

# QSY Society Minutes

## Tuesday, July 5, 2011

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**Coordinator: Stan Levandowski, WB2LQF**

**Co-Coordinator: Fred Lauricella, KC2QFR**

**Contest and Events Manager: Scott Dunlavey, W2NTV**

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### Business Meeting Overview

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Stan Levandowski

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions

The next QSY Society meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 2, at 7:30 p.m. "Social Hour" begins at 7:00 p.m. and there will be coffee, tea, and something to munch on. We will be treated to a presentation by Ulrich Steinberg, N2DE/DJ8GO. Ulrich will talk to us about keys, paddles, CW, and the Begali CW Machine. For this evening, we will swap the agenda sequence between Show 'n Tell and the Presentation so Ulrich will present first.

The meeting adjourned about 9:15 p.m. Apparently it was a good meeting. One can measure the 'health' of a QSY meeting by how quickly the room empties. Tonight, members were milling about socializing until well after 10:00 p.m.



Minutes recorded by: Stan Levandowski

### Attendees

Twenty-six members and guests attended tonight. This turnout was unexpectedly healthy considering the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

Henry Ritz KB2VJP

Jim McVey AC2EV

Paul Rambusch WA2JTX

Peter Olson WA2BXK

Tony Castellano W1ZMB

Bob Melhado WA2JQK

Peter Chitjian

Fred Lauricella KC2QFR

Scotty N2AEE

Chet Dziobkowski AB2FF

Jack Bragger W2HIY

Rich Giese K2DTE

Finn Poulsen WB2UWU

Bill Walsh NG2D

Eric Cuevas N2RRA

Julian Blair WA2WMJ

Shirley N2SKP

Nick, N2QZ

Scott Dunlavey W2NTV

David Gong KC2QFS

Valerie Giese

Mike Tebolt KC2HEI

Ted Zulkous K2JMY

Mark Chitjian WA2NYY

Stan Levandowski WB2LQF

Frank W2GIO

---If you don't see your name here, then you did not sign the attendance sheet ---

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### **Presentation**

After Stan's "Club Brief" we 'debriefed' Field Day. Here is a short summary:

Our score appears to be 4,824 points which is 14% better than last year.

- We had 106 participants. We earned 1350 Bonus Points.
- Our total QSO Points amounted to 3,474.
- N2RRA was top scorer with 272 QSO points;
- KC2ZIU was runner-up with 200 points for NTS Traffic and Solar.
- We had 21 CW QSOs on six meters and 116 six meter phone QSOs.
- Everyone agreed the food was fantastic this year. It was observed that we had far less 'dead time' than we did last year. Stations were pretty much fully utilized throughout the 24 hour period.
- DX Spots was hardly worth the effort so we'll probably not bother next year.
- There was discussion that the tower was underutilized and some thought that maybe a second tribander might be considered next year.
- Digital was used for the first time this year and it was 'fun' and something new.
- Paul WA2JTX donated a router to the Club so we don't have to use Nick's N2QZ any longer.
- Not everyone accurately "signed on" when operators changed. This meant that some ops might not have gotten credit for all their contacts; other might have gotten credited incorrectly. This does not affect our overall score but it need not have occurred.
- Henry KB2VJP observed that we did not follow through and put up the signs indicating which tents were operating which frequencies and modes, etc. as we had agreed. We acknowledged that he was correct and we'll try to do a better job next year.
- Nick announced that next year he will not be "in charge" of the computer system and that he has secured the commitment of three other members to take over that responsibility: Dell W2DX, Eric KC2ZIU, and Brian Penny W2BJP.
- Nick N2QZ urged the QSY Society to purchase a modest laptop for Field Day and other event logging use. Estimated price would be in the \$400 neighborhood and our treasury has never been in a healthier condition to absorb this purchase. Nick is going to peruse the marketplace and make a specific recommendation at a later date.
- It was mentioned that some people thought we could have done a better job of asking ops to give up their seats to relief operators after some period of time. We acknowledged that this was an area we could focus on next year.
- JB WA2WMJ reported that the antenna with the 8:1 SWR, which had to be taken down and replaced with another, actually had a broken wire. JB said that it's a good thing we SWR-test all antennas upon installation. Had we not done so, someone could have easily sat down to a rig and repeatedly hit the "tune" button until the rig stopped working!

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- Eric N2RRA said that he observed many people, unfamiliar with the radios, using the incorrect bandwidths. This led to the usual quandary: on the one hand, Field Day should not be “training day” where people come unprepared to operate. But on the other hand, Field Day is exactly the day when people who have not been too active lately come to get reacquainted with their hobby and, perhaps, re-enter it! So while we will always seek to improve and address issues, some will be more difficult to deal with than others. All things considered, more went ‘right’ than went ‘wrong’ and we all agreed this was one of the best Field Days ever.

