

SARA Zoom Meeting on 1/20/2022

Meeting Started at 19:05, Stopped at 19:51, transcription of audio, 26 in attendance

Respectfully submitted Donna KC3IHV

Butch WAOCIE: Well thank you guys. We have, I wanted to report on the testing. I know Herb KF3BT is on here anyway but from the president's desk anyway that we had a really good year this last year with the testing that Herb and the volunteer examiners. Did I I'm just tickled pink. We have some pretty bright people and I got a big kick out of those youngsters that showed up with their mom to past their exam, that one after one evening. And, you know, we've had, we've had a wide range of guys and it's given COVID-19 pandemic and all that nonsense. It's just been a good year. I know that you can run up to Kent County and take the exam up there, maybe on a quarterly basis. But the fact that we've been offering it on a monthly basis and having really good turnouts, I think herb and the team really need to be commended. So, I just wanted to make sure everybody knew that herb. You do a great job in getting that all done!

The next one on my list is really, I'm just goanna go down through my list. Here says the VP report but I'm goanna just again, give Cadoos out sort of the end of the year. The beginning of the year thing. I really just want to join in all the other people saying thanks to Barb for putting together a newsletter. She says that she's not bugging me or poking me to make sure we get it out every month, but she doesn't need any help. She just likes to get me to say something now and then so I do that. And what she's been doing for the club, now she's volunteering to help John Ferguson and the oxygen people straighten out their organizational files etc. I really, really appreciate her. And I promise that I'm not going to disappear and make her the president of the club because then she will probably put out a contract to get me to get rid of me. Doing something that. So again, my thanks to Barb KC3LGE and all she's been doing for the club for this last year. Thank you, Barb. We're goanna keep you. Yeah, you have anything from your desk that you need to pass on to us tonight.

Barb KC3LGE: Everything I have to say, I always put in the newsletter!

Butch WAOCIE: Well, the one thing that I see that we can talk about a little bit later, it might be the winner winter field day event. So, we'll talk about that in a little bit. Treasuries report storage. Can you cover that quickly?

Stuart KC3MAL: Yep. There we go. My dog was talking earlier and I forgot, I muted. It actually the club came through the year better than I thought we would. We ended up being down about 947 dollars. I think, if I remember off top of my head for the year, but actually that's not too bad considering that we only had a few in-person meetings. And so, it was basically just dues and the few 50s we had that took care of us. So, without the Hamfest which is our big money maker every year. We're but we did, okay, we still got, you know, we're very fluid. There's about 18,000 dollars or so, in the, in the account, been getting a lot in this week had about 35 people. So about 40-50% have paid their dues for 2022 already. So, but hopefully it met with everybody's approval.

Butch WAOCIE: Good. I just thank you. Stewart. Any questions about the treasures? Report is the gentle. Reminder January, February and March is when we do our solicitation to get people to renew their membership, they're an awful lot of hams in the neighborhood and, you know, would like to see a few

more of them join in, and then we can, you know, fill up the roles for AUXCOMM and John Ferguson and Bill Saunders team or the ARES team with various people that are doing that.

If and when that big disaster comes, the big storm comes, we're goanna need more than just a 22 of us that are sitting here tonight doing their things. So, let's hope. You know, if you run into somebody asking about if they ever heard about us and join us on a Thursday night, or Tuesday, and Wednesday night for our nets etc.

Repeater, John Lowe, can you fill this in on how we're doing with the repeater(s)?

K3JL John: Just everything seems to be working that little issue on the RMS last. I guess it was over a weekend. There was a windows update that required me to actually answer some questions on the screen in order to get it to reboot. And so that's back up and working, okay? And as far as I know, all four other repeaters are doing okay from my in an expert testing that's about it.

Butch WAOCIE: Appreciate it. Thank you, John. I don't see Jamie on. I haven't seen him. I think he has a Hamfest meeting tomorrow night. Is that right?

Stuart KC3MAL: Yes. It's at six o'clock tomorrow night.

