

Middle Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
General Meeting Minutes
November 3rd, 2020

Call to Order

Club President Kenny Skirvin, KM4KZC called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with thirteen members physically present, two members attending remotely via Zoom and two guests. Kenny asked for introductions and asked everyone what their favorite Halloween candy was. Members introduced themselves and provided a variety of answers.

Previous Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Minutes

The minutes of the October meeting were distributed electronically via our groups.io site. There were no comments or corrections regarding the minutes.

Bobby (K4BC) entered a motion that the minutes be accepted as distributed. The motion was seconded by Roger (KI4QAU) and the motion was carried with no discussion or objection.

Treasurer's Reports

Will (K4MI) presented the monthly treasurer's report which was also previously posted to groups.io. Noteworthy this month was the reimbursement of W5YI of the cost of printing flyers that was discussed last month. He then presented the annual report which reflected the expected loss of income from the cancelled Tour de Chesapeake, and the partial offset provided by the raffle of donated equipment in recent months. Finally, Will reviewed the proposed budget for 2021. Of note is the inclusion of a line item for "Club Promotions" to allow for expenses related to flyers and other promotional materials and activities to promote the club in the community. Also, there is a desired minimum balance in the bank of \$2,000.00 to avoid monthly fees. This also provides funds for emergency equipment repairs, etc.

Kenny added some commentary regarding potential promotional activities discussed at recent board meetings – creation of pamphlets, and possible direct mail campaign to licensed amateurs in the area. Joy asked about postage for QSL cards. Will indicated that he only had to mail a few... many requests are accompanied by SASE, and so incur no postage. Will has paid out of pocket for the few that did require postage. So, in general, this expense is basically negligible and probably does not require a specific budget line item.

Roger (KI4QAU) entered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports as presented, which was seconded by Alan (KM4VTT). The motion was accepted with no further discussion or dissent.

ARES

ARES EC Report (Roger, KI4QAU)

Roger reported he attended the recent quarterly meeting of the Gloucester Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and that the ARES chapter is now fully vetted with the execution of the MoU. He also pointed out that the county is doing a lot of good things in the COVID pandemic. In particular, the schools are still preparing and delivering about 3500 meals a day to local Gloucester children who would be receiving free or reduced-price lunches if school were in session. The local early voting process was well organized, and the county is positioned to address other circumstances as the need arises. He also thanked Will (K4MI) and Norbert (KM4HVL) for serving as net control for the weekly ARES Net on Thursday evenings.

Kenny added that our member – Scott Mecca (K7TTN) was recently in the news for having coordinated the mobile Wi-Fi systems on the county's buses.

W5YI Testing

No test session last month, but one upcoming on the 28th. Joy has had a few contacts – one was a current Advanced class amateur who is a 72 year old retired pastor who wants to try for his extra. No further developments regarding a planning/training session for VEs after the session. Kenny conveyed that at the recent board meeting, Barbara gave Joy lots of praise for having well organized and executed testing sessions – even throughout the pandemic.

Old Business

Broken Repeater Amp –

Kenny ordered the needed parts from DigiKey and will look to have it repaired soon... so by the time we meet again, he can report that it is fixed. Mark mentioned that he has the capacitors Danny (KW4LQ) provided as well as the DC breaker to be used. Kenny will coordinate getting the components and getting the repair completed.

Local Hams that are not Club Members –

We have discussed some

New Business

Annual Elections –

Thanks to Mack (WB2PCV) for his work as election coordinator. We will be electing the following positions, each having the candidates indicated –

- Vice President –
 - Roger, KI4QAU
- Treasurer
 - Will, K4MI

- At Large
 - Barbara, W4TXF
 - Jerry, K4SKD
 - TJ, K4TFJ
 - Bob, KM4WYJ

Capt. John Smith Special Event Station – Dec. 5th, 2020

Will has made the necessary arrangements for the use of the park. No restrooms will be available, but

Expect to be on the air from 10:00 am – 3:00 PM (on site about 8:00am and leave by 5:00pm)

Need the usual stuff

- Radio – Will can provide his K3 (K4 if it arrives in time?)
- Computer – Will can provide the computer that is already configured for use with his K3
- Antenna – Bobby and/or Jerry, with launcher from Will
- Stuff from the shed – Will can stop by and pick things up

Joy (W2JMS) asked if the club owns this stuff, to avoid the need for rounding it up every time. Jerry (K4SKD) countered that the use of club owned equipment is difficult since it is seldom used and sits in the shed. Computers need to be updated, etc. TJ (K4TFJ) suggested we might have an activity in the spring to design and build the antennas needed to at least provide them. There is also some advantage to getting a computer and radio that are already paired and configured to work together to avoid problems that arise at the last minute. So, generally the use of a volunteered radio and computer is more convenient and reliable. In addition, by using volunteered gear Kenny (KM4KZC) gets to play with a variety of different radios.

