

MBCRC In-Person Meeting
Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room
July 21, 2021
16 In Attendance

Our return to the Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room began with an informal get together at 7:00 pm. The meeting started promptly at 7:30 with the pledge of allegiance led by President Rich W2REV.

Officer Reports

President Rich welcomed everyone to the second indoor in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic. All shared his gratitude for this opportunity to begin the return to normalcy.

Each person introduced him/herself and spoke briefly on what's new.

- Shirley N2SKP gave an overview of the QSY Society: its goals activities, membership, and some upcoming events
- Mikey KD2NMG recently received a certificate from ARRL recognizing his diverse and ongoing contributions to the League and amateur radio – BRAVO!!
- Adam AE2AN was appointed Affiliated Club Coordinator for ARRL's Eastern New York Section – BRAVO!!

Steve KB2TAT read the minutes of the May 12, 2021 in-person meeting. Adam pointed out an omission in the list of Directors in the minutes.

Vice President Tom N2FZC reported that he is always looking for new Net Controllers for the Monday night on-air meetings, and Mikey is likewise looking for new Net Controllers for the Breakfast Club and Wednesday Rag Chew nets.

Tom said that anyone wishing to have something posted on the MBCRC website can contact him.

Treasurer Andrew W2BOS could not attend but submitted his report to Rich in advance. The treasurer's report included the following financial information:

- The Tower Fund raised \$13,010 and is now closed
- Total tower repair expenses: \$26,365
- Current treasury balance: \$10,005
- Current paid-up membership: 118
- Unpaid membership: 26

Rich recommended that at each Monday night on-air meeting we keep reminding unpaid members to renew; also, if you know someone who is not paid-up, remind him/her to do so as soon as possible.

Andrew's report also included a recommendation to vote on KD2SBO for MBARC membership. After a brief discussion, there was a unanimous vote to admit KB2SBO as a new member.

At this point, Lon KB2UPZ recommended bringing new members to hamfests and other activities, and getting them involved and volunteering for our club's activities and events in order to get them active right from the start. Lon also recommended getting vendors and people in technical fields involved in our hamfests. A discussion of hamfests followed.

Adam mentioned some of the club's previous hamfests and experiences and identified the key issues involved: site rental cost, our club's size and resources, parking, perimeter security, suitable location at the site for license exams.

Rich related something he saw at a hamfest in Florida – company reps. who had literature and catalogs on display and could take orders on the spot – and suggested we look into that for our next hamfest.

Director and Trustee Reports

John N2O XV deferred to Tom to report on the 146.970 outage on July 10 since Tom was the first to get to the repeater get it back in service. Tom suspected the problem was lightning-related, and the repeater was back in operation promptly.

Adam had nothing else in addition to his earlier remarks.

Frank W2GIO reported that the 223.920 repeater was working well and encouraged everyone to use it.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Rich asked Lon if he would form a hamfest committee. Lon readily agreed.

Questions and Comments

Rich asked the membership that if a current or past club member is seriously ill or passes to please let someone know so that the news is shared with everyone. You can tell Rich, Tom, Adam, or Steve, or just post it on the reflector.

Rich asked everyone to try to think of a site for a hamfest. The key initial steps to planning a hamfest are site and date, with site basically determining the date. The key criteria for the site are: affordability, size, parking, rest rooms, test area, and security.

Frank described the Yorktown Repair Café and said he would really like to hold one in Fishkill, recommending that MBARC be a co-sponsor.

Frank contributed two items to the 50/50: a flashlight and a home-brew VHF/UHF antenna elements.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Following the meeting Frank demonstrated the construction of a VHF/UHF antenna using PVC pipes and caps and simple telescoping elements.

Respectfully submitted by Steve KB2TAT