

QSY Society Minutes

Saturday, March 3, 2012

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

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Business Meeting Overview

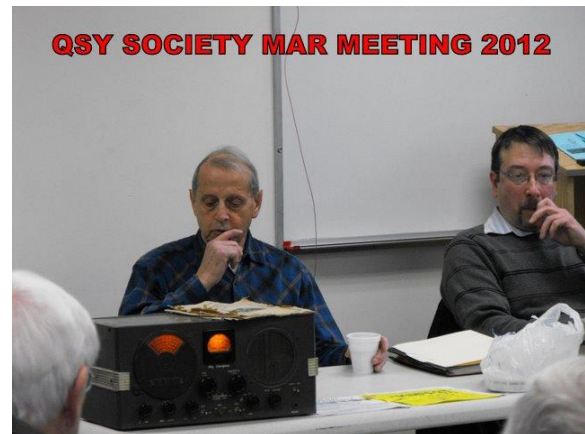
Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Co-Coordinator Tony W1ZMB at 10:33 a.m.

We began with the Pledge of Allegiance, recited in a collective, strong voice by the 27 members in attendance. The flag was a small, decorative flag, but it certainly was stirring to experience the return of The Colors after their strange absence for the last two meetings.

Meeting adjourned at: 11:50 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Stan WB2LQF

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 3 at 7:00 pm



Attendees

Paul Rambaush, WA2JTX
Tim Hannan, (no call)
Doug Maset, N2LEA
Mike Tebolt,
Finn Poulsen, WB2UWU
Tom Morehouse, KD2BFR
Paul Burnham, N2DXL
Julian Blair, WA2WMJ
Allice Castillano, KB2UQD

Trevor McGee, (no call)
David Gong, KC2QFS
Mark Chitjian, WA2NYY
KC2HEI Bill Walsh,
Lilly Poulsen, XYL
Phil Pipitone, KC2DXM
Steve Shumm, WB2OEE
Steve Hoffman, KC2YYF
Jim McVey, AC2EU

Tony Castellano, W1ZMB
Bill Baker, KC2LIX
Fred Lauricella, KC2QFR
NG2D Scott Dunlavey, W2NYV
John Conklin, KA2PQJ
Micheal Shovan, WB2KHE
Stan Levandowski, WB2LQF
Henry Ritz, KB2VJP
Teter Olson, Wa2BXK

Presentation

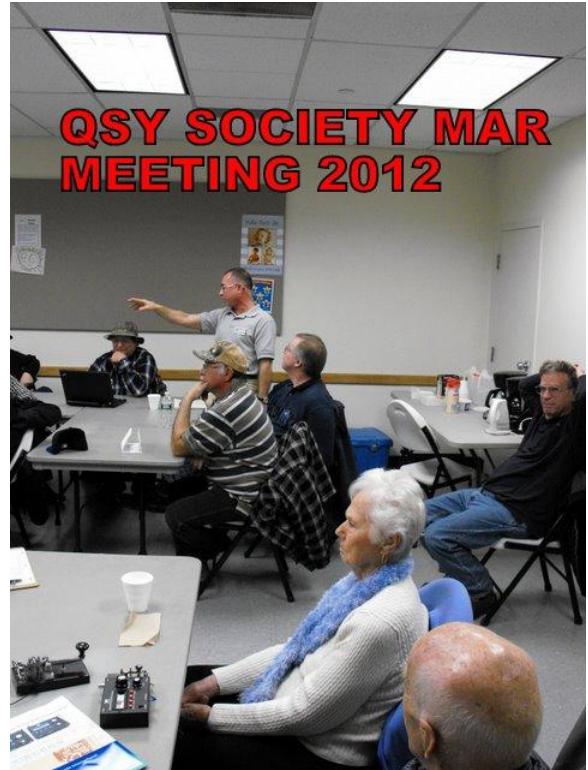
Today was our annual "Old Timers Day". Anyone who had renewed his or her license two times was considered an "Old Timer".

