

Pen Bay ARC Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, May 10, 2014
Knox County EMA, 301 Park St., Rockland, Maine

The Meeting was called to order at 11:03 AM by ~~Steve (KB1TCE)~~ Mike (KB1DBL).

Members in attendance were: James P. Blier (KC1AKT), Steve P. Hansen (KB1TCE), Michael L. Courtenay (KB1DBL), Nathan D. Marvin (WA1SAZ), John S. Lawrence (W1QS), Ed C. Rotch (KC1CG), Elizabeth M. Hansen (KK4VNO), David E. Hungerford II (N1OLX), David W. Darnell (W1OWL), Eric R. Greiner (KB1ZUN), Jonathan T. Grout (KB1KSM), Norman R. Smith Sr. (NY1B), Charles B. Fleming (KB1TGB), Kenneth L. Orne (K1BEA), Mildred H Grindle-Orne (KB1LIB), Norman E. Meyer (KB1LCG), Ray O. Sisk II (WA4GSB), Deborah Powell (KC1BUM), Robert W. Powell (N1XDH), Erick G. Walton (KC1BUK) and Daniel P. Remian (W1CDE)

All members introduced themselves.

Chuck (KB1TGB) made a motion to approve the April Minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Norm (NY1B) and the Minutes were approved.

Jim (KC1AKT) read club correspondence from Chris in Belfast of Waldo County and his email reply.

Treasurer's Report

Ed (KC1CG) read the Treasurer's Report, which was also included in the monthly club mailing (although containing an error in the monthly club mailing version) which Ed corrected in his live Treasurer's Report presentation he gave at the meeting.

Dave (N1OLX) made a motion to repay Ed (KC1CG) for his expenses. The motion was seconded by Ray (WA4GSB) and the motion was passed.

Norm (NY1B) made a motion to reimburse Jim (KC1AKT) for his May, 2014 PenBayARC Newsletter related expenses. The motion was seconded by John (W1QS) and the motion was passed.

John (W1QS) made a motion to amend State of Maine filing documents with updated Club Trustee information. The motion was seconded by Dave (N1OLX) and was passed.

Jim (KC1AKT) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as amended by Ed (KC1CG). The motion was seconded by John (W1QS) and was passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Balloon Launches:

The UMO Balloon Launch was discussed. Steve (KB1TCE) reported on his tracking of the balloon's flight. The balloon payload included a Geiger counter, logger, APRS Trans, Slow Scan TV, Raspberry Pi, and several beacons. Future launches are also planned for later in the week. The Farmington launch either will climb or has climbed to 100,000 feet. The first launch was recovered on Lake Cove in the cove of a nearby lake. All flights have a 20-30 mile total flight, and travel 2-8 MPH with wind gusts up to 15 MPH. All launches are of hydrogen balloons.

A December balloon launch and another upcoming launch was also discussed.

Mike (KB1DBL) reported on Youtube Videos of launches from the UMO site.

Balloon Launches (Continued):

Steve (KB1TCE) reported that our future balloon project, in comparison, will be designed to be a “floater” and not to burst, having a cheap cost, possibly carrying a payload of APRS, GPS and Geiger Counter devices, with the goal including the club recovering the payload after-flight conclusion. Multiple launches was also brought up as a possibility.

Ray (WA4GSB) reported by an offer by Nicki Gray of the Weather Service to give us balloon advice.

Ray (WA4GSB) also reported that ARHAB.ORG list info on all balloon launches. Ray also mentioned that Youtube had good launch videos.

Dave (N1OLX) reported he has a possible high-altitude launch location camp on the Maine/ New Hampshire border.

Nearfest (Dearfield)

John (W1QS) reported he sold all he had for sale at Nearfest. Nearfest was best attended. It had National Equipment, very high priced Powerpole equipment, Time Cable, and crimping tools.

Nate (WA1SAZ) reported that the Saturday Nearfest attendance was down and that he won a mobile whip antenna prize.

