

Mountain Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes, 21 August 2010

General Meeting Room, Woodland Park Library

Minutes by Wes Wilson (KØHBZ) in absence of Secretary Bill Wallick (KCØFNV).

Allowing a few minutes for additional members who might be running late, the meeting was called to order by MARC President Dean Buckhouse (KBØVVA) at 7:12 pm with a record-breaking FIVE members in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next MARC VE Session will be 10 am on Saturday September 4, 2010 at the Woodland Park Library. Discussion: This year in particular, the first Saturday of the month has been conflicting with almost every national holiday resulting in sessions with no examinees. One suggestion was to move the MARC VE Sessions to the SECOND Saturday of every odd month rather than on the FIRST Saturday. This would also reduce some confusion as the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Assn. (PPRAA) examination sessions are on the SECOND Saturday of the even-numbered months and would make local exam sessions essentially a month apart. The VE Team Officers are considering this change. Much will depend upon availability of the Library on the second Saturdays.
- Dean announced that the “Campfest 2010” was on the upcoming weekend, Friday through Sunday, Aug. 27-29. People are welcome to come earlier or stay later than the event dates and camp if they so desired. The club is planning free camping, club station operation and a potluck dinner on Saturday evening. Dean asked if the club would provide burgers, brats, etc. The request was approved unanimously (all five votes). The Library cleaning lady also was in favor of the request, but couldn’t vote as she isn’t a member.
- Wes and Dean described an important Teller County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) activation being conducted in conjunction with a Biker Rally and Gun Show taking place in Cripple Creek August 26-29. The significance of this event is the fact that Teller County has a new Emergency Manager (Steve Steed) and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and EOC have been relocated to Cripple Creek from Divide. This was an opportunity to demonstrate MARC/PPARES capabilities for the new EM and officials from numerous other participating agencies. Because Pikes Peak ARES also had the two-day Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon on Saturday and Sunday, operators would be in very limited supply. It is hoped that MARC members will come forward and support the EOC activation as most live much closer to Cripple Creek than those PPARES operators in El Paso County. The plan is to set up our portable club and emergency station “Mickey” and demonstrate HF, V/UHF modes, VHF packet, and possibly HF digital communications.

OFFICER REPORTS:

- President: Dean Buckhouse (KBØVVA) welcomed attendees and made some general observations and concerns regarding disappointing turnout.
- Vice-President: Absent
- Secretary: Absent
- Treasurer: Wes indicated the club had just under \$8,000 (including unspent County Funds), but hasn’t been able to fully update books due to illness.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Discussion of possible program suggestions or requests. Those with program suggestions or requests should contact Paul Brown (AC5S). Paul has a program on Foxhunting lined up for our 15 September meeting.
- Repeater status was discussed, particularly the fact that interference is still getting into the Badger Mountain (146.685) machine requiring it to be de-linked from the system periodically.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dean mentioned that Club By-Laws designate the August meeting for the opening of nominations for Club officers and board members with the election taking place during the September meeting.
 - With only five members in attendance, this was not really practical, so Dean and Wes were polled as to whether they would be willing to continue in their current roles as President and Treasurer respectively.
 - Dean indicated that he would prefer that someone else step forward and take a turn as President, but will reluctantly consider continuing if necessary.
 - Wes indicated that illness over the past year had been interfering with his ability to fully perform his functions as Treasurer and would welcome somebody taking the position, but would also reluctantly continue if necessary.
 - The group nominated Dean Buckhouse (KBØVVA) for president and Wes Wilson (KØHBZ) for treasurer, with hopes that we will have better membership participation at the September meeting when elections are designated to take place.

BREAK:

Break was called by Dean at 7:48 pm. Refreshments were provided by Carol Wilson (KCØDTQ) who had prepared and brought enough food for about 30 people – she was thanked for her efforts.

PROGRAM:

Wes provided some introductory comments about the gravity and extreme potential devastation of Electronic Magnetic Pulse (EMP) which can be created as an extremely effective terrorist weapon of mass destruction by third world countries or can occur naturally by an especially strong solar storm mass ejection, which has happened many times throughout earth's history. Scientists feel we are overdue based on statistics and such an event could destroy our nation's electrical grid and any electrical devices containing computer chips, whether turned on or in use or not. In today's electronic world, such an EMP event could lead to the downfall of entire civilizations. Wes' introduction was followed by the viewing of the outstanding National Geographic Channel's documentary "Electronic Armageddon" that describes in great detail the dangers and consequences of EMP and possible solutions. Some discussion followed and the meeting was adjourned about 8:50 pm.

Note: Special thanks to Dan Remsburg (NØVSX) for responding to a last minute request from Wes Wilson to make a special trip from his home near Cripple Creek to bring his DVD-capable laptop and computer projector for the meeting presentation.

After-meeting discussion, based on recent significant lack of member participation in club activities, centered around whether or not members even want a local amateur radio club and/or whether those who still graciously donate their time and effort to try and keep our club functioning should even bother.