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Co-Coordinator Tony began with an announcement that Stan WB2LQF had recently passed his commercial exam for General Radiotelephone (GROL) + Ship Radar Endorsement. After this, Tony began our roundtable and reminded the “Old Timers” that this was their opportunity to reminisce.

Mike, WB2KHE began. He said has been licensed since 1969. He is a member of OCARC and decided to visit us today. He is a Volunteer Examiner and holds the Amateur Extra Class license. Mike admitted to some “down time” as concerns ham radio as he’s been busy with his job in commercial radio. Mike said that due to some recent interactions with other hams, he is now “reintroducing” himself to the joy of ham radio and fully intends to get back into it and try out some of the new technologies that he had not previously worked with. *Welcome ‘home’ Mike. We hope to see you at future QSY meetings. We hope you join us – we’re running a special this month: lifetime membership for free! Check out www.qsysociety.org website to fill out an application. It’s the best deal in town!*



Henry KB2VJP followed Mike. Henry handles QSY’s publicity. And he does a *great* job of it!! Henry isn’t yet an official ‘Old Timer’ but he’s working on it! At the present time, Henry is busy producing the supplemental publicity for QSY’s April 14th special event station at the Locust Grove – Samuel Morse Estate” on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie. While Locust Grove will handle the “main” publicity, Henry is using his regular contacts to ensure that QSY Society’s event blankets the local area. When not working on publicity, Henry is earnestly studying for his Amateur Extra Class ticket and we wish him well in his efforts.

Steve KC2YYF is an OCARC member who sauntered by to “check us out” today. *Well, Steve, we hope you had a good time and we’d love to see you back. Remember, we are a “non-club” and we don’t compete with other local clubs – we just like to get together once a month and enjoy each others’ company!*



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KD2BFR says he enjoys the hobby immensely.

John, K2BQJ hails from Middletown and is a new ham and eager to learn all he can about our wonderful hobby!

Mike KC2HEI was first licensed in 2004. Although not an 'Old Timer', Mike is solidly invested in this hobby and presently works digital and CW.

Finn, WB2UWU was licensed in 1947 – *folks, that's 65 years ago!* The atomic bomb was "new" back then and Chuck Yeager had just broken the sound barrier. Finn admitted to being marginally active until about 1978 when Frank W2GIO acted as his mentor and got him back on track. Today, Finn spends most of his time working QRP and is very involved in SKCC activities. Finn's XYL, Lilly, attended with him as well.

Phil KC2DXM was licensed in 1998. He is now really interested in RC modeling and would like to get some RC equipment going on six meters. Other QSY members are also interested in RC modeling so Phil has some good resources to draw upon. *Another good reason to belong to QSY Society!*

Bill NG2D got his license in 1965. His first QSO was with a station in Buffalo. Bill was running 90 watts (*uh....Bill....wasn't the Novice limit 75 watts DC input back then????*). Well, it doesn't matter anymore because Bill is now an Extra Class. *Well I guess it was 75 watts, it was very long time ago, it's hard to remember that far back how much power my novice rig consumed. - Bill*

Scott W2NTV announced that today is the 7th anniversary of his first ham license! Congratulations, kid! Scott is QSY's Field Day and Special Events Manager. Scott took this opportunity to remind members that QSY will be hosting a special event station at the Locust Grove-Samuel F.B.Morse Home on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie on Saturday, April 14th. We will set up at 7:30 a.m. and run until sometime between 1 and 2 p.m. when we need to vacate due to a wedding party. Questions should be directed to Scott at w2ntv@arrl.net.

JB WA2WMJ has been a ham for 'a long time'. He asked those with less experience to avoid being a "lid" operator. One of the best ways to *not* develop bad habits is to ask questions of those who have been around longer and might be able to provide good



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answers to your questions and concerns.

