



OPEN MIC



A NEWSLETTER OF THE
RUNESTONE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W0ALX

W0ALX RARC, 2301 S Le Homme Dieu Drive NE, Alexandria, MN 56308
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DECEMBER 2015

SPECIAL EDITION

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHEN: DECEMBER 1 (6PM SOCIAL; 6:30 BUFFET)

WHERE: FORADA SUPPER CLUB

COST: \$9.00 (includes tax) (bar bev and tip extra)

MENU: SMOKED RIBS, CHICKEN, POTATOES/GRAVY,
VEGETABLE, DESSERT, COFFEE

DOOR PRIZES TOO!

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21 RARC MEETING

Members Present: Jim Horn(KB0INZ); Mike Thomas(W0MKE); Roger Haffner(KD0UTA); George Schouweiler(N0RCL); Norman Yuetter(W0KCJ); Wayne Johanson(WA0EBZ); Andrew Ring(KC0SAL); Dave Bartlow(W0XPC); Bill Klundt(KG0DX); Norm Priebe(N0ISD)

Meeting called to order at 10:07AM by Wayne Johanson

Minutes Approved as printed in "Open Mic" newsletter.
N7ISD/W0KCJ

Treasurer's report: \$3562.03 +\$0.00 -\$200 = \$3362.03
Approved: KG0DX/W0XDC

Trustee Report: Nothing new to report.

Old Business:

Nominations: The Board of Directors met prior to the meeting and worked on nominations. Wayne Johanson will contact Wayne Johnson about serving as Technical Director. At present only Dick Fjeld and Norm Yuetter have keys to the Viking Tower (location of our repeaters).

Douglas County Community Partners: Dave Bartlow needs to get notes on the meeting. There will be emergency exercises, possibly with as little as a one week notice.

Todd County: EBZ attended the Todd County Community Partners meeting, a MARS / Ham Radio cross band exercise was discussed. There was a discussion (among our group) about "electromagnetic pulse disasters".

Cargo trailer for the Club: Discussion about sizes and costs. Dave Bartlow will continue to explore the possibilities.

Christmas Party: Dec.1 at Forada Supper Club: 6:00PM start; eat about 6:30PM. See email or Open Mic. To come before then.

VE testing: It was observed that we'd not held a testing session for many months.

New Business: Discussion about Winter Field day at Runestone Park.

Adjourned (W0KCJ/KC0SAL)

PRESIDENTIAL SPLATTER.....

Election of club officers and directors is only one month away. The board of directors acted as the nominating committee this year and it appears that we have a full slate of officers and directors ready for voting on in January. This past year has gone by very quickly with this being my 11th Presidential Splatter appearing in OPEN MIC. Some of the content was serious and other times fun with a bit of spoofing.

I'm not sure if Open MIC is being published prior to our Christmas Party on December 1st or later in the month. If it is early, I hope that all of our 2015 members can make it to this years Christmas Party. If it is published later in the month, I hope all of you had a wonderful time at the party.

January is time to open your wallet or pocket book and join RRC for another year. The club can't exist with out you!

A cheerful and joyous Christmas to all of our Runestone Radio Club family. May your New Year be filled with rare DX, open bands, many fun filled rag chews, 59 or 599 signal reports, straight towers, and antennas that stay up and working.

73; Wayne (wa0ebz)

2015 RARC OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT WAYNE WA0EBZ
VICE PRESIDENT NORM W7ISD
TREASURE NORM W0KCJ
SECRETARY JIM KB0INZ

DIRECTOR(2015) NORM W7ISD
DIRECTOR(2016) BILL KG0DX
DIRECTOR(2017) JOHN W0JAR

HERE'S ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW:

Kids are Not the Future of Ham Radio

By Bob Witte, K0NR

You've heard it a million times: our kids are the future. That statement gets applied to almost everything, including amateur radio. How can you argue with an obvious fact like that?

But I am starting to think it is incorrect.

We've had really good success on creating new hams of My hypothesis is that the most effective way of

all ages in our Technician License Class (at the Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association). We've been doing this for a while now and I think I am seeing a pattern emerge. We've been able to attract middle schoolers to the class and help them get their ham radio license. I've talked to many of them on the air. They've helped out with public service events. They seem to have fun playing with radios.

Then this thing called high school happens. The high school phase in the US is filled with tons of stuff to do: studying, homework, AP classes, science competitions, sports, dating, movies, driving and after school jobs. Way too much stuff. Ham radio starts to take a backseat to these normal high school activities. Then we don't see the kids at the radio club meetings or chatting on the local repeater because they are busy doing other things. Have we lost them forever? Not sure.

High school is often followed by college which has its own set of challenges: a totally new environment, away from home, a new set of people, new studies, etc. There might be a ham radio club on campus but maybe not. If a kid is not off to college they are (hopefully) out doing something to establish themselves in this world. Eventually they emerge on the other side, get a job, get themselves established, sometimes with a spouse and maybe a kid or two. By this time they are 25 to 30 years old, depending on the individual.

I recently posted about the demographics of our students in the Tech License Class (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/10/where-are-the-new-technicians-coming-from/>). The chart below shows the age distribution of our students from our most recent class. Hmm, clearly most of our students are 30 or older. (Sorry, we have not collected age data with finer resolution.) This particular class is light on the under 18 crowd...sometimes we have a clump of kids in the mix.

For whatever reason, it seems that most people find themselves in a situation as an adult that causes them to say "I want to get my ham radio license." When asked why they want to get their ham license, the top response is always emergency/disaster communications, followed by backcountry communications, pursuing electronics as a hobby and learning about radio communications. I suspect that starting to be established in a community and having some disposable income also play a role.

growing a vibrant ham radio community is to target adults ages 25 to 40.

This age range is more equipped and ready to be ham radio operators and are still young enough that they will be around for a while. Of course, we still want to work with all age groups, including kids and retirees. We've all seen very young hams get the bug for ham radio early and carry it throughout their life. And we also see plenty of older folks get interested in the hobby as they approach or enter retirement. We don't want to miss out on either of those groups.

So that's my read on the situation. I've got some data to support my theory but I can't really prove it. What do you think? What are you seeing in your ham radio community?

Bob Witte, K0NR, blogs about amateur radio at K0NR.Com. You can find this post at <http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/11/kids-not-the-future/>. You can e-mail him at bob@k0nr.com. He is also on Twitter: @K0NR.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Nov 30: 7pm W0ALX 2 meter net, W0KCJ NC
- Dec 1: 6pm Christmas Party at Forada Supper Club
- Dec 5: 8am Breakfast, Truckers Inn, Sauk Centre
- Dec 7,14,21,28: 7pm W0ALX 2 meter net, KD0AAA (1st and 3rd Mondays; need NC for 14th and 28th)
- Dec 19: 8am Breakfast, Brass Lantern, Alexandria
- Dec 19: NO MONTHLY CLUB MEETING
- Dec 25: Christmas Day

HELP: We still need Monday evening Net Controls for Dec 14 and 28. Who can help?

<u>2015 NET CONTROL ROSTER</u>	
JANUARY	N0CE
FEBRUARY	W0KCJ
MARCH	N0RCL
APRIL	KD0UTA
MAY	KB0INZ
JUNE	KG0DX
JULY	KD0MOM
AUGUST	NN0Q
SEPTEMBER	KG0DX
OCTOBER	W0MKE
NOVEMBER	W0KCJ
DECEMBER	KD0AAA (1 st & 3 rd Mon)