Fred KC2QFR will present Global QSL, an alternative way to create and send QSL cards at a future meeting. Highlights include very reasonable cost, great flexibility, and, since they are true ‘hard cards’ they are acceptable for ALL awards programs, including ARRL.



Prior to the Field Day debriefing, Coordinator Stan WB2LQF gave a “Club Brief”.

- Stan reported that we were halfway through 2011 and things were going quite well.
- Our accomplishments for the first half of 2011 included a revamped website, a revised meeting format, a field trip to ARRL HQ, a QSY 2/6/10 meter Sprint, Old Timers and New Timers days, a presentation by Section Manager Pete N2YJZ on ARRL Field Services and a very successful Field Day.
- For the remaining six months of 2011 we can look forward to a presentation by Ulrich Steinberg N2DE/DJ8GO on keys, paddles, CW, and the Begali CW Machine on Tuesday, August 2; an “off-topic” night on Tuesday, September 6, where we will share our “other” interests beyond ham radio with our fellow members, and Tony W1ZMB will demonstrate his own “other” hobby – scratch building steam engines.
- On Tuesday, October 4th, Julius W2IHY, owner of W2IHY Technologies will talk about some of the products he has developed for the AM/SSB ham community.
- Also in October we expect to conduct our second 2011 Field Trip – this time to the USS Slater in Albany (<http://www.ussslater.org/> ). This is the very last World War II destroyer escort still afloat anywhere in the world. We will shortly be canvassing the membership to get a proximate headcount for planning purposes. The Slater has a ham station aboard – WW2DEM (for “World War 2 Destroyer Escort Museum”) and it uses all original circa 1943 navy radio equipment and original shipboard wire antennas. Slater volunteer hams will conduct our tour of Radio Central. More info forthcoming – keep checking our website.
- On Saturday, November 5th, we will have our own “Election Day” for next year’s Coordinator and Co-coordinator.

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- This will be our first Saturday club meeting as we transition to the 'winter schedule'. Following this meeting we will adjourn to the adjacent ballpark/community park where we'll have our official QSY 2011 QRP in the Park activity. We expect more QRP rigs to participate this year as QRP and CW use seems to be gaining increasing favor among our membership. December 10th is our Holiday Banquet. There will be no actual meeting in December. David Gong KC2QFS is in charge of the Banquet and he will be providing additional details later. It will essentially be a covered dish affair as has been done so successfully in the past.

For those members who may be less informed when it comes to the world of CW, Ulrich Steinberg is the co-designer of the Begali line of keys, and has advised many of the high end key and paddle makers (Schurr, Schuenemann, etc.). Ulrich is also the author of many technical articles and the inventor of the Begali CW machine, a software defined keying device that "does it all" – keyer, logger, CW trainer, and more. Ulrich lives in Pleasant Valley with his wife, Louisa, and his 800 foot long wire antenna. He visited us at Field Day where he completed a membership application and is now one of the newest members of The QSY Society.

### Show and Tell

We began tonight's meeting with our Show 'n Tell session.

Pete WA2BXK reported that he's been busy with his XYL's "To Do" list and hasn't found the time to mount the 3 element tri-bander yet.

David KC2QFS really enjoyed Field Day!

Finn WB2UWU also enjoyed the Field Day experience which provided him with a brief respite from the wood-splitting and stacking he's been doing. Finn's also made a couple more contacts with his Ten-Tec QRP R4020.

JB WA2WMJ and Shirley N2SKP mounted a DXpedition to Bear Mountain last week and operated on 2, 6, 30, and 40 meters. JB was especially proud of a simplex QSO he had with Scott W2NTV which was well over S9! JB and Shirley worked a couple other QSY members on other bands. The actual site was on Perkins Drive. JB reported that the elevation is such that antenna heights are not that crucial to successful operating. He encouraged anyone interested in the upcoming VHF contest to contact him. Contesting from this location does not have to be a 'big deal' with regard to antennas.

Mike KC2HEI is recovering from Field Day.

Tony W1ZMB is enjoying his recently built Elecraft K2/10 ([www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com)) . He recently made his first-ever 17 and 30 meter QSOs. He remarked that he is increasingly impressed with how well 5 watts gets out. Tony recently visited the QTH of Stan WB2LQF. While there he worked Bulgaria on Stan's QRP K1. He's thinking of building one as a backup for his K2.

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Bill, NG2D reported he is finally back on the air and the room applauded! Bill said it's "only" a 20 meter antenna but it put him back in the game. Next will be a 40 meter antenna.

Ted W2JMY said that QRP "gives me a headache" and said he's a high powered man who enjoys serious contesting and long, reliable ragchews. He's presently working out a problem with his rotor system which is not giving correct heading feedback.

Ted's best ham buddy, Bob WA2JQK, is equally involved in contesting and said he is especially interested in antennas.

Paul WA2JTX had a good time at Field Day and Henry KB2VJP agreed it was a good show this year.

