

Middle Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
General Meeting Net Summary
April 7, 2020

Note:

Due to Governor Northam's order prohibiting gathering in groups due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, the monthly general meeting of the club was cancelled. In its place, an over-the-air net was conducted at the usual time to maintain contact between club members and to continue ongoing discussion of club matters. The net followed the same general form as a meeting, but since our bylaws currently have no provision allowing electronic meetings, and such meetings are not allowed implicitly by the current version of Robert's Rules of Order, no motions could be made and no votes conducted, so no minutes were kept. Instead, this summary of the night's activity is being submitted in lieu of minutes.

Call for Check-ins / Introductions

The net was called at 7:00 pm by President Kenny Skirvin (KM4KZC), an initial call for check-ins to the net heard responses from

- Dave, KN0S
- Mack, WB2PCV
- Liz, K5ELM
- Will, K4MI
- Roger, KI4QAU
- Marty, WM4MW
- Bobby, K4BC
- Mark, N1LO
- Paul, KG4GMY (guest)
- Kristian, K1JFJ
- Danny, KW4LQ

Agenda:

- Previous meeting minutes
- Treasurer's report
- W5YI testing
- Old business
- New business
- Talk about options for the next meeting

Previous Meeting Minutes

Kenny indicated that the minutes had been distributed electronically as usual and asked the Secretary if there were any comments or remarks regarding the minutes. Marty (WM4MW) responded that he had no additional comments other than to ask that if anyone noticed any corrections that were needed to please let him know.

Kenny asked if there were any other comments or remarks about the minutes. There were none. He indicated that we would wait to hear motions to approve the minutes at the next in-person meeting of the club.

Treasurer's Report

Kenny indicated that we probably should not discuss financial details on the air, but asked the Treasurer (Will, K4MI) for a summary of the situation and any remarks. Will indicated that dues collection was slowing as expected. We had the expense of the VaQP Plaque we contribute in honor of Joe, KI4LXT. Otherwise, everything appears to be in order.

Kenny indicated that the Tour de Chesapeake was expected to be cancelled, so we are likely to lose the revenue we typically receive from that event. Will agreed, and indicated that we have already received some additional revenue from our monthly raffle of the equipment recently donated by David, N4GUA and it appeared likely that the income from this and subsequent raffles was likely to offset the loss of revenue from Tour de Chesapeake. Kenny agreed and asked for any other questions or remarks regarding the Treasurer's report. There were none.

Kenny pause to make another call for check-ins... and added the following participants

- Bill, KJ4RBL
- Jerry, K4SKD

W5YI Testing

Kenny reminded us that the most recent test session was cancelled due to the Governor's order and suggested that many may have seen Joy's remarks regarding testing. The next session is currently scheduled for May 30th, but Joy (W2JMS) indicated that session seems likely to be cancelled as well. The current order is through June 10th... Assuming things open up at that time, Joy will contact the rescue squadron in an effort to schedule a test session shortly thereafter in the hope of having a test before the current Extra test question pool expires on June 30th. Field day is currently the 27/28 of June and there may be people who would like to test to upgrade to Extra before then.

Comment: Jerry, K4SKD – Randy this morning mentioned that Hampton was planning a “Drive By” session soon... maybe this weekend or next in which folks could drive in and take the test in their cars which would then be graded, etc. as usual. So, if anyone was hoping to get a test taken soon, this might be an option.

Kenny, KM4KZC responded that was interesting and added that Joy (W2JMS) had mentioned that W5YI had conducted one fully remote audio and video exam session with 3 VEs and one applicant taking the tech exam. She did point out that someone had heard about the availability of computer-based exams being available for \$95. She contacted W5YI about this and determined that to their knowledge, no official tests are being conducted in that manner right now.

Comment: Will (k4MI) responded with information about another session in June...After being recognized by net control, Wil related that in Williamsburg, there is also a plan to offer a test

session on June 20th at the Toano Fire Station at 9:00 am. Details are available on <http://K4RC.net>.

Old Business

By-laws change vote:

postponed until our next in-person meeting. The change being considered is to realign the annual financial reporting better with our officer elections.

Program Chair

Still seeking a volunteer to serve as program chair.

Repeater

The failed repeater is still awaiting repair. We have the approval of the manufacturer to perform the capacitor replacement locally to avoid the cost of shipping the unit to/from California. But, with the social distancing requirements, etc. the necessary repair has not yet been performed.

Kenny asked for any remarks or comments related to old business. There were none.

