

NEGARC Minutes

April 2, 2009

Members/Guests: Doug Brown KC4RSL, Joe Tiller KD4VHX, Larry Phillips K4PIC, Barbara Franklin KI4BQT, Geof Franklin KE4IGD, Bob Herrin KE4JLL, Kay McMann KG4WHA, Jim Mitchell K4LCP, Janna Tolbert KJ4ESB, Charles Locke W4CLE, Eddie Gilbert KJ4CZE, Mike Strong K4CRO, Paul Cheek KS4XR

Minutes:

- President Doug Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30
- Paige, from the Commerce Library, made announcement about Saturday's 5K race
 - 5K race will begin at 4:00 pm
 - Fun run will begin at 3:30
 - Humane Society will have dogs available for adoption
- Agenda distributed and approved
- Laminated Band charts were distributed to those who did not get them at the last meeting
- Program – Fox Hunting (transmitter finding) by Geof KE4IGD
 - Several antennas were discussed
 - Viewed video from ARRL
 - Announcement: fox hunt in May in Walton County
- Jim, K4LCP, reported that a good quality microphone could be created by obtaining an older D104 microphone and swapping the element
- March minutes published in the newsletter were approved with no corrections
- OFFICER REPORTS:
 - Treasurer's Report from Joe KD4VHX
 - General Fund: \$831.46 Repeater Fund: \$722.11
 - We currently have 16 members representing 13 households
 - No major expenditures during the month
 - Repeater Report from Jim K4LCP
 - Crown people now own the tower are repeater is on
 - They were not aware of the original 20 year agreement
 - They stripped off the sidebars, but since our repeater is on the top, it was not affected
 - Jim contacted the Crown people and they have agreed to allow us to stay on the tower
 - We have 2 offers for a location for a digapeater:
 - Water tower at Wal-Mart
 - Tower at BJC Hospital
 - There was a discussion on linking the 440 repeater with the Tri-County 440 repeater
 - Eddie mentioned that there might be a possibility of getting a grant for D-Star equipment for the Fire Department

- Doug suggested investigating whether Jackson EMC might provide some funding
 - D-Star will need an internet connection, so we must consider that monthly cost
 - SkyWarn Report from Eddie KJ4CZE
 - CERT Drill – both Captain Dwayne Keith and Chief Nichols apologized for the confusion on ARES participation and reiterated their support and desire for amateur radio participation
 - Chief Nichols appreciated power outage reports
 - Doug was thanked for manning the EOC
 - In the Mainstreet News article on the recent flooding, Chief Nichols thanked the club and SkyWarn group
- COMMITTEE REPORTS:
 - VE Testing – Geof KE4IGD
 - More VEs are needed
 - Bob – a 1 day Tech License course and VE session is being planned
- OLD BUSINESS:
 - Since Geof is now a qualified ARRL instructor and able to purchase books from ARRL at a discount, he will order the 3 Tech, 2 General, and 1 Extra handbooks that were approved for purchase in January
 - Joe is still working on the club roster
 - The Club Breakfast had to be rescheduled. New date will be April 25, 9:30, at the Jefferson House Restaurant
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - Field Day Planning
 - Will participate with the Athens Radio Club again
 - Would like to meet in the Nicholson Park again
- Jim reported that the 40 meter band is being vacated by broadcasters so it will now be easier to talk to Europeans
- Larry reported that sunspots are now at a 95-year low
- ANNOUNCEMENTS:
 - April 4 – Pets and People 5k – 4:00 pm – Quality Foods, Commerce
 - April 11 – UGA G-Day Football game
 - April 11 – 12 – Georgia QSO Party
 - 4th Monday of each month – Tri-County Amateur Radio Club – Braselton – Red Barn
 - 440, 2-meter, D-Star repeaters on west side of county
 - April 25 – Club Breakfast – 9:30 at Jefferson House
 - May 2 – Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society HamFest – Spartanburg, SC
 - May 7 – Next meeting
- Doug adjourned the meeting at 7:55