



OPEN MIC

WØALX-- RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA
www.w0alx.org

-----**NEWSLETTER**-----

JANUARY 2014

NOTE : The January 21 monthly club meeting of the RARC will be held at the Glenwood State Bank beginning at 7pm. See you there!

Minutes of The Runestone Amateur Radio Club

Meeting of Nov. 19, 2013

Club President Bill Klundt called the meeting to order at 7:01PM in the Conference Room of Glenwood State Bank in Alexandria, Minnesota.

Attendees: Jim Horn (KB0INZ), Bill Klundt (KG0DX), George Schouweiler (N0RCL), Wayne Johanson (WA0EBZ), John Ross (W0JAR), Norm Priebe (W7ISD), Dick Fjeld (N0CE), Jason Ebacher (KD0UDS), Roger Haffner (KD0UTA), Peter Jennings (KD0UVA), Jim Molkenthin (NN0Q), Tom Kilian (KD0MOM), Jan Kilian (KD0RAV), Norman Yeutter (W0KCJ), Maggie Van Havermaet (N0NYV)

Treasurer's Report: Gen. Fund: \$3278.70 + \$60.00 - \$120.00 = \$3218.70

Coffee Cash \$284.72 +\$5.95 = \$290.17

Trustee Report: No issues

Technical Report: None

Education Report: None

Public Information Report: Discussion of W2NSD, Wayne Green, who passed away in 2013. He promoted the use of repeaters and wrote interesting and somewhat controversial editorials in "73 Magazine".

BUSINESS

W0ALX website: Contact Jason to add things to the website. Anyone can now add pictures. Jason may develop a way for us to upload pictures to a "bin" from which Jason could put them on the website.

W0W Problems: The special event call-sign W0W has multiple users over time. So, a W0W web page on qrz.com may not be up to date when we use it. After some discussion the group seems to

think that using our W0ALX website would be better than qrz.com for information about our special events.

"Awake the Lakes" Special event station: We could set up a special event station related to this event. There was discussion of the commercial nature of this event. Making certificates would be easy to do.

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Nominating Committee: Has been formed and is working on a list of candidates for the coming year.

Envelope Stuffing for W0W Event: This was scheduled for the club breakfast Dec. 7th at the Trucker's Inn in Sauk Centre.

2013 Christmas Party: it will be Dec. 7, 2013 at the Forada Supper Club; 6:00PM gathering, 6:30PM supper.

VE Testing: this was scheduled for Dec. 7th at Glenwood State Bank in Alexandria. There will be practice testing at 1:00PM and the actual tests will start at 2:00PM

We may have a session January 19, 2014.

E.O.C. Report:

John Ross is our liaison to the "Community Partners" group. He reported that at the evaluation meeting the mock emergency event was deemed to have gone well. Our club had representatives at the event.

Sgt. Tom Egan wants the names of 4 people to have fobs that will allow them entry into the E.O.C. building. Other club members could enter with one of the holders of these devices to get to the ham radio station in the building. We chose the following persons to have their names submitted to Sgt. Egan for this purpose:

Norm Priebe John Ross George Schouweiler Jason Ebacher.

Sauk Centre Repeater: The repeater, a Kenwood TKR-720 ran for 2 weeks, but it seems to have a weak receiver. NOCE (Dick Fjeld) will see what he can do to up the receive sensitivity. The repeater is located at the Sauk Centre Hospital. The frequency is 147.255+.

Choice of Certificates for W0W event: The portrait style was chosen

NAQP Contest: Preliminary rules for an in-the-club competition were passed around.

ARRL DX SSB Contest: This will be March 2014

Adjournment (J.Molkenthin / T. Kilian) Passed

A REMINDER It's this time of year when new or renewal memberships in the RARC are requested. Individual \$25, Family \$35, Associate \$20, Student \$5. If you cannot be at the January meeting please send your dues to Norm Yeutter, his address is 2301 S. Le Homme Dieu Dr NE, Alexandria, MN 56308.

GUEST EDITORIAL: Protect your gear from ESD by Dan, KB6NU

Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test&Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD (part 1: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>, >part 2: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST. His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:

- Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.
- Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench.

I might also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs (http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/), but they are kind of expensive.

Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solid-state gear.

It's not hard to find anti-static products. RadioShack sells a wrist strap for only \$1.23 (<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2103245>)! You can find a whole range of anti-static products on Amazon, too. Wherever you get them, they're a good investment.

