

# **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – April 15, 2021**

We have a quorum tonight.

Meeting Opened at 7:30pm by Eric

## **New Members by Huey AB3GS:**

**New members voted in:** 4 People (all paid their dues)

1. KE8RTC, Cynthia 'Cindy' Hunt, Technician, Crawford, WV
2. KC3RWO, Charles 'Chuck' Payne, General, Elkridge, MD
3. KC3RWG, Mary 'Blu' Benzinger, Technician, Catonsville, MD
4. N3GBN, William 'Bill' McLaren, Technician, Baltimore, MD
5. KC3RWF, Barara Ingersoll, Technician, Glen Burnie, MD
6. KC3RWD, Harry Ferrari, Technician, Severn, MD
7. KC3RWE, William 'Brad' Branch, Technician, California, MD

Huey AB3GS made a motion to vote in all new members, seconded by Keith AE3D. Eric called for a vote, motion passed and all members were voted in by unanimous vote.

## **Brian K3HMX:**

- Field Day help is needed such as help with the information booth, and to run few of the stations.

## **Quarterly Update on Goals Eric:**

- **Communications Plan Goals:**
  - Weekly emails on Tuesday
  - Get estimate for contractor to run back-office administration (Completed)
  - New committee to Re-due web pages (In-Progress)
  - Eric suggests adding a Large button click here to join and another large button click here to donate to the web site.
  - **Michael KC8GIJ Reports:**
    - Feedback has been received lately of a few concerns with our website that can be addressed in the short-term.
    - Easier, more obvious way to allow people to join our club.
    - Easier, more obvious way to allow people to donate to our club.

- More mobile friendly website, viewable on desktops, tablets, and mobile phones.
  - Consignment area on our website to allow authorized people to add, remove, and modify postings depending on authorization and a way to pay for the items and let us know they want the item and others that the item is sold.
  - Update outdated items.
  - The overall organization of the site could use an update, some people feel it is too cluttered, hard to find things.
  - A search feature could help with this allowing people to search the site for what they would like.
  - A drop-down menu like a Quick Access menu to take the person to places that are often accessed would be helpful.
  - Upgrade to the latest Drupal (sometime next quarter)
- **Networking Goals:**
  - Get high speed internet line installed (Completed)
  - Upgrade servers (In-Progress)
    - Need ~\$500-\$600 for upgrades to hard drives and other items.
  - Remote access to Ham station (In-Progress)
  - Remote access to Repeaters (No status to report at this time, John was able to get back and have access to the repeaters using the current internet access that we have and will have more from John later in May).
- **Repeater Goals:**
  - Install new Yaesu Repeater (3rd or 4th quarter of this year)
- **A/V Plan Goals:**
  - Still working on this because we are still not able to meet at the club house.
  - Keith would like to use this for training and have zoom available for remote participants as well as in person meetings at the club house.
  - Acquired some document cameras working to set up.
- **Workshop Goals:**
  - We set up one of the shelters and now what we are doing is using this as a storage space so we can store items there and work on spring cleaning.
  - Space allocation in the workshop is not big enough, so we need to move all of the power tools all into shed 2 from shed 1 and turn that as part of the workshop in there.
- **Antenna Plan Goals:**
  - New Tower is here but not set up yet. We are still working on this. We had a couple of antenna committee meetings.
  - **Burnie (Chair Antenna Committee) reports:**
    - We have the two J-Poles up in the tree but not connected yet.
    - We are getting an estimate on tower repairs.
    - We are going to get together a rough cost list for doing the install of the directional antenna and inverted L and another antenna.
- **Ham Shack Goals:**
  - We have a ham shack coordinator (Joe)

- We do have our four working stations.
- The tri-band beam has concerns and needs repair, working on estimates with the antenna committee and will likely need additional funds to get that done.
- Keith has a 4-port hub, and the concept is to have a place to plug everything in and not have to unplug things when making changes. When Joe brings people in, be able to limit the new people to just tell them the four things they need to know like setting frequency, turning power on, and just making it simple to operate.

### **Eric Reports:**

- Milford program would be good to have people come into the ham shack and make contacts as new Milfords.
- We got a new toilet put into the club house.
- We fixed the water; it doesn't smell and turn black, it was a sulfur issue with the hot water tank and this has been reported to the county so we are seeing what the next steps are, for now the hot water is turned off.
- Next Goals Update in About Three Months.

### **Testing Tim:**

- Testing session went well with just a few people who are re-testing next month.
- Not taking walk-ins currently, we are asking them to go to the website and follow the links to pre-register for your testing session. This way all the paperwork is sent to the right people and they can just go in and test as scheduled.
- At some point in the next few months, we are working on getting an electronic method of testing.
- Second Saturday of the month is testing, and a session will be done next month.
- **Keith:** Thanks to Huey for filling in for Keith and for handing out invites to join the club and as a result we got a good turnout.
- **Eric:** Exam Tools is a product we could use for testing. We could reduce it from ten people to four people running the exam sessions with the use of this tool.

### **Policy Chuck:**

- EchoLink policy is being worked on.
- **Eric:** Bill talked about the preamble for some of the nets and things like that and that would be good to work that forward.
- We will be calling on the people that have more experience on some of these policies.

### **Rick Treasure:**

- Periodic reports are not going out that usually go out, they may be hung up in the spam filtering system and will work with Keith to resolve.

### **Generator Test:**

- Went well and the generator is working as expected.

**ID Cards:**

- Jeff is taking over this and has the equipment including the printer and laptop and can generate the cards and is doing a great job with this. Once the format is completed, we will be able to make all our members their ID cards with different logos for ARES or other memberships such as ARRL.

**Club Historian (Keith):**

- Willie is taking over as club historian and is working on this task.
- Thank you Willie for taking over as club historian

**Keith motions to Adjourn and Bill seconds it, all voted to Adjourn at 8:23pm.**