

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGS COUNTY RADIO CLUB

KCRC



February 2017

The Ridiculously Abridged Edition

Volume 4, Issue 2^A

Minutes of the February 2017 KCRC Meeting, February 1st, 2017

Our February “Pre-Meeting Question and Answer Session” was less structured this month and amounted to a series of observational conversations by those present. Every “pre-meeting” session is turning out different than the ones that preceded it before.

The monthly meeting was called to order at 8 PM, by our President, Mitch N2RGA. Also present at tonight’s meeting were Vice President Howard N2GOT, Treasurer Richard KA2KDQ, General Secretary Roy AC2GS, Executive Board Members at Large Howard K2IGJ and Milen N2NYU, Simon KD2LQE, Andy WA2GDS, and a new visitor Mark, who is planning to take his Tech license during our next VE Session on March 19th.

A motion was presented to accept the Minutes of the January Meeting, and was passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report—Richard KA2KDQ, reported that our Treasury currently has \$938.47 in assets in our bank account, and \$360.51 in our Club PayPal account. We presently have 50 Club Members, and 60% of our members have paid their 2017 dues! (Please pay your 2017 dues, if you haven’t yet— either by PayPal thru the website, or by a check to our Treasurer Richard KA2KDQ).

2 Meter Report—Richard KA2KDQ reported that the 2 Meter Net was doing well, with an average of a dozen check-ins each week.

10 Meter Report—Our Net Control operator, Milen N2NYU reported that the 10 Meter Net is consistently showing more than a dozen check-ins each week. Last week this included a check-in from Puerto Rico, during which the annual ARRL Puerto Rico State Convention, being held that very day, was discussed. Milen’s signal has grown stronger now that he has his new linear amplifier online. If you can put out a 10 Meter signal, please consider checking into our weekly Sunday 10 Meter Net and participating in it with us!

Old News: Our most recent, very successful, VE Session was January 22nd. We had seven examinees—three people earned their Technician class license (including our own Milen N2NYU’s XYL—although I think she still qualifies as a YL), two went from license-less to General class licenses, and our own Andy WA2GDS has earned his Extra class license. James KB2FMH took his place on the permanent rolls of the VE Committee and was a great addition to the crew! We have arranged for a series of bi-monthly VE Sessions for 2017—they are March 19th, May 21st, July 16th, September 17th, and November 19th. **The September 17th VE Session will begin at 2:30 PM, due to a scheduling conflict**, but all other dates will begin at 1 PM in the Executive Dining Room of the New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. The Club is always looking for new VE’s to join our VE Sessions, as well as assistant and/or co-Liaison VE Officers. For ANY interested individuals, please contact any Executive Member of the Club, or the return email address for these emails of our Club Meeting’s minutes. People took time out of their busy lives to help get you licensed - pass on the favor!

January’s KCRC TechNet was successful. The next installment will be February 8th, and we hope that every Club member will attend and tell their friends to tune in as well. If our efforts continue to be well received, we intend to extend to a bi-weekly schedule (2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month). Anyone with new Net ideas?

We presently have 50 members in our club, 60% of our members have paid their 2017 Dues. If you haven’t already paid your 2017 dues, PLEASE do so. The money is all used to improve this hobby for all our members. Information on dues payments are covered on the coversheet of these Minutes, as well as on our Club website, www.KingsCountyRadioClub.com.

Mitch N2RGA reported that the Repeater has not required any work in the past month. We are still expecting a “friend of the club” to do an evaluation of the Repeater and check the duplexers. There have been some outside comments that our digital Fusion/C4FM signal is a bit too wide—this will also be evaluated at the time of our Repeater’s technical “tune-up”.

We are cross promoting our VE Sessions with the local ARES VE Sessions. What this entails is that the usual handout given to all VE examinees at the end of their KCRC Sponsored VE test, (these handouts include helpful

information about their new hobby and the Kings County Radio Club), will now include information about the local ARES group as well. Unfortunately, the ARES VE group cancelled their January session. Their next session will be in March.