Butch WAOCIE: Okay, what I talked to him earlier in the week, he still was going to ahead. I mean there's I've been anxiously awaiting a drop-dead date to say that we got to can't do it but he has been in contact with the people to Cheer Center. I think tomorrow night we'll talk about you know we need to make sure people come because it is a significant money razor and you know we'll get 50 people there. It ain't going to work. So, we need to get maybe not exactly the normal crowd that we get for a Hamfest. But we need to get significant number of them here to help us. We'll get Jamie's report and then we'll make sure everybody hears about it on, on the net on next Tuesday. Night my two cents about the Aries thing that I jumped about that. I got slickered into. We have had a storm net that we used informally created last weekend. We had about 12 to 13 people. I do believe, check in, I might thanks go to Ray WB3GNO for taking it on short notice to just keep it sort of rolling as a as just somebody to check in with, not really calling in a net, we started about seven o'clock in the morning and ended at about four or four thirty in the afternoon, there were a lot of cars in the ditches. There were people out and about that probably should have stayed home, but it, it probably got about as close as we could without actually calling it and formerly organizing the storm net my thanks also goes to Willie for sort of being a liaison between us and Del Dot and whoever else may have needed to have the information passed on to them. But I think it was really key that people like Willie were there and others that were all just you have any other comments that I might have missed on. We do need to have a few more volunteers for the net. So, I'll make that pitch. And if you want to say anything Jim, I appreciate it.

Jim N3XKJ: All right, sure. Yeah, it was, it was good to have informal nets remember if we have a storm or something like that, coming up. Like, I don't know if we're goanna get anything this weekend or not, but there's a possibility. So, you know, kind of keeping ear out on the net. We are looking for one, two, three, four, five, by seven at the email, we need to get all those dates filled with net control operators so if you would let, either let butch know or that me know what? Which one of those dates or how many dates you can do these much appreciated and other than that. One question I have is 145.210 I have been getting a lot of interference intermittently over here. I don't know if anybody else is listening in on that or not but it's like a constant for a certain amount of time and then it goes away so if anybody is listening or they monitor that see what you can do, see if you can maybe pinpoint a little bit better but

up here and melting. It is pegging the needle the on the radio so it might just be getting into the repeater. I'm not sure but that's about it and butch. Welcome to the club.

Butch WA0CIE: Thank you Jim. The 210 That's a Seaford repeater, right?

Wayne N3UFG: 145 210 south seafood.

Butch WA0CIE: Yeah that's the other fusion repeater site over there. Okay, well maybe Pat I see Pat's on so maybe he can pass it on to the end. Net nannies. Over on that side, I appreciate that.

Jim N3XKJ: Yeah, but I'm wondering that if we're not I'm here is the other side of that. The digital side. It's somebody's on there, so it's probably what it was.

Butch WA0CIE: Okay, all right. Thank you. John or Bill? Who wants to talk about AUXCOMM Please? John Bill? he's pointing out.

John K3PFW: Yeah, the bill will probably have some comments. Just we're still alive and kicking and continuing to fight an uphill battle at EOC. We're still undercover restrictions, they're working. Okay, they're working. Well, we have kept provided out of the 911 Center and so those that think masks are foolish and you don't need hand sanitizer. Well, you go that way. We'll go our way. We are, we are functional from the center, but we have to keep our numbers down. We're also fighting the massive changes with the construction program going on. There is no more front parking lot. And the last time I was in there, the lobby was under attack so progress I guess, over the next two years with construction is also limiting our activities. We are looking at if anybody wants an outdoor experience for winter field day we're looking at establishing a an outdoor station but would not had anybody shown an interest so unless I hear something tomorrow, we will probably not have the outdoor station will be working remote. Our part me will be using the aggregate club score method. We're cooperating with Kent County AO, Kent County's, KCARC and their ARES group and calling it. The Kent Sussex, EMMCOM group. So, so we're also going to be active on UHF and VHF simplex gives you a few more multipliers. In terms of bands work, the repeater is up and working temporarily talked to the comm support people today. They are in conversation with the tower contractor and I assume that in the next day or two, we will have a date that the repeater will move to which new location, Bill did I miss anything?

Bill N3ID: Only thing I'd add is April, 24th is the Codell run, and we'll be providing some communication support for that so if you want to get it on your calendar now, as we get a little closer, we'll have a game plan and start to solicit folks, and we can use as many as we can get out there, especially a couple more bike people, if you're got a bike and like to ride it and have a radio we can quicken which to use up somewhere in the park so stay tuned for more information on that again.

John K3PFW: Yeah. And I almost forgot. We now have a temporary meeting room over at troop 7 in their community room and we're on the second Thursday of the month all are welcome! We had a good meeting last Thursday with a nice training program on net operation on other than that. That's about it for AUXCOMM.

Wayne N3UFG: What repeaters is he referring to?

John K3PFW: The new UHF trap machine. That's going up

You have the frequency on it?

Bill N3ID: 443.200

Butch WAOCIE: Does it have a PL of 156.7?

Bill N3ID: That's correct. Yeah, one five, six seven.