Maine Islands

Steve (KB1TCE) reported on the ~~Islands Up Coalition Meeting and gave a 1-hour EMS Services on the Islands Presentation. The presentation was on 20M Ham Radio for Emergency Communications and covered Radiograms and Winlink~~ Maine Islands Coalition meeting on May 9 where he gave a 20 minute talk on ham radio and emergency communications. The presentation covered licensing and how amateurs can provide emergency communications services. Example of Winlink and Radiograms were given. There are about 2 dozen hams on the Maine islands, more than half in Pen Bay.

~~Milesboro has 9 hams with the other islands having less, with 8 in Casco Bay.~~

~~John (W1QS) reported on using WinLink for Windows with new Hams and that creating an Island Net on 2M was possible.~~

Steve (KB1TCE) discussed an island net.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tech / Repeater Committee (Ed, KC1CG):

Ed (KC1CG) read his report, which will also be included in the next monthly club mailing. Ed reported that due to rain, the mapper and receiver had problems working.

Exam Committee (Norm, NY1B):

Norm (NY1B) reported that the April 26 Exams had 4 testers and produced 4 new licensees (1 General & 3 Technical). The next Pen Bay ARC VEC Exam session will be held on September, 27, 2014 at 9 AM in Rockland, ME at the Knox County EMA Building.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued):

Exam Committee (Norm, NY1B) Continued:

Mike (KB1DBL) reported on a class for Scouts on Saturdays that will be taking place prior to the October Scout Jamboree. Four to five scouts, ages 12-16, in Mike's troop are going for their communications merit badge. This scout class ~~may~~ **could** be combined with Janet ~~Cochrane's~~ **Corcoran's RSU-13** group.

Steve (KB1TCE) reported that there will be a Lego Robotics Info Session on the 23rd to be attended by 7-9 (15 Max) at 3PM for an Info Session. Books will be provided covering the new Technical Exam Question Pool. This class will meet weekly 1 day/week and run thru the summer with the Field Day and Balloon Launch Events occurring before the next Exams in September.

Steve (KB1TCE) reported that the Waldo ~~Amateur Radio Education Event~~ **Amateur Association's** ~~after school class~~ ended early ~~after~~ **when** student participation dropped.

Field Day Committee (Steve, KB1TCE):

Norm (NY1B) reported on the 2014 ARRL Field Day events to be held **Saturday, June 28 2014 thru Sunday, June 29, 2014** on the Thomaston Town Green at the former prison site in Thomaston, ME. ARRL Field Day is always held on the last weekend in June on an annual basis. We will have a news release and flyers posted.

Solar power use at Field Day was discussed. **We decided against large scale use for technical and operational reasons. We will use small scale solar as in the past.**

John (W1QS) and Jose (KB1TCD) will be planning together for Field Day.

~~NIMM may be used. There is a demo on Youtube.~~

NIMM will be used for CW logging. GOTA will be paper. Digital will be SQUIRL.

The club gets lots of points for kids making contacts.

Norm will be doing logging with a high score hoped for.

Mike (KB1DBL) reported on using ~~Squirrel~~ **SQUIRL** for Field Day **for digital.**

Mike (KB1DBL) reported having a different log for the GOTA station.

The club gets lots of points for kids making contacts.

This requires separate management.

~~Mike (KB1DBL) and Steve (KB1TCE) reported on past interference issues at Field Day due to antenna spacing issues.~~

~~An antenna farmer will be met at the Thomaston Green for planning for Field Day.~~

~~Antenna placement end to end in a South-Westerly direction should work well.~~

~~Ed will be bringing a tower.~~

Field Day Committee (Steve, KB1TCE) Continued:

A motion was made by John (KB1KSM) and seconded by Jim (KC1AKT) for the club to hold a planning gathering at the Field Day site on June 14, 2014 at 10 AM to discuss placement of tents and antennas, and the The next club meeting at 5 PM on Field Day June 28th at Field Day. The motion was passed.