RUNESTONE CALENDAR NOTES

January 13,20,27: Monday Night Net, 7pm, 146.790 KC0UTN/NN0Q NC
January 18: Saturday Coffee at Brass Lantern, Alexandria, 8:30am
January 21: Monthly Club Meeting, 7pm, Glenwood State Bank

February 1: Saturday Coffee at Trucker's Inn, Sauk Centre, 8:00am (NOTE EARLIER START)
February 1: Minnesota QSO Party, 8am - 6pm
February 2,10,17,24: Monday Night Net, 7pm, 146,790 NC....TBD
February 15: Saturday Coffee at Brass Lantern, Alexandria, 8:30am
February 15: Cabin Fever Reliever Hamfest, 9am, St. Cloud Armory
February 18: Monthly Club Meeting, 7pm, Glenwood State Bank

PRESIDENTIAL SPLATTER.....

So here we are again with a whole year in front of us. A year ago I wrote a few lines about trying at least one new thing in ham radio during 2013. Unfortunately, the year slipped away without taking too many risks in the hobby. Guess I got preoccupied with trying to incorporate the computer into more of my radio activities. Some of these “newer” operating systems didn't seem to like what I had set up at an earlier time. In the end, some incompatibilities drove me back to an “older” OS that will no longer be supported in a few months. BUMMER! But what's a poor guy to do?

Have been looking forward to a number of special activities the club has approve for member involvement, namely, the North American QSO Party on Jan 18 and the Minnesota QSO Party on Feb 1. The MNQP is an authorized club activity and it would be wonderful if we had lots of participation—see the W0ALX email that was recently sent out to all. The NAQP activity is designed to help you achieve your personal best score on a limited time basis given your operating circumstances. (See detail sheet at the end of this newsletter). I would appreciate some RSVP information regarding your inclination to participate in these activities or not....email me at kg0dx at arrl.net. Thank you and good luck this year as you pursue your personal interests in amateur radio.

73, Bill KG0DX

2014 NET CONTROL AND MEETING GOODIES

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>	<u>GOODIES</u>
JANUARY	KC0UTN/NN0Q	KG0DX
FEBRUARY		
MARCH		
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		PICNIC
SEPTEMBER		
OCTOBER		
NOVEMBER		
DECEMBER		CHRISTMAS PARTY

2013 RUNESTONE ARC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

KG0DX Bill	President
W7ISD Norm	Vice-President
W0KCY Norm	Treasure / Trustee
KB0INZ Jim	Secretary
WB0KUG Wayne	Technical Director
KC0UTN Ric	Education Director
W0JAR John	Director (2014)
W7ISD Norm	Director (2015)
NOQXM Nick	Director (2016)

FROM THE SHACK OF N0RCL:

My XYL, Mary, is Bohemian. That means she is an excellent cook and baker.

A few weeks ago I was in tough shape, in fact, I wasn't expected to live.

But one day I managed to get out to the kitchen. My XYL was busy baking some cookies. As I reached for one she slapped my hand, "those are for the funeral", she said.

73 de N0RCL, Rural Holmes City

NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY – PHONE

Modified Rules for W0ALX

Contest begins January 18, 2014 1800UTC (12 noon local) and runs for 12 hours. (Note: if you're participating in the "real" contest, you can only participate for 10 of the 12 hours.)

Be familiar with the NAQP Rules at www.ncjweb.com/contests.php

Work no more than four (4) hours of this contest. Any combination of time segments will be acceptable so long as the total time spent operating does not exceed 4 hours of operating.

All bands between 10 and 160 except the WARC bands may be used. Each band used is a multiplier. You only need one QSO on a band to have that band count as a multiplier.

This contest is SSB only.

Use only one transceiver for TX and RX; spotting or any other locating assistance is not permitted.

The EXCHANGE is your NAME and STATION LOCATION (Minnesota).

- a. Same stations may be worked on different bands.
- b. **All states including Hawaii and Alaska (50), Canadian Provinces (13) are multipliers.**
- c. District of Columbia is considered Maryland.
- d. Non-North American countries may be worked for QSO count only.
- e. Canada, USA, Mexico, Central America, Caribbean Sea area islands are all multiplier countries.

At a minimum you must log the following: DATE, TIME, CALLSIGN, NAME, BAND, MODE, and STATE/PROVINCE/COUNTRY.

Maximum power out is 100 watts PEP

TOTAL SCORE CALCULATION: send the following data to kg0dx at arrl.net who will tally the scores and issue a club summary. The data needs to be in KG0DX's hands no later than January 25...thanks.

1-Number of Bands with at least one contact:

2-Number of States/Provinces/Countries contacted:

3-Total number of QSOs made:

FINAL SCORE = 1 x 2 x 3 = TOTAL