



OPEN MIC

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W0ALX

APRIL 2017

W0ALX RARC, 15125 160th Ave, Villard, Minnesota 56385-2350

www.w0alx.org

Alexandria Rpt: 146.790- (146.2)

442.025+ (88.5)

Sauk Centre Rpt: 147.255+

REMEMBER APRIL 15

8AM COFFEE/BREAKFAST, BRASS LANTERN, ALEXANDRIA

10AM RARC MEETING, GLENWOOD STATE BANK, ALEXANDRIA

**PROGRAM: WA0EBZ WILL SHOW AND TELL US ABOUT THE RESTORATION OF AN
“ANCIENT” RADIO RECEIVER**

PRESIDENTIAL SPLATTER...

Here we are again, been having some difficulty with my two meter antenna setup. At the moment it's on the ground awaiting inspection and/or repair and/or replacement. We'll see what Mother Nature has done to the inner workings of the 450 ohm J-pole inside a 5 foot piece of PVC (of course my poor workmanship wouldn't have anything to do with it). Do you have antenna work to be done before the hustle and bustle of summer begins? Pretty sure most of us do but it's increasingly difficult to find the motivation/ambition to move in that direction. As I'm writing this it is suppose to snow a bit so I have no handy excuse for not opening up that J-pole for inspection.

Have the shack itself in pretty good shape for the summer. It's odd though, there are three functional radios available at any time and there's only ONE of me. What gives? Perhaps it boils down to the fact that I did it because I could. Sometimes things are about that simple. We are about one third into the year and I'm wondering what have you done within the hobby that's NEW TO YOU? Have you tried any of the digital modes, how about attempting a contact with the ISS, how does SSTV look and sound, maybe you dusted off the old straight key or paddle, did you fire up the old boat anchor and warm up the capacitors, or perhaps you went in a different direction. I did attempt some AM on April 1 and 2, it didn't go well with just 25 watts, but it's the effort that counts, right? Tell us what you tried at our next club meeting on April 15...see you there.

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, 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 2nd St, Sauk Centre, MN 56378.

RUNESTONE ARC MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 18

Present: WA0EBZ, KG0DX, W0MKE, KD0UTA, N0QRM, N0RCL, WB0KUG, KB0INZ, KC9CRM, KC0TAF, and W7ISD.

1. President KG0DX called the meeting to order at 10am on March 18, 2017
2. Last months minutes were referenced, 1 correction by KUG, approval motion by KC0TAF, seconded by WB0KUG, passed.
3. W0MKE presented the treasury summary: Starting balance \$3394, income \$310, no expenses, ending balance \$3704.00; approval motion by KC0TAF, seconded by KD0UTA, passed.
4. Trustee Report (KB0INZ): The new tone 146.2 for the 79 repeater have been forwarded to the Repeater Council.
5. Technical Report: WB0KUG reported that the 2 mtr repeaters seem to be working well..
6. Monthly Programs: WA0EBZ reported that all months were filled except April. He will provide the April program.
7. No PIO report
8. Old Business:
 - a. Discussion of the short tail on our Alex. Repeater. - It can not be adjusted.
 - b. Discussion of looking for a cargo trailer for the club – subject is still active
 - c. Club owned 10' Radio Shack masts for sale – KD0MOM will take 5, KC0TAF will take 1, RRC will retain 4 (they are \$10 each).
 - d. Superlink equipment status updated by WA0EBZ
 - e. KG0DX reported that the proposed sale of our IC761 didn't take place.
 - f. RRC equipment inventory list with est values – N0RCL has a 10 year old list he will update with input from club members.
 - g. Discussion on battery backup and backup AC power in repeater room (Alex). WB0KUG will talk with maintenance on backup power (no battery backup).
 - h. Discussion on Clubs Focus lead by KG0DX – Many ideas discussed. KC9CRM suggested focusing on recruiting licensed hams in the area as new members. Motion to table discussion till next meeting / WA0EBZ, 2nd KC0TAF – Passed.
9. New Business:
 - a. KC0TAF – Mama Marla's needs communicators this year, May 20th. He previously sent a request for volunteers via the W0ALX reflector. Breakfast at Country Side in LP at 7:00AM, arrive in Clotho for the event by 9:30AM, start 10:00AM.
 - b. Discussion of Field Day 2017, June 24-25, where should we hold the event? Motion by WA0EBZ to table until next meeting, 2nd W7ISD
 - c. Discussion on condition of our current trailer. The wheel bearings need to be inspected and greased before FD use. Motion by WA0EBZ, 2nd KC0TAF to hold the June meeting at KB0INZ's house and use it as a working meeting to achieve the task. Motion Passed (after the meeting OK'd by INZ's wife). KC0TAF will provide the WB grease and KC9CRM some tools.
 - d. W0MKE received an e-mail about our Fusion Repeater and future linking via wires. N0QXM will look up information..
 - e. KG0DX discussed a letter from DX Engineering offering a 30 – 40 min power point presentation to the club via Skype. N0QXM and KC0TAF said they could facilitate the internet connection via their phones.
 - f. Discussion on Ham Band conditions and events.
 - g. Discussion on American Legion activity on Ham Radio.
 - h. Special operating events through out the month, check in QST.
 - i. KC0TAF - Sky Warn Spotter Training in Long Prairie, April 1st, 9:00 - Noon

10. Motion by KC0TAF to adjourn, seconded by KD0UTA, Passed.
11. The March Technical / Informational program follows – Provided by KG0DX

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Apr 15: 8am Coffee/Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria
Apr 15: 10am RARC Monthly Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria
Apr 22: Brainerd Area Hamfest, Nat'l Guard Armory, Talk-in 147.225+
Apr 29: Twin Cities FM Club Spring Tailgate, Plymouth, Talk-in 146.76 (114.8)
May 6: 8:30: Coffee/Breakfast, Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre
May 20: 8am Coffee/Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria
May 20: 10am RARC Monthly Mtg, Glenwood State Bank, Alexandria

FUNNY STUFF:

There were three of us talking at a club meeting. Two of them were talking about their wives, while the I remained quiet.

After a while one of them turns to me and says, "Well, what about you, what sort of wife do you have?"

I answered, "I'll tell you. Just the other night my wife came to me on her hands and knees."

They were amazed. "What happened then?" they asked. She said, "get out from under the bed and fight like a man."

73 de NORCL, Rural Holmes City.

CLUB OFFICERS / DIRECTORS

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|--------------------|---|
| President | Bill KG0DX |
| Vice President | Wayne WA0EBZ |
| Secretary/Treasure | Jim KB0INZ |
| Treasure | Mike W0MKE |
| Technical Dir | Wayne WB0KUG |
| Pub Info Off | Andy KC0SAL |
| Program Mgr | Wayne WA0EBZ |
| Directors | Wayne WB0KUG (20), Norm W7ISD (19), Mike W0MKE (18) |