Fred KC2QFR brought along his MFJ-259 Antenna Analyzer. He offered to demonstrate the various functions it provides to check out cable faults, lengths, etc. Apparently, some of the MFJ instructions are completely wrong and following them results in frustration. This was discovered when he and Rich K2DTE tried to solve a problem Rich was having (Note: We ran out of time for this demo tonight but Fred will reschedule it for another meeting).

Stan WB2LQF reported he almost nailed Japan QRP on 20 meters. The JA got "WB2LQ?" right before an N5 began tuning up on frequency and ruined everything! On a positive note, Stan was thrilled to know his 5 watts is getting into Japan. Now it's just a matter of time and the right conditions..and the dogged perseverance that QRPs are known for!

Nick N2QZ related how a ladder took down his antenna and remarked how convenient it was because the ladder was right there to put the antenna back up again!

Scott W2NTV was thrilled to work JB on two meters direct to Bear Mountain and is pretty much just relaxing now that Field Day is done.

**Scott announced that he won't be available to head up the August Lighthouse event at Esopus. Scott can activate the Esopus lighthouse in advance and make the necessary calls to get permission but can't actually be there to take charge. We need someone to step forward or the Esopus event will have to be cancelled for this year. Anyone willing to step up please contact Scott directly as soon as possible.**

Chet AB2FF and David KC2QFS are just relaxing from Field Day as is Scotty N2AEE. Jim McVey AC2EV is a new member. He brought along a homebrew antenna slingshot made up from a baitcasting reel, some PVC, some lead sinkers painted bright orange, and a slingshot from the Thruway Market that cost him about \$14. Jim reports it works swell and it's accurate. Fred KC2QFR observed that bringing a slingshot device into a state park was a 'no-no'. A couple of other members remarked that state and local laws vary and in some places, a slingshot is considered a 'weapon'. It might be a good idea for anyone to

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check out these issues prior to owning, transporting, or using such a device. We live in an increasingly complex world with increasingly complex laws.

Peter, Mark WA2NYY's son, is not yet a ham but plans to become one! He made some contacts on the GOTA station and seemed very inspired this evening. His dad, Mark, has been a ham for quite awhile and joined QSY to make new friends and learn new things.

Richard K2DTE had a good time at Field Day. He brought in a vintage Army Signal Corps J-38 key he picked up for pennies at a yard sale. It was in good condition and will provide plenty of good service for years. Rich also has a J-37 at home. Rich advised that the estate of W2AIH has some very clean and well-built higher powered gear for sale. Contact Rich if interested and he can provide details.

Eric N2RRA gave a great synopsis of the SOTA (Summits On The Air) program. This is program that is less popular in the United States at this time than in other countries. Eric said that something as simple as "activating" Slide Mountain in upstate NY, which leads to a general announcement on the SOTA Reflector, can generate incredible DX traffic for the SOTA QRP operator. Eric invited anyone interested to contact him for more information or, perhaps, join him on a SOTA "mission". More information is available at <http://www.sota.org.uk/Associations/viewAssociation/prefix/W2> .

Frank W2GIO is mostly interested in FM repeaters. He is on the engineering committee for MBARC and enjoys mobile operating.

Shirley N2SKP had a great time at Field Day and advised the members that she was cleaning out and found some J-Pole Lamp Kits which she would like to re-offer for sale. Contact Shirley directly if you are interested. These are kits from which one can build a lamp in the shape of a J-Pole antenna – something to decorate your shack with and light your logbook on those long winter nights.

Finn WB2UWU won't need one because he'll have the light from his wood fire....

### **Old Business**

Our treasurer, Chet AB2FF, advised that our treasury is now at \$1324.65. All of our Field Day expenses have been paid. We are in excellent financial shape for the remainder of 2011 and our only remaining "must pay" bill will be our liability insurance later this year.

### **New Business**

**The terms of Stan WB2LQF (Coordinator) and Fred KC2QFR (Co-coordinator) expire December 31st. Any member interested in either of these positions should let Stan or Fred know. Neither Fred nor Stan will seek, nor accept nomination for, another term. We've made our contribution this year and now it's time for others to step forward.**

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Our 50/50 raffle generated a total of \$65 and Tony W1ZMB won half the pot. Tony generously donated \$27.50 to the Club. Thanks for your thoughtful generosity, Tony!



**Scott W2NTV, Stan WB2LQF, Fred KC2QFR**



**Finn WB2UWU**



**Henry KB2VJP, Mike KC2HEI**



**Rich K2DTE, Pete WA2BXK**

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Mark WA2NYY and son Peter



Figure 1 Scotty N2AEE, Mark WA2NYY



Jack W2HIY



Mike KC2HEI, Fred KC2FR



Jim AC2EV



David KC2QFS, Paul WA2JTX

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Send corrections and comments to Bill Walsh (NG2D): [wwtalbot@verizon.net](mailto:wwtalbot@verizon.net)

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