

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGS COUNTY RADIO CLUB

KCRC



July 2017

The Semi-Ridiculously Abridged Edition

Volume 4, Issue 7<sup>A</sup>

## Minutes of the July 2017 KCRC Meeting, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Our July “Pre-Meeting Question and Answer Session” was *tabled* for next month, due to a lack of questions.

The monthly meeting was called to order at 8:15 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 KG2C, Simon KD2LQE, Al, Daniel W5TAB, Andy WA2GDS and our brand new members Laura KB2VDV and Sam KC2LJC!

Treasurer Report—Richard KA2KDQ, reported that our Treasury currently has \$1,000.66 in assets in our bank account, and \$21.83 in our Club PayPal account, for a total of \$1,022.49. We have three new Club members since last month—Jason KD2LRX, Laura KB2VDV and Sam KC2LJC!

2 Meter Report—Richard KA2KDQ reported that the 2 Meter Net was doing well, with an average of 8 or 9 check-ins each week. The new, “refreshed” 2 Meter script was well received, but there was a discussion to make “questions of a technical nature” an option, because we already have a bi-weekly dedicated Technical Net. Roy AC2GS will *hone* the script a bit more.

10 Meter Report—Our Net Control operator, Milen KG2C reported an active Net, although recently propagation conditions have limited our long distance check-ins this past week.

KCRC TechNet —Our Net Control Operator and Host Roy AC2GS reported that the TechNet is doing well—some sessions are 1 1/4 hour, others going as long as 2 1/4 hours, depending upon the participation by people asking questions and others offering answers! We continue to have regular promotions for the TechNet during Club functions, local ARES VE Sessions, Big Apple NTS, and LIMARC’s newsletter!

Old News: Our next VE Session has been rescheduled from July 16th to July 23, so as not compete with the Sussex Amateur Radio Hamfest. Remember that the venue remains changed from our usual Executive Dining Room area for the next VE Session. It will be given at 501 6th Street, called Wesley House, in room 6B on the 6th floor (an elevator is available). The Club is always looking for new VE’s to join our VE Sessions. 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!

We presently have 52 Club Members in good standing!

Repeater status was reported by Mitch N2RGA—We are still awaiting a *friend of the Club*, Andy WA2CDL, who will give our repeater a good check up when he has time available in his busy schedule. The repeater is behaving very well lately, but Mitch would like our Club to consider an upgrade of our present 2 Meter Repeater antenna for one with perhaps more gain. We will discuss this with Andy WA2CDL, who has many decade’s experience with Amateur Repeaters and the general membership is asked to make Mitch aware of any great deals on a used antenna that would be suitable for our Repeater. Further details regarding Yaesu’s

upgrade of the DR-1X, the DR-2X are still not available, so we have tabled any discussion regarding whether an upgrade would be worth it for the Club.

Field Day was discussed. Howard N2GOT suggested that we consider an alternative site, Fort Tilden, perhaps as a *Plan B*. Howard will review the available area and report back to the Club at a future meeting. The Club would like to thank our member James KB2FMH for the gas that he provided, the signage that he provided and all the efforts he made to make this Field Day a success! Mitch N2RGA discussed the need for a new, smaller, lighter, more quiet generator. The price for a reasonable replacement will cost somewhere between \$500 to \$1,000. Thoughts regarding the economics in investing in a large ticket item for use once a year versus renting a generator for the two days were discussed, as was the possibility of expanding the Club's efforts with more events throughout the year. Since this isn't a decision that needs to be made immediately, it was decided to table the matter pending further deliberation and fact finding. It was suggested that we change the way that we plan Field Day—that we appoint a Chairman of a Field Day Committee, and empower him to appoint other committee members, and offer regular reports either in person or by email for future Club meetings. Mitch N2RGA will talk to interested members and look for a candidate for this position.