Kenny (KM4KZC) made another call for check-ins, and heard from:

- Will, WS3G
- Allen, KN4HGV

New Business

ARES MoU – we have an MoU! Kenny polled the board to see if this were something that the board could decide, or if this required a vote of the general membership. Bobby (K4BC)s suggested that in the current social distancing conditions, perhaps we could enter into a temporary MoU until a proper vote of the board or general membership could be held. Kenny mailed the proposed MoU to the board to solicit feedback. He asked for Roger (KI4QAU) to comment on this.

Comment: Roger (KI4QAU) stressed the importance of establishing this relationship to serve the community and encourages the club to give it our urgent attention to establish this as soon as possible.

Kenny invited additional comments or remarks:

Comment: Marty (WM4MW) – Strongly in favor of this. A provisional or temporary MoU to get this done immediately to serve until the required in-person vote can be conducted is a great idea and we should proceed with that plan.

Comment: Mack (WB2PCV) – Asked about the possibility of using a tool like Survey Monkey or something similar to hold a real vote of the membership.

Comment: Marty (WM4MW) – Did some research into Robert's Rules regarding the use of electronic meetings or voting to see if there is a way to do so in a way that would be legal or legitimate from the club's perspective, will look into that further and see what the options might be.

Response: Kenny (KM4KZC) – Has done some research himself and what he was able to find suggested that electronic meetings/voting is permitted provided that it is outlined in the by-

laws, and that full audio/video can be seen at all times by all parties. His research was very brief, so there is need to do further research.

It seems clear that voting electronically would be very helpful.

Comment: Dave (KN0S) – The state EMS organization routinely uses survey monkey and similar tools and it is considered official and legal within the EMS organization.

Question: Kenny (KM4KZC) -- Does anyone have any objection to voting electronically if we could work something out?

Comment: Will (K4MI) – Added that polls are available on groups.io, if their use would be acceptable. One problem is that some members are not members of the groups.io reflector.

Comment: Roger (KI4QAU) – Offered that he could make WebEx available via his business account if this is needed to satisfy the audio/video requirement mentioned previously.

Cancellations

Due to the social distancing order which extends until June 12th, several club activities are cancelled, postponed or rescheduled.

- **May 18th Walter Reed Special Event:** Currently postponed with a new date TBA. It was previously scheduled to coincide with Garden Week which has been cancelled.
- **4/29 Board Meeting:** Cancelled.
- **May 5th Club Meeting:** Cancelled
- **May 9th Club Breakfast:** Cancelled
- **May 30th Tour de Chesapeake:** Cancelled
- **June 2nd Club Meeting:** Cancelled
- **June 27/28 Field Day:** As of now, this is still scheduled. Kenny encourages interested folks to check the ARRL web site which has guidelines suggesting that Hams are resilient and that there are multiple possibilities for operating even with the various social distancing orders in place. See <http://www.arrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt> and [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/Creative Approaches to Field Day 2020.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/Creative%20Approaches%20to%20Field%20Day%202020.pdf) .

Comment: Will (K4MI) – Along those lines, the Williamsburg club (WAARC) plans to hold their Jamestown special event remotely, with station operators signing up for different time slots and operating from their own shacks. Perhaps something similar would be possible for our Walter Reed event. Kenny asked if the operators will use the club call-sign, or their own? Will indicated that they are using the 13 Colonies Event as an example, so the club callsign will be used, but they will only have one station operating on any given band/mode combination at any point in time.

Comment: Bobby (K4BC) – Walter Reed's birthday is Sept. 13, which would be a good time to do it, so perhaps we could move it to that date.

Comment: Will (K4MI) – That happens to be a Saturday this year, so the 12th might be good assuming no other conflicts.

Response: Kenny (KM4KZC) – So, we should tentatively adopt Sept. 12th as a date for the event. He will start a groups.io thread to discuss options. Kenny strongly encourages everyone to use groups.io to conduct such conversations, it would be very beneficial if members could get in the habit of using it.

Next Meeting:

Kenny asked for input on how to handle the next meeting – do it on the repeater again? Perhaps use videoconferencing? Any comments/suggestions?

Comment: Marty (WM4MW) – The problem with video conferencing is that usually someone must pay to host the service. Roger had offered to host a WebEx session which would be cool. But most of the most popular services people are using/hearing about right now like WebEx, Teams or Zoom are paid services. There are other, free services available, but I am not familiar with the details. Perhaps someone else has information regarding such services?

Comment: Mark (N1LO) – Wanted to say that the current forum (repeater) works well, it's simple, works for everyone and doesn't require a lot of additional tech to figure out. We could use

Comment: Roger (KI4QAU) – Thanks for thinking outside the box about using this kind of thing. Echoed his offer to allow us to use WebEx for our next meeting if desired. He also indicated that WebEx is quite simple to setup and use.

