

QSY Society Minutes

Saturday, February 4, 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 7:30 by Coordinator Jim McVey AC2EU at 10:40 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting began with everyone introducing themselves by name and QTH. Michael, KD2BLC was attending his first QSY Meeting. He is a newly minted Technician from Poughkeepsie. Steve, KC2YYF also introduced himself as a new Technician from Otisville.

Next meeting: Saturday, March 3 at 10:00 am

Meeting adjourned at: 12:40 pm

Minutes recorded by: Stan, WB2LQF

Attendees

There were 19 members and guests present.

Tom Morehouse, KD2BFR	David Gong, KC2QFsS	Joanne Gong, KC2YID
Steve Hoffman , KC2YYF	Andrew Schmidt, W2BOS	Henry Ritz, KB2VJP
Peter Olson, WA2BXK	Tony Castellano, W1ZMB	Stan Levandowski, WB2LQF
Mark Chitjian, WA2NYY	Scotty Morrison, N2AEE	Bill Walsh, NG2D
Mike Tebolt, KC2HEI	Fred Lauricella, KC2QFR	Jeff Bonhag, guest
Matt Williams, W2MDW	Jim McVey, AC2EU	Micheal Raughter, KD2BLC
Julian Blair, WA2WMJ		

Presentation

Andrew Schmidt, W2BOS, today's guest speaker, presented his program, "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?" This was an engaging look at the concept of time and how keeping track of it has evolved since the earliest days of recorded history. Andrew's presentation covered not only clocks, but also the other aspects of horology.

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At least two interesting bits of information were deemed quite noteworthy. First, we learned that the concept of time zones and the need to standardize time in a rapidly developing society was born right up the road in Saratoga Springs, NY. Dr. Charles Dowd is credited with developing the concept and getting the government to actualize it in 1883. Second, we learned why “Coordinated Universal Time” is abbreviated UTC – seems that a long time ago, the English abbreviation (CUT) and the French abbreviation (TUC) were deemed at odds with political implications. Consequently, the English and the French agreed on UTC – which is meaningless to everyone as far as abbreviations go! By the way, GMT, UTC, a Z (“Zulu”) time are the same thing for practical purposes.

Andrew’s presentation was enjoyed by all and we thank him for his time and effort.

Other Business

Tom Morehouse, KB2BFR, made a \$10 donation to QSY’s treasury in appreciation for assistance he received from the club. Thank you, Tom!

A quick straw poll of those present was taken. The question was, “Would you be interested in a swap and sell session?” Over half the members present raised their hand. The two coordinators will take this response under advisement.

Scott W2NTV, the QSY Contest and Events manager, was unable to attend but he called in by cell phone to advise the members that they should check the website and its blog for upcoming contest details. Scott also said that we need volunteers for the April Morse Day at the Morse Estate in Poughkeepsie. Those interested in helping out need to contact Scott. Scott also reported that Dell, W2DX has agreed to take over the Field Day computer responsibility from Nick, N2QZ who truly does deserve a break.

Steve, KC2YYF, won the 50/50 Raffle.

Show and Tell

Following the formal presentation, we began our “Show ‘n Tell” session.

Henry, KB2VJP is getting his accessories together to go with his Christmas present, the FT-817. He just took delivery on a Hendricks SLT+ long wire antenna tuner and he’s looking forward to getting on the air. Henry is also presently studying for his Extra Class license.

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Michael, KD2BLC is presently getting his shack together and enjoying the process of exploring the wonderful world of ham radio.

Tom, KD2BFR just completed a 2 meter ground plane antenna.

Steve, KC2YYF put up a dipole and is working on code.

Mike, KC2HEI just got on LOTW and wishes everyone else in the ham world would do the same. He expressed his satisfaction with LOTW and commented that it really was not that complicated or unfriendly to follow the signup process. Mike has been busy making PSK31 contacts and now has one PSK62 contact in his logbook as well.

Matt, W2MVW has a KX3 on order. He's also waiting for a new Buddipole, a Rockmite 40, and a SDR kit to arrive. As if this isn't enough to keep him busy, he's also working on his CW proficiency. Matt wants to be all ready for when his KX3 shows up at the door in a few months.

David, KC2QFS continues working on his rotatable 50/144/432 rotatable antenna system.

Fred, KC2QFR brought his Softrock SDR transceiver in to show – It fits in the palm of a hand and features a 1 watt transmitter and an impressive direct conversion SDR receiver. All for \$75! Yes, it has surface mount parts but Fred said they are “easy” to mount and actually the build goes much quicker than with through-hole kits. Fred also brought in his newly constructed “L” antenna for 144 MHz. At 15 feet it boasts 6 db bi-directional gain; lower, that gain drops to 2 DB. The polarization is both horizontal and vertical. The antenna can be used in many different positions. This same design can easily be adapted for 6 and 10 meters where the physical length is still very workable. This looks like an antenna design that might be worth looking at.

Bill, NG2D raised his dipole from 15' to 30' and has noticed better performance. It's a 20M dipole. So far, Bill has worked 57 countries and 37 states since getting back on the air just a few months ago with this dipole and his Ten Tec rig.

Stan, WB2LQF reported that he applied to become an ARRL VE and is waiting for his certification. He had an interesting January, working some pretty good QRP DX.

Mark, WA2NYY is in the market for a good headset. He's interested in “listen only” since he's a dedicated CW op and doesn't need the mic. Mark reported he's been working his own good share of DX, including all the recent *big ones*.

Scotty N2AEE is looking for a 2M handheld that's not too expensive. Several members suggested he check into Wouxan.

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Tony, W1ZMB continues to work plenty of QRP DX with his K2 and his OCF dipoles. He presently has 138 countries. Tony worked HK0NA on all bands between 40 and 10 meters at 5 watts. Once that got boring, Tony cranked the K2 down to 3 watts and worked Australia. Then he further reduced to 2 watts and worked Japan with no problem. Eager for a *challenge* he dialed the K2 down to 500 milliwatts and worked Brazil with no problem at all. Finally, he just turned the K2 down all the way to its lowest RF output of 100 milliwatts and had nice QSOs with Arizona, France, and Hawaii.

Jim, AC2EU reported he is finishing up his home brewed six port antenna switch of his own design. He reported it seems to be working out fine.

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

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