

QSY Society Minutes

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

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

QSY Society Website: <http://qsysociety.org/>

QSY Society Yahoo Discussion Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/qsysociety/>

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Upcoming Events

Friday, June 22 at 2:00 pm EDT – Field Day Setup at Bowdoin Park, Pavilion 4

Saturday, June 23 at 2:00 pm EDT – Field day operation begins

Sunday, June 24 at 2:00 pm EDT – Field Day activity ends, cleanup begins

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 3, 2012

Overview

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions

Meeting adjourned at: 9:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Stan WB2LQF

Photos courtesy of: n/a

Attendees

There were 23 members present:

Jim McVey, AC2EU
Ted Zulkowski, K2JMY
Walt Berkley, WB2GTY
Mark Chitjian, WA2NYY
Paul Rambusch WA2JTX
Frank Szenher, W2GIO
Julian Blair, WA2WMJ
Peter Olson WA2B XK

Tony Castellano, W1ZMB
Keith Johnson, KD2AOF
Scott Dunlavey, W2NTV
Scotty Morrison, N2AEE
Howard Nichols, K2LBK
Fred Lauricella, KC2QFR
Henry Ritz, KB2VJP
Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP

Bob Melhado, WA2JQK
Liz Solieri, KD2AOL
Chet Dziobkowski, AB2FF
Alice Castellano, W1ALI
Stan Levendowski, WB2LQF
John Davidson, N2OXV
Ulrich Stienberg, N2DE

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Business

The meeting format was altered this evening to focus on final preparations for Field Day, just 16 days away. Control of the meeting was turned over to Scott, W2NTV. Scott reminded everyone that set-up will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 22. Location is Pavilion Four at Bowdoin Park, the same as last year. It was understood that not everyone will be able to join the effort at this time and day but our goal, nonetheless, is to have all the antennas and radios set up and tested by Friday night.

Adam has requested that all the antennas be hung prior to his arrival later on Friday. This should not be a problem. This year we will only use wire antennas for HF and this should greatly simplify and shorten our set-up time.

Scott reminded those that are unfamiliar with the ICOM and Kenwood radios that the time to learn – or brush up – on the equipment, operating techniques and menus is on Friday evening and/or Saturday morning before Field Day commences at 2:00 p.m. EDT. Those taking advantage of this opportunity are reminded that the callsign K2QS cannot be used until Field Day's commencement; they must use their own callsigns or the callsign of a nearby, willing control operator if their license class does permit the HF operation they wish to perform. Once Field Day begins there will be enough Extra Class operators to act as control operators so Field Day can be fully enjoyed by hams of any license class as well as non-hams who want to give it a try. Scott reminded all that the Field Day exchange is simply, "K2QS 3A ENY" on CW/digital and "K2QS 3 Alpha Eastern New York" on SSB. We will again operate three HF stations plus one GOTA station as well as VHF. All antennas will be wire, except for VHF, and will include dipoles, a 40 meter Delta Loop, and a "mystery antenna" provided by JB, WA2WMJ. Paul, W2AKT will provide a generator. Keith, KD2AOF, and Scott will attend to these details.

Dell, W2DX had accepted responsibility to manage the networking of the logging computers but informed Scott, the Field Day Coordinator, on May 30th that he would "not be attending Field Day in any form". Nick, N2QZ is unavailable this year.

Jim, AC2EU, immediately put out the call for a new "computer guru" to take the lead role for the networking. Keith, KD2AOF, answered and has agreed to take the managing role.

Brian, W2BJF, will be bringing three pre-configured County laptops on loan for the Event.

Jim, AC2EU, will be updating the software on the QSY owned computers.

The backup plan is simply to log via un-networked laptops at each operating position. While we won't enjoy cross-communication for dupe checking or band management, it will not affect our

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ability or enjoyment of Field Day. However, we fully expect the network to be up and running, but is always good to have a plan B!

Scott asked that anyone with questions or concerns call him at 845-705-7247 or email him at w2ntv@arrl.net.

Following Scott's Field Day segment, Alice Castellano, W2ALI sold 50/50 tickets while everyone took a short break.

Paul, WA2JTX won the 50/50 raffle. The raffle total take was \$64; \$32 went to Paul and \$32 went to the QSY treasury. In addition, \$20 from the swap meet of the May meeting was deposited to the QSY treasury.

Roundtable

The meeting then continued with an abbreviated Roundtable (our favorite part!).