The subject of our unrecovered Club QSL cards was again discussed. Our ex-member Juan KC2QNK has not responded to all attempts to contact him. The Executive Board has asked a “friend of the club” who has a relationship with QNK to see if he can facilitate the return of the Club’s property.

Personalized Club membership cards were designed and printed out on Avery card stock by Roy AC2GS and distributed to members attending today’s meeting. The remaining cards were given to Richard KA2KDQ, who will *snail mail* them to members who could not attend. Roy AC2GS suggested that as an additional inducement for early dues payments for next year, we will be offering free card lamination to those members that pay their 2018 dues **BEFORE** January 1st, 2018.

Field Day was discussed. Milen N2NYU offered to maintain a Google spreadsheet with items that would be useful for the next Field Day. We are planning for either a 2a or 3a designated Field Day. Antennas were discussed and a need to “keep it simple” and the need to decide upon the bands and modes for Field Day, before antenna plans can be finalized. Milen N2NYU suggested that this year we should have a radio set up for digital data modes.

New Business: Howard N2GOT wanted to advise the club that previous members of the Club, who worked very hard upon the Club’s and the hobby’s behalf, N2FOW and N2FOI had become Silent Keys and their relatives were interested to know if the Club would be interested in their equipment. Details to follow...

We will be doing another membership mailing drive in March. Roy AC2GS will organize the list of new licensees in the past 6 months for the metropolitan area, and Mitch N2RGA will generate the letters and mail them.

James KB2FMH posed a question for this meeting, regarding the Klondike Races and other local events that might offer venues to promote the Club as well as the hobby. Nothing was definitively decided upon, but all members were asked to keep their eyes open for local events and bring them to the Club for consideration.

Roy AC2GS reminded the members attending that the event with the largest number of technically enthusiastic and involved participants is the annual New York Maker’s Faire, which takes place in the Autumn near the Hall of Science in Queens. If we intend to do a presentation we cannot rely on an old radio transmitting to a Repeater, but something new and fresh that would engage the audience’s enthusiasm. Milen N2NYU suggested satellite communications or direction finding. Roy AC2GS urged the Club to consider this venue, but at the very least to try to attend this event to gain a better appreciation for the people that might be the future of this hobby!

During our last meeting Mitch N2RGA suggested that we plan for Technician Class Exam classes. Our new member of the VE Committee James KB2FMH is also a registered instructor with the ARRL as well as being experienced with teaching technical night courses and was very enthusiastic about the idea. The major stumbling block appears to be finding a source of class attendees—a review of similar requests that the Club has received amounts to 3-4 curious people scattered throughout the year, which would be insufficient to make such an effort viable. Howard N2GOT suggested an open request for people on our website to contact us if such a program would be of interest to them. James KB2FMH was very enthusiastic about gathering large attendees by way of organizing Amateur Radio Clubs throughout the New York City Public School system. Although James’ enthusiasm is commendable, most members felt that the Club’s resources, both in money, time and talent are insufficient for such an enormous project (and there is no indication that there is any interest outside of technical High Schools that already have such clubs). James will investigate whether there is any interest in the City Public School System, and Club members are asked to consider whether they have any good ideas where we could find people who would be interested in exam classes.

Roy AC2GS urged all members to ensure that they have a correct email address on file with the Club and to keep it available to other Club members, to read their emails regularly and to respond to them as warranted.

At 9:00 PM the meeting was adjourned, and at 9:45 PM the Hospital cleaning staff suggested that it was time for us all to go home.

See ya’ all in March!

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policies or positions of the Kings County Radio Club, its Executive Board, nor its General Membership.

These minutes were respectfully recorded and submitted by Roy AC2GS on this day, February 1st, in the two thousandth and seventeenth year of our Lord of Propagation...

The Kings County Radio Club is at www.KC2RC.com or
www.KingsCountyRadioClub.com
KCRC is an ARRL affiliated club (see: www.ARRL.org)

(AC2GS would like to thank all the people that maintain the program and the keyboard used to type these minutes, as well as those that supply his food and shelter.)