



OPEN MIC



A NEWSLETTER OF THE
RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W0ALX

W0ALX RARC, 2301 S Le Homme Dieu Drive NE, Alexandria, MN 56308
www.arrl.org www.w0alx.org Repeaters: 146.790 Alexandria; 147.255 Sauk Centre

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 18, 2014

Minutes of the Runestone Radio Club

Club President Bill Klundt called the meeting to order at 7:02PM in the Conference Room of Glenwood State Bank in Alexandria, Minnesota

Attendance: Jim Horn(KB0INZ); Wayne Johanson(WA0EBZ); Roger Haffner(KD0UTA); George Schouweiler(N0RCL); Mike Thomas(W0MKE); Norm Priebe(W7ISD); Tom Kilian(KD0MOM); Jan Kilian(KD0RAV); Maggie Van Havermaet(N0NYV); Dick Fjeld(N0CE); Norm Yeutter(W0KCJ); Rick Lukanen(KC0UTN); Bill Klundt(KG0DX)

Minutes of meeting of January 21, 2014 as printed in "Open Mic" were approved.

Treasurer's Report (W0KCJ):

General Fund: \$3133.70+\$195.00-\$178.03=\$3150.67

Coffee Cash: \$270.18+\$2.60= \$272.78

Technical Report: Dick has been working on the repeater power supply.

Education Report: Dick(N0CE) will present the topic "Astron Power Supplies" at the March meeting

Discussions:

Club vests to be obtained by Mike Wisniewski; Dipole at EOC must be "commercially made"; MNQP contest went well; Those who bought Alden's equipment need to turn in the money; Field Day possibilities; W1AW/0 participation in June will be coordinated by MN Wireless Association; "Open Mic" format will be revised by Bill Klundt; Website access; Results of Bill's survey - Bd. of Directors will use this to work on priorities for the club. New Business: The Treasurer's books need to be audited. George Schouweiler and Rick Lukanen volunteered to do this.

Adjourned

Program: Tom Kilian gave a presentation on "D-Star"

MARCH 2014

MEMBERSHIP: Individual \$25, Family \$35, Associate \$20, Student \$5. If you haven't already done so, please send your dues to Norm Yeutter W0KCJ, 2301 S. Le Homme Dieu Dr NE, Alexandria, MN 56308. To check your membership status go to www.w0alx.org, click on Membership, scroll to the right and look for Paid 2014 in the far right column.

**MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 18, 2014
GLENWOOD STATE BANK-ALEX
7:00pm**

**PROGRAM: THE CARE AND
FEEDING OF POWER SUPPLIES -
DICK N0CE**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mar 1:	8:30am Coffee Truckers Inn Sauk Centre
Mar 17,24,31	7:00pm 146.790 net, NC NN0Q
Mar 15	8:30am Coffee Brass Lantern Alexandria
Mar 18	7:00pm Monthly Club Meeting Glenwood State Bank, Alex
Mar 29	Mid-Winter Madness, Buffalo
Apr 5	8:30am Coffee Truckers Inn Sauk Centre
Apr 7,14,21,28	7:00pm 146.79 net, NC NN0Q
Apr 15	7:00pm Monthly Club Meeting Glenwood State Bank, Alex
Apr 19	8:30am Coffee Brass lantern Alexandria
Apr 19	Brainerd Hamfest

FCC TO REINSTATE MORSE CODE TEST

"It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits FCC official

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2014 - Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. "It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014.

"This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

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2014 NET CONTROL AND MEETING GOODIES

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>	<u>GOODIES</u>
JANUARY	KC0UTN/NN0Q	KG0DX
FEBRUARY	W0KCJ	W0KCJ
MARCH	NN0Q	N0CE
APRIL	N0RCL	KD0UTA
MAY	KD0MOM	KD0RAV
JUNE	KB0INZ	N0NYV

(in May we'll work out the remainder of the schedule)

2014 RARC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

KG0DX Bill	President
W7ISD Norm	Vice-President
W0KCJ Norm	Treasure / Trustee
KB0INZ Jim	Secretary
open	Technical Director
KC0UTN Ric	Education Director
W7ISD Norm	Director (2015)
N0QXM Nick	Director (2016)
W0JAR John	Director (2017)

PRESIDENTIAL SPLATTER...

Are you able to stay current with developments in amateur radio these days? I subscribe to two radio type magazines, check out the ARRL web site as often as I can and try to listen to what others are doing. Still, I feel like I'm falling behind. Had a boss many years ago who often said, "The harder I try, the behinder I get.", maybe there was something to that statement. What this boils down to for me is that I'm grateful for hams like Tom KD0MOM who was willing to enlighten our group on D-Star developments, and Dick N0CE who will be sharing the ins and outs of power supply construction at our March meeting. Hope you are able to be there.

Of course not all amateur radio developments have immediate use in our particular situation or conditions. Thus, the exposure to new ideas, concepts, modifications and applications are what make our civilization what it is. Hopefully, better for the most part. There's always something new in our great hobby and public service opportunities. .

Enough for this time.....Bill KG0DX

-73-

TEACHER: Clyde , your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's.. Did you copy his?

CLYDE : No, sir. It's the same dog.

(KB6NU cont)

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov.

APRIL FOOLS

**VE TESTING
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 5PM
GLENWOOD STATE BANK**

**ALL LEVELS
\$15 FOR MATERIAL**

ALL VE's ARE WELCOME

**RUNESTONE RADIO CLUB MTG
FOLLOWS AT 7PM**

C U THERE!