



# OPEN MIC

A NEWSLETTER OF THE  
RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W0ALX

MARCH 2016

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

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## SATURDAY, MARCH 19

8AM COFFEE/BREAKFAST AT BRASS LANTERN, ALEXANDRIA

10AM RUNESTONE ARC MONTHLY CLUB MEETING  
GLENWOOD STATE BANK, ALEXANDRIA

### PRESIDENTIAL SPLATTER...

April 1<sup>st</sup> - WASHINGTON, District of Columbia – In an unprecedented move, the federal agency that oversees the country's communications policies has established a national ham radio QRM (a.k.a. interference) frequency. The Federal Communications Commission has earmarked 14.313 MHz as the newly designated position on the 20 meter radio band.

“The Commission has taken a unique approach on this issue,” says FCC spokesman Matilda Blackburn. “There is already so much QRM on this frequency; it seems to be a logical decision.”

The Commission requests that hams desiring to create unnecessary QRM migrate to this frequency over the next few weeks. “We hope to have this frequency available to the general amateur radio community very soon.” says Blackburn.

But one ham radio operator, Johnson Thomasfeld of Springfield, Florida, is doubtful the idea will catch on. “I enjoy tuning up on top of on-going QSOs on 80, 40 and 15 meters, too. It's an integral part of my enjoyment of the hobby. I'm sure my friends feel the same way. If you limit us to ONLY 14.313 MHz...well, that's just not fair.”

Amateur radio operator Phillip Buccolo of Red Vine, California, objects for a different reason. “When I get on the air with one of my diatribes about the One-World government, I certainly don't want to be QRM'd by someone else. Where's my right to free speech!? IS THAT BEING TAKEN AWAY, TOO!?”

The Commission says profanity, grand-standing, self-aggrandizement, politics, religion, raspy and/or poor-quality signals will all be allowed – and in fact, encouraged – on 14.313 MHz. Blackburn adds that there no plans for official monitoring nor enforcement of the QRM standards; hams are expected to “self-police” the frequency.

I would like to thank the AREC official Newsletter “Wireless Dispatch of Honolulu Hawaii” for this information. 73, WA0EBZ

## RUNESTONE ARC MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 20, 2016

Meeting was called to order by President Wayne WA0EBZ at 10:00am.

Persons present: Wayne WA0EBZ, Roger KD0UTA, Jim KB0INZ, Andy KC0SAL, Mike W0MKE, Dave W0XPC, Alden N0MIC, Norm W7ISD, Wayne WB0KUG, George N0RCL, John W0JAR, and Bill KG0DX

January meeting minutes were referenced; motion by W0MKE to approve, W0XPC seconded, passed.

Treasure Report-W0JAR: Beg Balance \$3326.40, credit \$85.00 (dues), debit \$53.68 (flowers), End Balance \$3357.52. motion by KG0DX to approve, KB0INZ seconded, passed.

Technical Report-WB0KUG: all repeaters appear to be functioning well. If you notice a problem with the Viking Tower repeaters please call Wayne WB0KUG at 320-852-9108 to advise him regarding the problem.

WA0EBZ read a thank you note from the Yeutter family thanking the RARC for the flowers which had been sent to the memorial service.

### Old Business:

a. WA0EBZ reported that he was unable to deal with the SuperLink equipment issue as he has been ill. He did determine that the Bertha/Hewitt group may be interested.

b. W0MKE reported that we'll most likely go with Go Daddy to host our website citing low cost, useful features and overall reliability.

c. W7ISD reported that he continues to work with NOCE to better understand the computer/repeater interface at Viking Tower.

d. Noted that we need to change the club address on the Open Mic header due to a change in Trustee.

e. WA0EBZ outlined his expectations for the year long celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of the RARC. Among other things he commented on hosting several mini operational sessions after club meetings (1-2 hours) as well as other extended activities. Details to be developed.

### New Business:

a. W0MKE reported that he and KG0DX placed W0ALX into operation for Winter Field Day 2016. They indicated they had a good time and there was lots of activity on the bands. Log was submitted to the WFD Association.

b. WB0KUG detailed operations during the MNQP on February 6. RARC had fewer participants this year due to personal conflicts, but logs were still submitted.

c. WA0EBZ and others attended the St. Cloud hamfest this year, in fact the RARC had a decent turnout. Lots of radio equipment and related supplies along with some computers. Most of the usual suspects were in attendance.

d. March 12, 8am, Mid Winter Madness at Buffalo.

e. Next months Program will feature Andy KC0SAL.

f. WA0EBZ reviewed the situation with the club's VE Manager passing away in December. Since there was no volunteer to assume these duties the decision was made to return the Field Supply of VE materials to the ARRL VEC.

g. W7ISD spoke of the Ships to Shore recent activation. He will let the membership know when they are again on the air (via the W0ALX reflector).

h. Interested hams can find all the necessary information regarding National Parks On The Air at the ARRL website with keyword NPOTA. You will be able to locate all the units on specific dates, times and frequencies as they are posted by the "activators." Good luck and have fun with the 400+ NP units.

i. N0RCL agreed to be the July Net Control for Monday nights 2 meter net.

Adjournment motion by W0XPC, seconded by KD0UTA, passed.

Submitted by KG0DX, Secretary

Program by KG0DX:

A. Bill handed out a "crossword" type project for members to work on. Members are to report at the March meeting all the HF contacts they made and using the characters in those callsigns to spell out SAINT PATRICKS DAY.

B. The main program consisted of a video on homebrewing a buddpole type antenna. Appears to be a very doable project and the video generated a considerable amount of discussion including the possibility of making one as a club project.

**DUES ARE DUE AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING.** If you've already done so, thank you very much. If you cannot be there please remit dues to John Ross W0JAR, 11577 Maple Springs Drive SE, Alexandria, MN 56308. Make checks out to Runestone Radio Club. Individual \$25, Family \$35, Associate \$20, Student \$5. Thank you for supporting your local amateur radio club.

**DID YOU KNOW** that Winston Churchill loved paraprosdokians, figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is ... surprising or unexpected. Read on.....

1. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
2. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
3. War does not determine who is right – only who is left.

**2016 MONDAY NITE NET CONTROLS** (we sure could use some Net Control assistance, don't be bashful, pick a month and let Bill KG0DX know when you can help out)

January Tom KD0MOM  
February Jim KB0INZ

March Bill KG0DX  
April Mike W0MKE  
May Roger KD0UTA  
June  
July George N0RCL  
August  
September Jim NN0Q  
October George N0RCL  
November  
December

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mar 19: 8am Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria  
Mar 19: 10am Runestone Monthly Club Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria  
Mar 21,28: 7pm W0ALX 2 Meter Net, NC KG0DX  
Apr 2: 8am Breakfast Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre  
Apr 4,11,18,25: 7pm W0ALX 2 Meter Net, NC W0MKE  
Apr 16: 8am Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria  
Apr 16: 10am Runestone Monthly Club Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria  
Apr 16: 9am Brainerd Hamfest, Armory

### **2016 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**

Wayne WA0EBZ PRESIDENT  
Norm W7ISD VICE-PRESIDENT  
John W0JAR TREASURE  
Bill KG0DX SECRETARY  
Wayne WB0KUG TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
John W0JAR DIRECTOR (2017)  
Mike W0MKE DIRECTOR (2018)  
Norm W7ISD DIRECTOR (2019)  
Andy KC0SAL PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

### **DO NOT MISS THE RUNESTONE CLUB PROGRAM ON MARCH 19.....**

Andy KC0SAL will be the presenter.....