Steve WB2OEE was licensed in 1964. He is a member of OCARC and runs a net every Thursday evening at 8:00 pm in the Technician area of 10 meters at 28.350 Mhz. The purpose of this net is to invite newer, less experienced hams to get on HF and develop the confidence to make contacts and enjoy what HF has to offer. All are welcome. While the preferred mode is SSB, don't be shy about trying CW if you are having trouble getting through. Hey, it's a hobby, a learning experience, and it's supposed to be fun! Don't get scared off. Check into the net if you are a Tech and not sure how to go about entering the HF world.

Doug N2LEA lives in Newburgh. He reported that he enjoys our hobby to the max.

Stan WB2LQF was first licensed in the very early 60's as WN2LQF, then went to Technician as WB2LQF and to General in early 1964. He elected to keep his original call sign. Stan brought in a homebrew master-oscillator-power-amplifier (MOPA) that uses a 6C4 oscillator to drive a 5763 power pentode. With 330 volts on the plate, it puts out almost exactly 5 watts RF. Stan offered it as an example of an 'old time tube rig' and went on to describe the additional overhead in switching from receive to transmit and back again when using a separate receiver, a single antenna, and a separate transmitter. Stan pointed out that most grid block and cathode keyed rigs of that era had lethal voltages across the key. In Stan's homebrew, the cathode voltage was -155 volts. But "old timers" took this in stride because it simply was 'the way it is' back then. Stan concluded that modern digital transceivers offer incredible operating convenience, efficiencies and performance over what was available 50 years ago. However, one cannot quantify the value and satisfaction of the "romance" aspect of the bygone days! There's a place for everything, even today!

Bill KC2LIX was licensed nine years ago. He admitted that this hobby is great fun and he is now especially interested in NTS (National Traffic System) aspects. Anyone interested in learning more about NTS can check www.arrl.org.

Fred KC2QFR was licensed in 2006. Fred works SSB and digital and is learning CW.

Alice KB2UQD was licensed in 1995. She dropped out of ham radio for awhile and later reentered the hobby. With new motivation, Alice took – and aced – the Extra exam. She currently owns an Elecraft K2. She is working on putting up a good antenna at her home QTH. *Welcome back, Alice! And please stay this time!*

David KC2QFS is newly retired from IBM and now looks forward to much more time for ham radio. He is currently working on earning his Extra Class ticket.

Paul WA2JTX was licensed in 1959. He was active until about 1982, having completed five band DXCC, WAC, and WAS. Then he dropped out of ham radio for awhile. Paul relighted his interest in 2005 when he aced his Extra exam.

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Mark WA2NYY was licensed in 1970. His original interest in radio is traced back to the Boy Scouts where Mark had to complete the signaling requirement. He built a crystal radio and his interest in radio took off from there! Mark's son, Pete, accompanied Mark to today's meeting and admitted that he was not yet a ham but becoming increasingly interested!

Paul N2DXS was licensed in 1974 as WN2WTC. Paul holds all commercial tickets in addition to his ham license.

Pete WA2BXX was licensed in 1958. He presently holds the Amateur Extra ticket as well as the commercial GROL and the 2nd Class Radiotelegraph Certificate.

Carl WA2CEY has been licensed since the 50's. He likes to build and is active on 160 through 10 meters. Carl says he "just enjoys it all".

Jim AC2EU is our QSY Coordinator. Jim admitted to a lifelong interest in electronics from an early age. Jim is especially fond of "old time stuff". Jim called our attention to a National RCE receiver he brought in today. It's old but it still works! As Jim said, it stands in testament to the old fashioned quality of American engineering in days gone by.

Tony W1ZMB was licensed in 1953. Except for Finn WB2UWU (First licensed in 1947), Tony is the "oldest" licensed member of The QSY Society. Tony passed his Novice, Technician, and General exams in Boston while he was stationed on a submarine chaser in the Navy. Then he passed both his Advanced and then Extra. So Tony has held *all* of the amateur tickets with the exception of the Conditional Class. Tony also holds the commercial GROL with Ship Radar Endorsement. Tony said he mostly built his own early equipment, including mobile rigs. His very first receiver was a Hammarlund HQ120. Tony recollected very early Field Days where he soldered together enough beer cans to erect a 31 foot vertical with a soda bottle base and clothesline guys. But his FD pride and joy antenna was a 500' V beam that provided a pipeline to the west coast!