Wayne N3UFG: Where is it going to be located

Butch WAOCIE: It's all about joy road and 124 or Route 24 in Mount Joy. Yeah, just to help steward get out. That's what we're doing. Thank you. Yep. And John had said in the past meeting or two, he would like us to be trying to use the repeater today and report whether we can hear it or use it or, you know, just give him a signal report periodically. It's not at the total elevation yet. When it does go up, it'll be up a couple hundred feet in the air. So right now, it's down low and at a different site so once it gets over there it'll go up it under have great coverage. For those of us in the long forgotten, southern part of the county so good. All right. You have any other questions about that all business? I don't think I have any old business. Anybody else know about any old business, none heard done seeing no thumbs up. Okay, future meetings, new business future meetings. I'm still working with Mulligan's point to be able to go back and use their facilities. I'm been told that we'll have a, a written proposal from them to us or a contract from them to us by the end of next week. And then I'll bring it up to the board and see if we're in an agreement with what they want to do or not do I'm sort of keeping my fingers crossed that it works because I I do like the arrangement that we had in fact that we can do testing at the same time as having a dinner meeting, a social hour and we've had some pretty good turnouts over the last year or so fingers crossed about that but we are still looking at other sites. Most sites only have a single room so we're struggling with trying to make sure we have two rooms so we can have testing given on the same night, you know, because three or four of the guys are always the VE examiners so important to me to have two rooms that we can make that happen. So hopefully have good news by early February and we'll figure that out. In the meantime, I'm goanna propose, it will probably have a zoom meeting in February. Again, although the virus seems to be dying down. Governor Hogan said the numbers dropped, 40% in Maryland, just in the last few days so that's a good sign. But like John says, mask and sanitation and keeping wishing our handset cetera. We're all, we've been doing very good. None of our members knock on wood as has been very sick. A few of them have been out, but for the most part, we're all doing pretty good. So, let's keep that up, really good. The other thing that I have on my list here, Stewart, brought it up to my attention, is that the storage shed where we keep some of the, the Hamfest stuff, as well. As several HF VHF, UHF radios is in. It keeps going up. It's an air condition facility and the lung neck off of 24, but it really is a major expense for the club, and we're trying to figure out. Is it an equitable charge given the fact that we spend about \$1,000 a year? It's probably going to go up to maybe \$1,200 but you know, when you pay that year in and year out, it does get to be an expense. So, a fair amount of the \$900 that we got in the hole this year, was in part due to that cost of that storage facility so if anybody's got some suggestions or ideas, clearly the ham gear needs to be in an air condition facility, I guess. Storage, tables, boxes of wire, antennas extension poles, etc., tables, whatever tables and chairs. Maybe not. Maybe those could just be in a conventional storage unit, but if anybody's got some ideas please, send me or store it a note show up on Thursday morning breakfast and give us an idea just seeing if we could, you know, maybe cut some cost out of that, you know, we could save three or three hundred dollars. I think it'd be worth our chance. So please give it some thoughts.

Stuart KC3MAL: Butch we have been. This is the first price increase. Since 2018. We've been paying \$1,300 a year; it's going to go up to \$1,500 a year. I contacted them, the space we have, they normally are the new rent on. It is a hundred and fifty dollars a month and we're getting it for 128. So, checked around some other places, they all seem to be the same or more. So if you're and if we went to an un-climate controlled it would only save us about \$200 a year. If that much, and then you've got, we've got a lot of PA equipment and you know, other things down there that are sensitive to moisture, so we really do need someplace climate controlled for at least part of it.

Butch WA0CIE: Okay, that's good. I just wanted to throw it out there, I wasn't. Yeah, to running out moving everything we weren't being evicted yet, so that was now.

Stuart KC3MAL: No. We're good and it's it, but it will go up and affected with the February payment.

Butch WA0CIE: Okay, good. Any other thoughts or comments about that? I have the next thing on my go ahead...

Wayne N3UFG: We're paying that much to year. Is that equipment really? That valuable. And if you take that over a five-year period, that mounts up. Pretty good. Is that equipment really worthwhile to keep in storage or keep storing? It just a question.

Stuart KC3MAL: As far as the radios goes, we have them ensured for the ones that are in there are probably for a couple thousand dollars, the PA system, I'm not sure how much that cost and it's the one, it's something that Vic bought and donated to the club. A lot of the other things we've got there's carts and there's probably four or five thousand dollars with equipment in there all together but you're right. You know is it is it worthwhile? Could we get rid of it and you know this rent things is we need them or occasionally we lend out radios. But in the, the reason that it was brought about my understanding, was that a lot of stuff was disappearing when it was in lots of different places? People would move and they go, oh, yeah, that was my microphone. And, you know, and it would move with them and it actually was something that belonged to the club so it's, you know, whatever the club wants to do, is fine with me, I just pay the bills.