Ken (K1BEA) spoke about towers.

Norm (NY1B) talked about scoring bonus points by sending messages to the Section Leader, NTS System use, NWTB Bulletin, educational activity, and having a GOTA station.

John (W1QS) suggested having teams for Digital, VHF and CW.

Website Committee (Jim, KC1AKT):

Jim (KC1AKT) asked to be sent any relevant info that should be posted on the website and detailed the new monthly reports now also available online on the club website, some of which are also included in the monthly newsletter e-mailings and USPS mailings.

History Committee (Mike, KB1DBL):

Mike (KB1DBL) is image-scanning in the scrapbook.
Nate (WA1SAZ) is looking into digitizing some club video history from VHS.
Norm (NY1B) sent Sam an email about the Club History Quilt's pics on the website and that it will be featured at our upcoming Field Day events.

Events, Education, Outreach Committee (Steve, KB1TCE):

Lighthouse Weekend - August 16/17, 2014:

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend is an annual Amateur Radio weekend event founded in 1995 by two members of the AYR Amateur Radio Group, (AARG), Scotland, and held on the third full weekend in August. This year the event falls on August 16-17. The event's duration is 48 hours from 0001 UTC 16.8.2014.

Pen Bay ARC will be celebrating Lighthouse weekend this year at the Pemaquid Point Lighthouse in Bristol, ME.

John (W1QS) gave an update on Grow Light radio interference. The Washington, D.C tester does not have a lab. Contact is being made with ARRL and an attorney. John (KB1KSM) reported on some Washington State actions against FCC Part 15 violating device end-users.

MISC BRIEF REPORTS

Voice Nets:

Chimes (Norm, NY1B)

W1PBR repeater, nightly, 8 PM usually 30-40 minutes long: Has 10-11 participants usually, 3 lowest, 16 high last month

RACES (Mike, KB1DBL)

W1PBR repeater, Tuesday, 7 PM: Has 6-7 usual participants. All RACES/CERT members are encouraged to check in.

Digital Nets:

2M (Steve, KB1TCE)

WIEMA repeater, Sundays, 7 PM: The net usually has about 5-7 check-ins with some new.

Most practiced include ~~FL-DIGI, FL-Message, FL-AMP and various modes.~~ **Fldigi, Flmsg and Flamp using various modes including PSK125RC5.**

HF (Mike, KB1UTD)

3.590 USB, Wednesdays, 7:30 PM: The net has approximately 4-5 check-ins.

Ad-hoc Net for practicing standards and modes, lately MSFK32 and Thor 50x1.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike (KB1DBL) reported:

The "Run For Life Challenge" at the Camden Snow Bowl, in Camden, ME is to be held on 5/24/2014... Not on the 25th. The EMA trailer will be in use for this event. RACES/CERT and Ham Evangelists are invited to volunteer for attendee handout distribution.

The "Lobster Ride" **communications based** at Oceanside High School in Rockland, ME is being headed by Norm (NY1B). Coordination volunteers are invited to help out in Support And Gear (SAG) cars. Mike (KB1DBL) is exploring ~~StarTrack~~ **SARTrack** possibilities for this event. HT Radios and the club '06 2M repeater can be used for this event.

CLOSING BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held at 2014 ARRL Field Day on **Saturday, June 28, 2014 at 5PM*** on the Thomaston Town Green at the former prison site in Thomaston, ME.

There will also be a Field Day preparatory gathering at the Thomaston, ME 2014 ARRL Field Day site on **Saturday, June 14, 2014 at 10 AM***.

* Please Stay Tuned To Our Web Site For Any Meeting Time Updates And Announcements: <http://www.penbayarc.org/>

The 50/50 raffle was drawn.

ADJOURN

John (KB1KSM) moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim (KC1AKT) and was passed. The meeting was adjourned by Steve (KB1DSW) at 12:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
James P. Blier (KC1AKT) - Secretary, Pen Bay ARC