- Jim, AC2EU kicked it off by showing a neat mic he built for his new FT-817. He built an adapter to allow the popular and readily available electret mic to be used as a dynamic mic. Jim offered the plans to anyone who would like them.
- Scott, W2NTV said he'd already talked himself out and passed the baton to Stan.
- Stan, WB2LQF, reported that he had enjoyed the previous weekend's Museum Ships Weekend operating event in spite of heavy contesting which competed for the frequencies advertised for the special event. There were 92 museum ships participating around the world and contacting any 15 would qualify for an attractive certificate. Stan only managed to get seven ships but two of them were long-desired goals – the USS Hornet in Alameda, CA and the USS Turner-Joy in Bremerton, WA. The Hornet was the prime recovery ship for Apollo 11 and the Turner-Joy was involved in the 1964 Tonkin Gulf "incident" which essentially started the Vietnam War.
- Mike, KC2HEI reported that he reconfigured his G5RV with the assistance of Bob, WA2JQK and he is now on 160 meters with it and it seems to work fine.
- JB, WA2WMJ said he's been contacting SSB stations using CW and urged others to make this technique a part of their own operating style as appropriate. For example, if a foreign station is operating SSB in a portion of the band where their country allows phone but the U.S. does not, give it a shot! Besides "playing with CW", JB has been working on antennas, including a "mystery antenna" he'll be bringing to Field Day. He also has been spending time helping others to learn about and enjoy ham radio; a favorite part of our hobby for JB.
- Bob, WA2JQK was busy at Lyme Rock with his other hobby – auto racing – during the recent WPX contest. Nonetheless, he got on the air when he returned home and made a few contacts even though he was dead tired. Bob later was able to determine that he

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most likely won an award for his effort because there were few entrants on the same band!

- Ted, K2JMY reported that he finally cleaned out his basement of old radio parts and stuff to make a path so that his utility company can come and remove an old inefficient refrigerator for which they are going to pay him \$50. Ted says now he'll be able to do more operating because he can get to his equipment more easily.
- Keith, KD2AOF recently built a 40 meter dipole and a small portable vertical antenna.
- Liz, KD2AOI had nothing to report this month.
- Shirley, N2SKP announced that she graduated from nursing school and is now studying in earnest for the NY State board exam. As a result her key is "still on the shelf" and will remain there for awhile longer. However, Shirley confirmed she will be at FD although her participation may be interrupted for some study sessions!
- Howard, K2LBK got his daughters to clean out his barn. He also reported that he built a nuvistor converter from parts he found there. Howard doesn't know what he's going to do with it but admitted it sure was fun to build it!
- Henry, KB2VJP likes to get on the "Old Goats Net" (PCARA) and had fun during PCARA's recent Fox Hunt.
- Paul, WA2JTX described some severe computer problems he's been sorting through ever since a nearby lightning strike.
- Mark, WA2NYY has been fiddling with JT65 and has had a problem which he thought might be related to the interface with Vista. Mark has also been active on 40 meter CW and is still very involved with the "big band" orchestra he's a member of. He's looking forward to an upcoming gig at Mohonk.
- Fred, KC2QFR knows quite a bit about digital and tried to better understand and help Mark with his issues. Fred's still working on learning CW so that he can use his little QRP "dream station" he's nearly completed. We are looking forward to a show and tell in a future meeting. Apparently, Fred has mated in a single enclosure an SW40 QRP transceiver, an Elecraft AF-1 audio filter, a Freq Mite Morse Code annunciator for aural frequency readout and who knows what else! Sounds like a neat little project.
- Scotty, N2AEE is looking for some "real cw" to practice on. He's found the perfect code generated by computer programs unrealistic. When asked by some members why he didn't just turn on his radio and listen he said it was 2 miles away from his home! Not wanting to touch this one, we recommended the software radio sites online where he could eavesdrop on "real cw" QSOs from the convenience of his computer at home. Scotty, please do let us know how this worked out for you.
- Alice, W1ALI continues to work on mastering the code and she's also been working on antenna construction at her house, including a J-pole made from plumbing copper. Way to go, Alice! JB needs some competition!
- Ulrich, N2DE is back from an extended stay in Europe and is now recovering from the Dayton Hamvention. Ulrich described a particular 12 year old boy that he met at Dayton who, with no parent in sight, tried out all the mechanical keys at the Begali booth,

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astounded listeners with his accurate 40 wpm sending on a Begali Intrepid “bug” and then plunked down \$600, bought it, and walked away! Ulrich reported that the so-called “death of cw” is not borne out by the evidence, especially among the younger folks like this 12 year old.

- Pete, WA2BXK entertained us with another one of his great stories, this one about a computer problem he had. It’s too long to repeat here, but the punch line was great – basically, his problem was resulting in one of those famous blue screens with a weird error message. After he recruited a young fellow to fix it for him, the guy created a screen saver that looked just like the problem, installed it on Pete’s computer, but didn’t tell Pete!
- Chet, AB2FF and our treasurer had no radio stuff to report tonight but did advise us that we have nearly twice the amount in our bank account as we had last year so we are in great shape for Field Day with no worries about money.
- Tony, W1ZMB reported that a long time friend and ham recently became a Silent Key. He left all his gear to Tony who brought in a few pieces and announced that anyone who was interested could make an offer and the money would be donated to the QSY treasury.

Presentation

None

Show and Tell

None

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

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