Wayne N3UFG: I think you have taken consideration, you know, if you don't have a Hamfest, you're not going to have much income coming in. It doesn't take long to spend quite a bit of money on something like that, if it's not really worthwhile doing it, that's just a question. I don't know, you know.

Stuart KC3MAL: Yeah.

Wayne N3UFG: It's some, that's something to debate.

Butch WA0CIE: That was the idea that I think Wayne and thanks Stuart for it. We have it settled on some summary events. I did want to promote again the winter field day event tomorrow. Saturday from two o'clock until two o'clock on Sunday, the club and the ARES group are not doing out and setting up a facility given the weather as well, but you can't operate from home or you can operate from the backyard or you can operate from your vehicle and you can participate. It is basically it started in 2007, it's been just another type of an exercise or a drill to see that we could be doing it in some other month. Then June July and August that we could use emergency communications so there are categories for working from home and I have looked at the results from the last couple of years, there have been a handful of hams from SARA and from Sussex County that are participated. So, you know, you can take

the email to Bill and John sent out and say, when you fill out the forms online, you can say that's the club. You want to belong to and it'll send your story in aggregately. You can use maybe a SARA, SARA amateur radio club, the one that's in Delaware, not the one in Pennsylvania and you can sign up and say that you were part of our club. So, I don't care which way you do it. They don't want you to do both, but I would just like you to even if you do one contact or you do 10 contacts and God forbid, if you did a hundred contacts, just send it in. Just to show that we can do that in the middle of the winter and take credit for the fact that it might be a crappy day and that you participated. So I just appreciate it for that later on. We'll probably in February start talking about other events and brother activities that we like to do in the spring and in the summertime and we'll report of those next month. Any other comments then seen. Our next meeting is going to be February 17th. That's three to the third, Thursday, of the month of February site to be determined right now. Most likely to zoom meeting. So, we'll send out a notice from Stewart and Barb. If we get the Mulligan's place back, we'll way and see what the governor is telling us to do or not do but hopefully we can get back together again and with that.

Do I have any other business?

Spence NS3F: Yes, what is the possibility of doing a rig expert antenna, analyzer as a loaner for the club?

Butch WA0CIE: Rig expert analyzer right?

Spence NS3F: Yeah, we're looking at about 200 to 230 or that range or more everybody has antennas to play with, and there's been a heck of a need for one that does a graphical display where people can use, it be a benefit of being a member of the club

Butch WA0CIE: Thoughts about that?

Garry AA7YO: Does it do both VHF and UHF?

Spence NS3F: Well, I have a dual mode. One here. That'll be happy to land out that those HF and VHF, but I was thinking keeping a low cost for the club and doing just HF.

Garry AA7YO: Most people that needed are techs and they only have VHF UHF so as I you know I would my opinion is if we do it and the ability to take test UHF 440.

Butch WA0CIE: Yeah, we look into that too. To see what the price difference might be

Bill N3ID: And learning to use that as a good training opportunity

Stuart KC3MAL: The one that does everything is about a thousand dollars ouch and actually the prices of going up on them. They started 300 now and go up

Spence NS3F: I'm willing to contribute a little bit of money towards it, but we just keep it simple for the general membership to put up a dipole or G5RV and just check it out. I think it would be a benefit to the membership. Really, I lent mine out eight times and I've had several members ask about helping with antenna analyzers and I think it just be a good thing for the membership to have access to something like that without having to spend hundreds of dollars

Bill N3ID: Nano VNA for less than a hundred bucks.

Butch WAOCIE: I have one of those two.

Spence NS3F: I'm thinking about something that's going to be going out quite often to people and just being able to hit a button on the keyboard trying to keep it simple.

Bill N3ID: Yeah, no question.

Spence NS3F: Well, the nice thing about it is that it'll do a Smith's chart. If you do just a regular graphical chart of the SWR for the entire band, it's low tech to where they can see where the antennas resonant where the MFJ's can't do that with ease.

Butch WAOCIE: Yeah. Yeah. What I see would be that we would certainly need a few presentations at future club meetings, one on the nano one and one on the rig master, rig blaster one. I think both of the rig expert one, I think that would be a good thing to do Spence I'll take it under consideration and we'll talk about it with the board and appreciate the input, guys. I think we've kept our guest waiting long enough. I appreciate the fact that Joe was willing to join us on somewhat of a short notice. I know he did meet with some of the ECs and back delegation last Friday, but I thought it would be good to have him introduce himself and to, you know, he's been appointed for several months I hear from three, four, and five and six months and probably indefinitely. If he didn't read the small prints. So Joe, I like you to introduce of tell us a little bit about how you got into ham radio and what you're current interest in it is and then maybe what the league is advise you to say, please.