This concluded the roundtable.

Tony W1ZMB, our Co-coordinator, then asked if anyone had any additional comments they wished to make. To this, JB WA2WMJ responded that he was struck by the amount of experience in the meeting room today and he challenged the members present to use that experience to help others to enter the wonderful world of ham radio.

Other Business

QSY will be hosting a special event station at the Locust Grove-Samuel F.B.Morse Home on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie on Saturday, April 14th. We will set up at 7:30 a.m. and run until sometime between 1

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and 2 p.m. when we need to vacate due to a wedding party. Questions should be directed to Scott at w2ntv@arrl.net.

Jim AC2EU announced that the May meeting – at least at this time - will be a QSY Swap 'n Shop. More details to follow. Members are asked to think about this and see what they have they might like to bring to sell.

Jim also stated that we should try to inventory and record our existing Field Day supplies (e.g., rope) so that we know what we have, where it is, and how much we have. We can avoid spending money unnecessarily and it would be to our obvious advantage. This is a good idea. So if you have any supplies for Field Day let Scott W2NTV know.

Scott W2NTV reaffirmed the importance of inventorying Field Day supplies. Scott went on to report that the first Field Day 2012 meeting had been held and that it was a good beginning with excellent attendance noted. The next meeting will be held on March 24th, 2 to 4 p.m. (approx) at the actual site (Pavilion 4) at Bowdoin Park. The focus area will be radios and antennas. All interested parties are invited to attend!

Scott then reviewed the Locust Grove/Samuel F.B. Morse special event station that will be on the air Saturday, April 14, 7:30 setup, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. operations. We will be operating K2QS on 7.034 and 14.034 CW only. This is a “fun” event and *NOT* a contest in any sense. *ALL* members are invited to participate, even if your code speed is 3 words per minute!!!! PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS! YOU ARE WELCOME! This event is particularly noteworthy because ham radio events have been ‘banned’ from Locust Grove for many years. This is an opportunity for QSY Society to demonstrate responsible and professional demeanor and we intend to do so.

Finally, Scott advised that the 2012 QSY Sprint will be held on Saturday, March 31, beginning at 10 a.m. This year it will revert to 2 and 6 meter operation only. FM, CW, SSB. Last year, the inclusion of 10 meters resulted in DX contacts and that really didn't make much sense!

Stan WB2LQF suggested that a donation be made to Locust Grove in recognition of their willingness to host our special event and to demonstrate ‘good form’. Fred KC2QFR, who worked in Dutchess County's Travel and Tourism area and has professional knowledge in this area countered that a donation was not as valuable as the publicity that would accrue to Locust Grove as a result of QSY's activities. After some discussion among the members present, Coordinator Jim AC2EU tabled further discussion at this time.

Pete WA2BXK won the 50/50 pool in the amount of \$33. The total of donations and 50/50 proceeds added to the treasury today amounted to \$58.

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Other reminders:

Orange County Hamfest is Saturday, March 31, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Town of Wallkill Community Center, 2 Wes Warren Road, Middletown, NY.

Mount Beacon Hamfest is Sunday, April 29th, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tymor Park, Lagrangeville, NY.

More info available on the OCARC and MBARC websites.

Show and Tell

Several members brought in vintage gear for today. There was a National RCE receiver, a BC221 frequency meter that still worked perfectly, a Hallicrafters keyer, a Hallicrafters S20R receiver, a homebrew "vintage-equivalent" transmitter, and an array of vintage parts, including a "vibrator" which, interestingly, a large number of attendees instantly recognized!



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

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