

CRAWFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Minutes 15 March 2011

The monthly meeting of the Crawford Amateur Radio Society was held at St. Brigid's Church on 15 Mar 2011 with 27 in attendance. It was called to order by President Jamie WW3S 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 2011 meeting were not read, on request of the President to provide for a more timely meeting. The minutes had been emailed to members of record earlier in the month, and Jamie provided copies at the front desk to allow members to read them before the start of the meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as published was made by Gary WA3NSM with second by Bill W3WDH. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Barry WA3GSH in the absence of the Treasurer, Rich WA3MCH. A copy of this report is attached. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Ralph KA3CDH with second by Mike N3QQH. Motion carried.

At this point everyone introduced themselves.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPEATER – John N3CUP reported that on March 1st attempts were made to flop the VHF repeaters, but this did not happen. The 147.03 repeater equipment was moved to the Fairgrounds, but it was never installed, and was subsequently returned to the Rt. 27 site.

Jamie WW3S asked about the status of Echolink, but there was no response.

SKYWARN – The Severe Weather Exercise was held on March 1st. Ed N3HWQ was the 6-meter backbone operator. Ed reported that the event was very successful.

Jamie WW3S reported that there had been a Skywarn meeting via conference call. District 6 participation (our area) was good. Changes are afoot: going forward they want a single 6-meter station to cover both Erie and Crawford county. They are requesting this for all districts.

Jamie reminded us of the March 23rd Skywarn training at St. Brigid Church at 6:30 PM. The Federal budget has been extended, so we should be good to go.

Jamie also mentioned that the ARES new registration software trial did not work. The server crashed when the application went nationwide.

NET – Jerry WA3ZSC said he needs Net Control Station volunteers for Fridays. WW3S said that he needs Net Control Stations for the Sunday night ARES net for May through December.

SPECIAL EVENTS – Cynthia WB3CNJ reported that she is involved with the Jamboree on the Air in October and is looking for some help. While he was not present at this meeting, Dave AB3I may be able to assist.

As a side note, mention was made that Mark N3PBQ will not be involved this year with the MS Bikeathon due to other obligations.

FIELD DAY – Mike N3QQH reminded everyone that Field Day is June 25-26 and that he is ready to reserve a shelter at Roche Park. It is time to allocate money for this event.

VE – WW3S reported that last Saturday would have been the VE session had there been any advance reservations. Numerous announcements were made on the nightly 145.13 traffic nets of the scheduled date and the need to pre-register. Since no one reserved in advance, there was no session. Nonetheless, someone did show up to take the test. Jamie offered to do a makeup exam, perhaps the night of the club meeting, but the individual declined and was rather upset. The next scheduled VE exam is April 23rd, which is ARRL National Testing Day. Once again, you must pre-register in advance or there will be no session.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS – None.

OLD BUSINESS:

The membership application for Frank KE3CK was approved on motion by Jim K3TLP, second by John N3CUP followed by unanimous membership vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. In the absence of Treasurer Rich WA3MCH, Barry WA3GSH presented the bills totaling XX. A motion to pay the bills was made by Ralph KA3CDH with second by Jerry WA3ZSC. Motion carried.

2. The entity "W3MIE Holdings, Inc.", Entity Number 4016795, has been filed with the Pennsylvania Department of State as of March 14, 2011. The registered address of record is 21599 Beverly Drive, Meadville, PA. Thanks go to John K0ZP for all of his work to finalize this process. This entity will allow the transfer of the club real estate into the new W3MIE Holdings, Inc. [and allow the Crawford Amateur Radio Society to apply for insurance at a non-business rate.]

[wa3gsh - previous attempts by Jim K3TLP to obtain insurance at reasonable prices were stymied by the presence of this real estate, which is from the Rt. 27 repeater site.]

3. Mike N3QQH made a motion for the club to approve XX for Field Day 2011. Alan KB3QHH seconded and the motion carried.

4. Cynthia WB3CNJ stated that she saw in the previous minutes a mention of a possible CARS Hamfest. Comments from the members in the audience noted that this is a pretty labor intensive project. Jim K3TLP noted that in years past there had been an Erie/Crawford County hamfest, that it was a whole bunch of work, and it was not a money-maker. This hamfest went on for a number of years. Jerry WA3ZSC said he remembers when he was involved it was the ninth year for the event.

5. Bill W3WDH wanted to reopen the Field Day discussion concerning the dollar amount of XX that he thought should be raised to YY – Bill was particularly concerned about the existing and potential increase in gasoline prices. Field Day Captain Mike N3QQH rose to address the issue. Mike said that the new generator and the new compact fluorescent lamps in the tent really dropped the gas usage, with the result that the total usage was less than one five-gallon can for the entire Field Day exercise. Mike was comfortable with the XX agreement.

6. Cynthia WB3CNJ reported that the 146.985 repeater is running.

7. Jim K3TLP offered a comment that the Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest is Saturday, April 9th, and not Sunday.

A 50/50 drawing was held and XX collected. Bill KB3PLS won the drawing and he donated his earnings back to the club. He did pick out one of the books (that were made available to the club recently) as a bonus prize for donating the money.

There being no further business, on motion by Jerry WA3ZSC with second by Jim K3TLP, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

The program for the evening was Leonard Hunter's (KA3DBJ) presentation on the Enigma machine. Leonard held the audience in silence for most of an hour with his entertaining discussion, which included an actual Enigma machine, numerous books on the Enigma, along with a vintage tube-type receiver.

[wa3gsh - Leonard mentioned a good Wikipedia entry on the web for further background: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enigma_machine]

Respectfully submitted,



Barry H. Capell WA3GSH