Joe KI3B: Okay, well I've been a ham over 40 years. I've been to it ever since I was introduced by a young ham when I was still teenager, they laid dormant for a while and then after I got married and moved into my first house, I got my license and I've held the extra now I guess, 40ish years, I still hold the extra when you had to pass the coat test. So that's how old I am. Operating wise I'm a CW operator always been one, but I've also metal in all the other different modes, side band done a little with FTA, little bit already played a little bit with PSK31 on HF, VHF, I played with your typical repeater's analog repeaters. D-star, DMR and also fusion I more or less 10 towards the DMR and also d-star over fusion but I don't have anything against it either. I have been involved with several of my own little hotspots that I have helped program and get running and work with so I've done some of that work too. That's what I basically do. I was approached by Wendy Horn about taking the position for session manager, the intern for six months, like you said, it may go a lot longer in that butch but we'll see what happens. My main thrust, right? So far, is looking at the information available. The hands on the website from the league and making sure that's all correct. The meeting places, the board, that's in each club. What repeaters you support? What other activities you support? So, if I could get a copy of Barb's newsletter, that will be good information to put up there. Also, any information that comes from the southern part of Delaware is most appreciated and most, you know, most needed my main ideas are to try to work on the ARES and also the EMCOMM that's going on. I think you refer to AUXCOMM John is that, you know, is that correct? I'd like to try to refer work on some of that too and help you guys whatever way that we can help you. I'm here to help you. I'm not here to direct you John here to help and that's the way I want to keep it. So that's basically what I've been working with. So far, I'm starting to meet with different people about the Aries. I'm also meeting with several different clubs. I'm going over, what the clubs are doing and understanding what they're doing. I want to also try to send out a monthly newsletter to say, hey this is what the activities are and if there's anything that I could put on the week website, I would like to do that too. Couple more things. Personally, I retired from Dupont after 44 years, five different

sites three. I was probably involved with before they shut down. The last one they shot down. They also demolished I was there when they demolished it. So, I have a track record. It isn't too hot. I married with two children, grown children and two grandchildren. In fact, anybody looking on my screen. So my granddaughter pop in and photobomb the meeting, but that's, that's me. I have a home and bear Delaware off of 896. I also had a second home in Lewis so I spend about 50% of the time, most of the year up and down the state. So, I would like to just stop in and maybe do your breakfast and or maybe your meetings and physically be there for a physical eyeball, not just zoom. So that's what I'm trying to do right now. I'm trying to understand what the leadership role requires and also offer my services in any way possible that I can give you a hand. As I said, I'm here to help. I'm not here to tell you what to do. So with that I'm my email is up on the lake. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask. I think my phone number is up there too please. No calls after 11:00 you know, like really.

But now seriously, if you have any questions, anything that's concerning you and anything I could possibly help or at least direct you to the people that can help you. Please don't hesitate to ask. I'm here to work with you and try to help you in your cups.

Also, when you guys also figure out the Hamfest date, please let me know because I want to put that up on the website so people can see that. Um any other activities winner field day? You've been talking about anything else that you guys are doing. I want to be able to broadcast.

Hey this club is really acting down here and this is what they're doing. So, with that if there are no other questions, all the best to everyone have a good evening and stay warm and hopefully this this storm this weekend won't be much. I'm hoping for that. Take care of everyone.

Butch WAOCIE: Thanks Joe. Anybody have any questions for him? We get our hand festive schedule for April 23rd. That was coordinated with the league back in the fall or sometime whenever we've had to move it around. So, we always coordinate that with the league. It is a league of sponsored league organized, whatever, April 23rd. So, the day before the coastal marathon, so we'll have a fun weekend again. So any other questions or comments tonight? Sorry about the 50/50 raffle. We'll have to take it up next time. So, thanks everybody for joining in and let's have a good safe weekend. Okay. Good evening guys.

Ron NZZUC: Before they go butch. What's the location for the Hamfest?

Butch WAOCIE: Is scheduled to be at the Cheer Center in Georgetown. It's on Route 9. It's in the newsletter and we'll make sure you get a copy of it pronto.

Any other things? Good. All right. Thank you. Everybody please have a good weekend. Have a good evening. Thanks. Joe for joining us.