address.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Jim K3TLP announced that the donation to Moody Broadcasting for the UHF Site has been mailed. Also the Dues for our repeaters has been sent to the Western PA Repeater Council.
2. Jaime WW3S told of the upcoming VE Testing Session on 04 April 2010. He reminded everyone that irregardless of what some people may think the decision to start offering VE Sessions is not a personal attack on anyone. Due to someone's misinterpretation of this Jaime received a barrage of personal attacks via e-mail and he feels this kind of stuff is both uncalled for and unnecessary. VE testing has been offered here before; the only reason those who coordinated the previous sessions ended them was because not many people were desiring to be tested. The sessions will be on a pre-registration basis and if no one pre-registers then the session will not be held.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Rich WA3MCH presented the bills totaling #####. A motion to pay the bills was made by Dave KB3EHA and seconded by John K0ZP. Motion carried.
2. An application for Membership was received from Doug Sipple, WA3HRH. A motion to accept him into membership was made by Barry WA3GSH and seconded by John N3CUP. Motion carried and welcome Doug!
3. Mark KB3DTN congratulated John K0ZP on his earning his VE Certification.
4. Mark N3PBQ told of an NBEMS demonstration that will be held on Saturday 20 March 2010 at the Red Cross in Erie at 11AM.
5. Dave KB3EHA suggested the club look into obtaining another 2 Meter Repeater Pair. Discussion followed and it was decided to not do this because there are very few pairs left for coordination and you must use the frequency pairs every 90 days or the WPRC has the right to assign them to someone else.

A 50/50 drawing was held and ## collected. ## and a Yaesu Hat was won by Ginny KB3GFY and she donated her earnings back to the club. Another Yaesu Hat was won by Betty KB3HSA.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:49PM.

There was no program.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P Benson KB3DTN



bike to
create a world
free of MS

March 16, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, I would like to invite your club to be a part of the Bike MS: Escape to the Lake event in 2010. Last year with the help of our sponsors and cyclists, we were able to raise almost \$1.3 million in the fight against MS. This year we hope to raise even more, and we hope that we can count on you for your support to help this event run smoothly.

The funds that are raised from the generosity of our sponsors and participants support both national research efforts and local programs and services to help to improve the quality of life for persons with MS. Some of the services made possible include information and referrals, support groups, medical equipment assistance, education and peer counseling. These and many more programs enable us to work toward our mission of a world free of MS.

The MS Society of Western Pennsylvania is requesting help from your club. Over 1,500 cyclists will take to the road on the weekend of June 12 and 13, 2010 and amateur radio operators are an important piece to the communications structure. In addition to radio operator support, we would like the support of one of the repeaters in your area to coordinate the communications for the event. Please contact the ham radio communications coordinator, Mark Shallenberger, for additional details at n3pbq@yahoo.com or his cell phone at (814) 746-0770.

If you have any questions, please call me at (412) 261-6347 or e-mail me at lauren.dimaria@nmss.org. On behalf of the more than 7,050 individuals in Western PA served by our chapter, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren DiMaria".

Lauren DiMaria
Bike MS Coordinator

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

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