Comment: Jerry (K4SKD) – Thanks to Kenny for doing the meeting this way this time. He indicated that the repeater method seems to be working well. He would be willing to try WebEx if that is what everyone wants to do, but he suggests we use the repeater again.

Comment: Danny (KW4LQ) – He prefers to stay with the repeater. Everyone uses it all the time and will not need to setup anything extra.

Response: Kenny (KM4KZC) – Judging from the responses, it seems that most are indicating they would be happy either way, or that we should use the repeater, so it seems best to plan to use the repeater again next month.

Any additional New Business

None heard

Remarks from people who checked in –

- Dave, KN0S – He has been very busy related to the way that EMS is handling COVID-19 patients. Working with EMS protocols, working with national org to setup test centers. Not fully retired yet.
- Mack, WB2PCV – Been staying healthy, able to work from home. Perhaps a slight drop in productivity. Great to be able to have a meeting and watch a double rainbow.
- Liz, K5ELM – Really likes working out of the house – fewer interruptions aside from their puppy.
- Will, K4MI – Still working. Reduced passengers on buses, with overflow buses if needed. Hanging out, watching sports, and doing a dry run of the video conferencing system to be used in the Williamsburg meeting next week, but reiterated that the repeater is a great solution for MPARC. Will look at financial plan for the club to include the loss of Tour de Chesapeake revenue, etc.
- Roger, KI4QAU – Thanks again to Kenny for setting this up. Working about 18 hours a day splitting time between home and Williamsburg. Working extensively with the

county on the ARES initiative. Concerns for his wife who works in a hospital in anesthesiology, adapting procedures. Thanks to those who have reached out regarding participating in ARES, he will be getting an email out in the next few days.

- Marty, WM4MW – Working from home for the past 3 weeks. Productivity has probably increased due to lower rate of interruption. Otherwise, just hunkered down with the wife and our pets.
- Bobby, K4BC – A warning.. some bad news. Travelling up and down the western shore attempting to sell soft crabs. People seem to be growing increasingly worried about their businesses. Encourages everyone to exercise situational awareness as people become more grumpy.
- Mark, N1LO – So far, so good. Working in the yard, trying to pick up groceries and supplies at smaller businesses where risk of exposure might be less. Learning how to make masks and give haircuts at home. Watching lots of videos on chain saw repair.
- Paul, KG4GMY – Hanging in there. Keeping busy at work. Will be on vacation in 2 more days. Working on to do list. Really nice to be able to make the meeting since it was OTA.
- Danny, KW4LQ – Pretty quiet there. Working on some projects in the shack. Really misses the geezer lunches. But, the situation has forced him to pick up a mic and go on the air to talk to people. So, maybe that's a bit of a silver lining.
- Bill, KJ4RBL – [unreadable]
- Jerry, K4SKD – still working 4 tens. Company is still working, and he is essential. So, staying busy, keeping our distance and being careful. Expects this to be around for a while. Traffic is lighter lately which is a nice change.
- Will, WS3G – Appreciates the on the air meeting. For a guy who isn't getting out much, it was nice to hear everyone and what they're up to. His accomplishment for the evening was finding his radio and finding that it actually still works.
- Allen, KN4HGV – Still working – mission essential (sacrificial 😊) Playing with Wires-X, enjoying that. New puppies keeping him busy too. Misses being able to go out to eat.

Kenny made one last call for check-ins or remarks.

- Michael, KN4MTF – late check-in. Doing pretty good. Really enjoyed the meeting and an opportunity to use his gear. Glad to hear a lot of familiar folks and glad to hear that everyone is still out there. Work pretty much as usual. Like the idea of doing the next meeting on the repeater too. Encourages everyone to enjoy the extra time at home with their families.

Kenny will plan to conduct the next meeting (May 5th) over the air as well. He thanks everyone for checking in. Feels it was good to have everyone check in to stay in contact. He then closed the net and returned the repeater to normal use at 8:00 PM.

Participants

Members

- Kenny, KM4KZC (net control)
- Dave, KN0S
- Mack, WB2PCV
- Liz, K5ELM
- Will, K4MI
- Roger, KI4QAU
- Marty, WM4MW
- Bobby, K4BC
- Mark, N1LO
- Kristian, K1JFJ
- Danny, KW4LQ
- Bill, KJ4RBL
- Jerry, K4SKD
- Will, WS3G
- Allen, KN4HGV

Guests

- Paul, KG4GMY

Submitted by MPARC Secretary, Marty Wise, WM4MW, May 2, 2020