Upcoming Calendar

Nov. 3rd -- Club Meeting (annual Business Meeting)

Nov. 14th -- Club breakfast

Nov. 28th -- Test Session

Dec. 5th – Captain John Smith Special Event Station

Dec. 12th – Club breakfast

Dec. 13th – Christmas Dinner / Club Meeting - proposed

Jan. 5th – Club Meeting

January 9th – Club Breakfast (Olivia's restaurant)

Notes: This year's Frost Fest has been cancelled, and there is concern that the Dayton Ham Fest will also be cancelled, or possibly pivot to a virtual format.

Joy will contact the radio station to ensure that they are still doing the toy collection and whether they can accept donations at their office. Various members suggested that in the event the radio station is not doing their usual collection, members can consider donating to the USMC "Toys for Tots" or similar programs.

Election—

Kenny distributed the ballots to the members in attendance. He also opened the meeting for nominations from the floor. Kenny announced that we are taking ballots electronically also due to the unusual circumstances. Before doing so, Kenny polled the board and also all the candidates and nobody had any objection. All absentee ballots must be received by 8:00 PM. Kenny reviewed the bylaws additions that are on the ballot, clarifying that the Article X text that was distributed is to be appended to the existing article X text in the bylaws. Joy read the existing Article X text aloud.

Kenny read the absentee ballots aloud, with the election coordinator (Mack, WB2PCV) tabulating the votes... The in-person ballots were collected for tabulation by Mack.

Intermission/Raffle

During the intermission, raffle tickets were sold. The following items were raffled, all from David Dunville's 2019 donation.. The winner of each raffle is as indicated

- TransiTrap Lightning Protector, w/ UHF connectors, 200W max, 500MHz – Marty (WM4MW)
- Radio Shack 2m power amplifier, w/ helical resonator – Alan (KM4VTT)
- Oak Hills Research OHR-100A single band CW Transceiver(?) – TJ (K4TFJ)

Election Results

The Election Coordinator (Mack, WB2PCV) announced the election results, with the individuals below elected to the indicated positions for the term beginning in 2021 --

- Vice President – Roger West, KI4QAU
- Treasurer – Will Hrachovina, K4MI
- At Large Board Members –
 - Barbara Ettner, W4TXF
 - Jerry Unverferth, K4SKD

In addition, all three bylaws changes were approved for adoption.

Kenny again thanked Mack for his help with the election and also to those who participated. Mack expressed his appreciation to all who participated, particularly in light of the ongoing US elections.

Presentation

Will (K4MI) presented information about new/modern battery technologies as might be appropriate for use for emergency or portable power of Ham Radio equipment. Focusing primarily on the newer, LiFePO4 batteries, which provide lighter weight, improved capacity, lifetime and safety compared to traditional lead-acid, NiCd, or NiMH batteries, or even other lithium-ion or lithium polymer chemistries. His presentation also included discussion of some of the DC Power products available from West Mountain Radio. He demonstrated that an extremely powerful and reliable power system can be constructed from these components.

Adjournment

Alan (KM4VTT) made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Marty(WM4MW) so Kenny (KM4KZC) adjourned the meeting about 9:00 PM.

Attendees

Attended In-Person

- Davie, KN4KID
- Bobby, K4BC
- Will, K4MI
- Dave, KF4NC
- Alan, KM4VTT
- Mack, WB2PCV
- Liz, K5ELM
- Joy, W2JMS
- Kenny, KM4KZC
- Jerry, K4SKD
- Roger, KI4QAU
- Jon, KO4IWY
- Marty, WM4MW

Attended Remotely via Zoom

- Dave, KN0S
- Mark, N1LO

Guests

- John, N4WFK
- Jeannie, KM4MZY

Submitted by MPARC Secretary, Marty Wise, WM4MW, January 1, 2021.