



# OPEN MIC

A NEWSLETTER OF THE  
RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W0ALX

FEBRUARY 2017

W0ALX RARC, 15125 160<sup>th</sup> Ave, Villard, Minnesota 56385-2350

[www.w0alx.org](http://www.w0alx.org)

Alexandria Rpt: 146.790- (146.2)

442.025+ (88.5)

Sauk Centre Rpt: 147.255+

## **REMEMBER FEBRUARY 11**

**8AM COFFEE/BREAKFAST, BRASS LANTERN, ALEXANDRIA**

**10AM RARC MEETING, GLENWOOD STATE BANK, ALEXANDRIA**

**The program for the February RRC meeting will be  
a 25 min video titled World of Amateur Radio. This is a classic  
16mm film that was recently discovered. Don't miss it!!**

## **PRESIDENTIAL SPLATTER...**

First of all, a Thank You to Wayne WA0EBZ for serving as our club President for the last couple years and bringing us several great programs. So now here we are in a new year with most of it still in front of us. I suppose the upcoming months will have many challenges and opportunities for us both personally and hopefully in our shared hobby/service. Have any thoughts on what you might consider engaging in with the opportunities coming your way? I'm reminded of what President Kennedy said in his inaugural address, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Substitute the word "club" for "country" and you know what I'm getting at.

Here are some thoughts (no particular order) on what we could do as a well functioning club: (I'm sure you might want to add more)

1. Sponsor a TECHNICIAN LICENSING CLASS.
2. Revive the WOW SPECIAL EVENT.
3. Consider CONTESTING as a bona-fide amateur radio activity.
4. Host an OPEN HOUSE ON AMATEUR RADIO for the community.
5. Develop and implement a routine PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM.
6. Increase our active presence at the COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER.
7. Explore ways to make our COMMUNICATION SKILLS AVAILABLE TO OUR COMMUNITY.
8. Pursue fund raising through PRESENTATIONS TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.

On another level, our past President asked us what we'll do NEW in 2017. Seriously, are you learning and growing within this wonderful hobby? It's real easy to get stale and coast along with the notion that there is not much more room for growth. Look around, you'd be surprised at the ways in which you can be involved....we'd love to have you along for the ride.

Until next time, 73 Bill KG0DX

**PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING.** Make checks out to Runestone Radio Club. Individual \$25, Family \$35, Associate \$20, Student \$5. Cash works too! Honestly, it takes money to keep repeaters going, provide swr RARC operations, insurance and a number of other club activities. Thank you for supporting your local amateur radio club. (To see your club membership status go to [www.w0alx.org](http://www.w0alx.org), click on Members, scroll down the spreadsheet, find your name, and scroll over to Paid Up years). You may also send checks directly to Mike Thomas W0MKE, 1821 So 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Sauk Centre, MN 56378.

## **RUNESTONE ARC MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 21**

1. Present: WA0EBZ, N0RCL, N0QXM, W0MKE, KC0TAF, N0MIC, KG0DX, W7ISD, KB0INZ, KD0UTA, Jake Cole and Micah Cole
2. President WA0EBZ promptly called the meeting to order at 10am on January 21, 2017
3. Last months minutes were referenced, approval motion by KC0TAF, seconded by W7ISD, passed.
4. WA0EBZ present treasury summary: income \$100, expenses \$43, balance \$3219.00; approval motion by W0MKE, seconded by KC0TAF, passed.
5. No Education Report at this time.
6. Technical Report (WB0KUG/WA0EBZ): the recently purchased Fusion repeater was installed using the default settings; let WB0KUG know if any of the settings need to be adjusted. The Fusion is fully paid for with existing funds. Note that the 440 antenna needs to be replaced and installed this coming Spring. WB0KUG and WA0EBZ cleaned up the radio room for the repeater and secured the club's equipment.
7. Trustee Report (KB0INZ): the new tone 146.2 for the 79 repeater will be forwarded by the Trustee to the Repeater Council.
8. Old Business:
  - a. WA0EBZ noted that a second letter has been sent to Norm Bakken regarding disposal of the SuperLink equipment and that there has been no response as yet.
  - b. WA0EBZ reported on the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration during 2016. There were three events: one in Alexandria, one in Sauk Centre and one at Kensington Runestone Park. There were 42 total QSOs (20 states, Portugal and Canada). Only two QSL requests.
  - c. The purchase of a cargo type trailer was raised; no action at this time.
9. New Business:
  - a. N0RCL presented \$250 to the club as a result of the sale of the club's Eskimo Ice Shelter. He did not have permission to conduct this sale. There was a heated discussion regarding how this situation will be resolved. In the end, the \$250 was returned to N0RCL and the entire issue was tabled for further decision making until the next monthly meeting.
  - b. Apparently the Monday Night Net is unable to find ops to be NC for these weekly sessions, therefore, the Round Robin – Rag Chew style will be used henceforth.
  - c. Noted that the St.Cloud Hamfest is being held on the same date as our scheduled Feb monthly meeting. KG0DX moved to move our meeting date, KC0TAF seconded, passed. [ed: was set to Feb 11 based on bank input]
  - d. W7ISD moved to accept the mast material from a source in Sauk Centre (ten 10' sections), W0MKE seconded, passed. KC0TAF moved that items be made available to individual club members at \$10 per section, seconded by W7ISD, passed. KG0DX will contact source.
10. General consensus that band conditions have been poor to very bad. Note that Winter Field Day will be Jan 28/29 and the Minnesota QSO Party is on Feb 4.
11. Financial records were audited by W0MKE and KG0DX; all was found in order and so reported to the meeting.
12. Election of 2017 Officers as follows:

Director: Wayne WB0KUG  
President: Bill KG0DX  
Vice President: Wayne WA0EBZ  
Secretary: Jim KB0INZ  
Treasurer: Mike W0MKE  
Technical Director: Wayne WB0KUG  
Public Info Officer: Andy KC0SAL

13. Motion by KD0TAF to adjourn, seconded by W7ISD, passed.

### **2017 MONDAY NITE NET CONTROLS**

We have no formal net controls for the present time, consequently, we'll be using a "round robin-rag chew" procedure. So far, so good.....come join the talk.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Feb 4: 8:30: Coffee/Breakfast, Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre

Feb 4: 8am -6pm, MINNESOTA QSO PARTY

Feb 11: 8am Coffee/Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria

Feb 11: 10am RARC Monthly Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria

Feb 18: 9-1 St. Cloud Hamfest, St. Ben's College, St. Joseph

Mar 4: 8:30: Coffee/Breakfast, Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre

Mar 18: 8am Coffee/Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria

Mar 18: 10am RARC Monthly Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria

### **BEREVEMENT NOTICE:**

Open Mic received the following letter from Lawrence Christensen's daughter....

"Dear Runestone Radio Club,

I regret to inform you of my father, Lawrence Christensen's death, on Dec 31, 2016. Dad really enjoyed the meeting minutes and letter you sent. He especially liked it when you had the joke section on the end of the letters. I also enjoyed them while I was reading them to him even though I do not understand most of the radio jargon. I appreciate you making him a life member.

Sincerely,

Annette Mammenga, Lawrence's daughter"

(Lawrence N0SRX was a long time member of RARC. He and his wife Rosie lived most of their years in the Farwell area. He was also an aviation enthusiast.)

### **QUOTES TO PONDER AND REMEMBER:**

Experience enables you to recognize a mistake every time you repeat it.

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.