

QSY Society Minutes

Saturday, January 7, 2012

Coordinator: Jim McVey, AC2EU
Co-Coordinator: Tony Castellano, W1ZMB
Contest and Events Manager: Scott Dunlavey, W2NTV

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Business Meeting Overview

Meeting called to order at 10:37 by Jim McVey, AC2EU

The new Coordinator, Jim McVey, AC2EU briefly introduced both himself and our new Co-Coordinator Tony, W1ZMB and then asked those present to quickly go around the room and introduce themselves.

Next meeting: Saturday, February 4th

Meeting adjourned at: 12:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Stan Levandowski, WB2LQF. Photos courtesy of Julian Blair, WA2WMJ

Attendees

26 persons were in attendance:

Bob Melhado, WA2JQK	David Gong, KC2QFS	Frank Johnson, WN2Y
Fred Lauricella, KC2QFR	Henry Ritz, KB2VJP	Jim McVey, AC2EU
Jordon Fletcher, Reporter	Julian Blair, WA2WMJ	Kieth Johnson, KD2AOF
Liz Solieri, KD2AOI	Mark ChiJian, WA2NYY	Matt Williams, W2MDW
Mike Tebolt, KC2HEI	Paul Rambousch, WA2JTX	Peter Olson, Wa2BXX
Phil Pipitone, KC2DXM	Rich Giese, K2DTE	Rik Line, W2RIK
Scott Dunlavey, W2NTV	Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP	Stan Levandowski, WB2LQF
Steve Schumm, WB2OEE	Ted Zulkowski, K2JMY	Tom Morehouse, KD2BFR
Tony Castellano, W1ZMB	Valerie Guise, XYL	

Presentation

Today's program was an introduction to the MFJ family of antenna analyzers, the MFJ-259B and the MFJ-269. The later model includes UHF capability. Jim presented the first part which included a synopsis of theory of operation and an overview of some functions useful to amateur radio operators. Fred, KC2QFR followed with a discussion and demonstration of some of the more practical aspects of using the MFJ analyzers in day-to-day amateur operations.

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There was a question and answer period with several good questions fielded. One such question was, “How many now in the room have an MFJ antenna analyzer?” to which a significant number of hands went up! It was brought to the audience’ attention that if the UHF button on the MFJ-269 button is depressed and left there – and then the unit is powered down and later powered up with that button still depressed – it blows a diode or two. This is an apparent design issue. Users of the MFJ-269 are cautioned to exercise caution.



Other Business

Following the formal program, Shirley N2SKP took the floor to make some announcements:

1. With great regret, Shirley noted the passing of member Kyle KC2VCG. Details can be found on the QSY Website blog. Shirley brought some pictures of Kyle from recent Field Days. He will be missed by all.
2. Shirley reminded those present that Stan WB2LQF had an article published in the December, 2011 QST, page 30. She noted that we all flip through our QSTs but don’t always note the bylines.
3. Shirley announced that Don, KE6IRE recently emailed her and asked her to say “hi” to all the members. He is currently living out west where he played a part in the launch and successful flight of the recent amateur radio balloon that crossed the Atlantic. Don is also very active in foxhunting and in the area of OSCAR satellites.
4. Finally, Shirley advised that WECA is holding an Amateur Extra licensing class in February. Check their website or contact Shirley for more information.

Note: Amateur Extra Classes are scheduled to begin Feb 7 from 7-9pm for 9 weeks. This information is not available on the WECA website at the time of this publication. Contact Larrie Sutliff / W2UL by email at W2UL@WECA.org for additional information.
(ed.)



Mike Tebolt, KC2HEI won today’s 50/50 raffle.

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Show and Tell

1. Scott, W2NTV, announced that Saturday, April 14th, QSY Society will hold a Special Event at the Samuel F.B. Morse Estate called "Celebration of Morse Code" from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Members interested in participating should contact Scott. Scott is coordinating this event. There will be a single 100 watt station used and a single 20M half wave vertical antenna. The event must conclude and we must be off the site by 2:00 p.m. due to a scheduled wedding. As more information is forthcoming it will be posted to the QSY website.



Scott also advised that on February 18th, at 10:00 a.m., at Panera's Bakery on Spring Road, Town of Poughkeepsie, he will hold the first 2012 Field Day planning meeting. Interested members are urged to attend. The topic will be "What went right last year; what went wrong?" It will be a valuable debrief toward a solid foundation for 2012.

