

## **MINUTES BOCA RATON AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION July 5, 2016**

Minutes of meeting held July 5, 2016 at the South PBC library on US-441. The meeting was called to order by our President at 7:05 PM. There were 26 members present, including 6 of 7 board members.

### **President's Report**

Gerry discussed the success of our recent Field Day effort, specifically acknowledging and thanking the members who participated in both setting up and operating. He stated that although the number of QSOs declined over last year, this year's effort was still a success due to the large turnout and the number of bonus points we qualified for.

Gerry spoke briefly on the state of the Radio Flyer, indicating that it would be ready for distribution on July 6.

Gerry once again called for a volunteer, preferably one of our newer members, to take over as NCS of our New Hams Net. He also mentioned the establishment of our Spanish language net with Reuben and Marcos acting as NCS.

### **VP Report**

Art discussed the work underway to create an operating budget for the club. He indicated that while dues and excess equipment sales would be sufficient to sustain us in 2017, we would need to plan for additional sources of funds in order to meet our future needs.

### **Treasurer's report**

Marcos was absent but provided a report indicating total cash available as of June 30<sup>th</sup> is \$3,674.24. The date for the holiday party has been set for December 20, at the Boca Chase Greenbrier clubhouse.

### **Secretary Report**

The secretary read the minutes of the June Meeting, which were approved and seconded as read.

Bruce also reported on the Technician and General license training to be held on the weekends of the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> of July, with review sessions on the weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He also reported that our next VE testing session will be on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at our usual location in Patch Reef Park. It was also announced that an Extra Class training session is being planned for January 2017, to coincide with our February 2017 VE session.

Bruce discussed the current and planned use of both MailChimp and our Yahoo! page to keep members informed. He stressed the need for all members to both subscribe to the Yahoo! group and opt-in to the MailChimp email list in order to receive all club announcements, newsletters and reminders.

### **Old Business**

Art and Lew will be going to the repeater site during the week of July 10<sup>th</sup> to check on the state of the 2 meter repeater and attempt to determine the repairs or adjustments necessary to improve its performance. Lew is planning to open the repeater to Echolink control once any repairs or adjustments have been made.

Jerry Zaza reported on the troubleshooting of the RF feedback issue on the Icom 7600 when using the linear amplifier. He and Ed indicated that it appeared to be related to the use of the "flag" antenna in combination with the Steppir beam. The exact cause has not been identified, but the problem is eliminated if automatic T/R switching between the beam and the flag is disabled.

Jerry Z also reported that a Social Media committee had been formed, consisting of himself, Bruce, Nelson and John Cole, to design and implement a more modern web presence for the club.

Ed gave a report on LOTW activity. He advised that although over 100 QSLs were received, they did not include any new DXCC entities. He also acknowledged that the posting of needed entities in the station is still forthcoming.

It was announced that the Melbourne Hamfest will take place on October 7<sup>th</sup>, and that the Ft. Pierce Hamfest will be taking place in September.

## **New Business**

Barry reported on the state of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, and urged everyone to continue to write to their legislators requesting support of the bill.

Barry also reported that a total of 17 proclamations had been received for Field Day.

## **Adjournment**

A motion for adjournment was made by Mark Crumm and seconded by Jeff Stahl. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm local time.

Following adjournment, two videos were shown on the recent Heard Island and South Sandwich Islands DXpeditions.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Ratoff, Secretary