2. Phil, KC2DXM, stated that he is looking forward to the upcoming Orange County hamfest but didn't know the date yet.
3. Henry, KB2VJP, got an FT-817 for Christmas and he is now working on an antenna to get it on the air. Henry also offered that on February 4th, the Emerald Ball would be held in Wappingers in honor of St. Patrick's Day, at a cost of \$35 per person. If enough members were interested it would be possible to get a "QSY Table." Along these same lines, Henry reminded everyone that the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Wappingers is scheduled for March 3rd and operators are needed. Anyone with handheld VHF equipment and interested in helping out should contact Adam, KC2DAA@aol.com who is coordinating this community activity.
4. Paul, WA2JTX, is thrilled with his new "Andy's handi-crimp" set. He paid \$129 for it from www.quicksilver.com and has already completed a "gorgeous set of Anderson powerpoles" with it! Paul rates is a great value and highly recommends it.
5. Keith, KD2AOF, earned his General, then Extra Class license before Christmas. He bought a TS430 and would be on the air if it weren't for all the time he's presently spending working on his house!
6. Liz, KD2AOI, earned her General license just before the holidays also. Congratulations to



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both Liz and Keith!

7. Stan, WB2LQF, announced that he was told by an ARRL staffer that ARRL may be on the verge of ending the “hybrid” DXCC process. At the present time, a ham can apply for DXCC with a combination of “hard” cards and LOTW entries. This may soon change. In the future the requirement may be either *all* LOTW or *all* hard (paper) cards. Stan cautioned that the final decision has apparently not yet been made and this may never come to pass. If it does it will be announced in QST.

Stan also reported that he just achieved WAC QRP and wanted to begin the process of application when he discovered that the WAC award DOES NOT ACCEPT LOTW – WAC CAN ONLY BE APPLIED FOR WITH ALL “HARD” (PAPER) QSLS.

8. Frank, WN2Y, commented that this was a great meeting and he was pleased to see so many people in attendance and clearly enjoying ham radio.
9. Steve, WB2OEE, is a member of the Orange County ARC and announced that OCARC has not yet set a firm date for the 2012 hamfest.

Steve also announced that OCARC is running a net every Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. on 10 meters (28.350 MHz) SSB. The purpose of this net is to try to help Technician class hams get their feet wet on HF during this period of increasing activity on 10 meters. Steve said it’s sad to see Techs listening to stations from every corner of the world but being reluctant to join in the fun because they may lack confidence or just not know how to proceed.

10. Shirley, N2SKP, announced that she is heading back for her very last semester of nursing school and thus won’t be involved in QSY until graduation in May. Good luck, Shirley, and we’ll see you at Field Day 2012!
11. David, KC2QFS, is presently putting up 6, 2, and 1 ¼ meter beams and rotators.
12. Rich, K2DTF, showed a 1931 Philco Model 20 radio he recently picked up. Rich says it still works FB despite those vintage type 71 tubes inside. The wooden cabinet was in beautiful shape just needed a good rubbing out.
13. Mark, WA2NYY, just qualified for WAS.
14. Matt, W2MVW, earned his General in November. He is presently using a TS940 and operating 98% digital with JT65. Matt’s very impressed with how he can operate below the noise floor on 10 meters with digital.
15. Mike, KC2HEI, announced he is finally on LOTW and further announced that he made two CW contacts during Straight Key Night.
16. Bob, WA2JQK, said that K2DS says “Hello” to us all. Bob reminded everyone that next Saturday, beginning at 1800Z, there would be a North American QSO Party for QRP CW and anyone needing any states for WAS could surely pick them up at that time. Check it out!
17. Ted, K2JMY, thanked everyone who helped him to get onto LOTW. He reported that he successfully was able to get in all his DXCC information and all is now well.

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18. Pete, WA2BXK, told an interesting story about an experience he had with inexpensive connectors (purchased by his boss for financial reasons) compared to quality Amphenol products when he was working on a commercial 800 mHz project. Pete suggested that you get what you paid for, so choose wisely to avoid problems.
19. Tom, KD2BFR, was licensed just 3 years ago and is enjoying the learning process as he builds his knowledge and skills in the hobby.
20. Jordan (no call) is a journalist and radio producer who wanted to attend the meeting to learn about radio and about the QSY Society.
21. Tony, W1ZMB, reported that he worked over 130 countries, most states, and all continents, all CW, and less than 5 watts in the four months since he's owned his beloved K2 radio. The Australian contact was made with 3 watts, while the Japan QSL required only 2 watts!
22. Jim McVey, AC2EU, made a motion to spend postage on congratulatory letters from the QSY Society to newly licensed hams in the local area. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. There was also a suggestion to use the ham message nets as well.



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

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