New Business: Howard N2GOT suggested that we appoint our new member Laura KB2VDV as our Public Information Officer, who will try to obtain publicity for the Club and Amateur Radio, in general. Laura is planning to place a small, free advertisement in the Bay News. More publicity to follow...

We, again, discussed ideas regarding promoting Amateur Radio and the Club at local events. School presentations, "Prepper" Groups, and Hiking enthusiasts were suggested as special interest groups that might be receptive to the hobby. Throwing a "Block Part" event was suggested. Some form of participation at the annual Maker's Fair was suggested, which is held near the Hall Of Science, although there was some concern that the Hall Of Science Amateur Radio Club might have already done this?

Although we were told that the Executive Dining Room should have its renovations completed by the end of July, this is not a sure thing. Please check the Club's website for any late news on our meeting room status!

*If all else fails there might be radio!*? But in case that doesn't work out so well and technical issues lessen your radio experience, keep in mind that the club (via Roy AC2GS) has been streaming events over the Internet using the <http://bit.do/KC2RC> URL. We had a lively discussion of the shortened URL and Mitch N2RGA, Milen KG2C, and Daniel W5TAB had some great ideas. Roy AC2GS announced a plan to "tweak" the URL of the live KC2RC feed, to a more memorable URL <http://live.KC2RC.com>! In addition our regular TechNet Puzzle will be available with the URL <http://puzzle.KC2RC.com>. [This was implemented a few hours after the meeting adjourned.]

Mitch threw a 50/50 raffle and the winner was our own Simon KD2LQE!

At 9:45 PM the meeting was adjourned.

See ya' all in August (back in the Executive Dining Room)!

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, July 5<sup>th</sup>, in the two thousandth and seventeenth year of our Lord of Propagation...

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

# The Snarky News In Review

## Fear The Walking Dead or Heathkit, RIP!

Most people have a warm place in their hearts for Heathkit. They made some really nice kits, and many people continue to modify old Heathkits and use them in their shacks to this very day.

But nothing lasts forever, and one sad sad day Heathkit passed away.

But rather than let Heathkit rest in peace, a couple of guys with some spare change decided to buy the rights to the Heathkit name and brand, and bring it back from the dead.

What could possibly go wrong?

Well, that's what Dr. Frankenstein thought at the beginning, but after the castle burned to the ground he had a change of mind.

At first these guys were just selling reprints of old kit manuals, except that they didn't buy those rights, so they started to sell odd little replacement parts for a few kits...

Then they announced a brand new kit! The Explorer™ AM!



Yes, for only \$149.95 you can get a radio that you have to solder together to get it to work! But wait a minute, AM? Surely it receives shortwave?

Nope!

Well, at least it receives broadcast FM? No one in their right mind would buy a radio that only has AM broadcast capability, at least not after 1950?????

Nope! No FM, No shortwave—just AM, but there's LESS!

There seems to be a single (on/off?) switch and ONE knob? Well, it isn't a single frequency AM radio, what nostalgic lunatic would buy something like that? No, the knob tunes the entire AM Broadcast band.

But, where the heck is the volume knob? No where, but there's a great reason why—there's no audio speaker in this box!

What the the \*\$#\$@?!?!

Yup, for \$149.95 and some soldering, you get something that needs a set of headphones (with their own volume setting device), or a separate powered speaker!

Mind you, these days you can probably get a fully assembled AM/FM/SW transceiver with its own speaker for \$25, so I am not quite sure what sane individual this product might have been designed for...

But rather than rest upon their laurels, these jokers have another kit on their to-do list.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me announce to you the next member of the Walking Dead to be dug up by these Zombie masters:

The HM-1002 Precision RF Meter!



I will forgive you if you believe that I mocked up this image on Photoshop—I have a much finer sense of aesthetics than to “birth” such an atrocity! (I hate to think what the designs for the HM-1000 and HM-1001 might have looked like—their images probably cracked the designer's monitor screen.)

For only \$575.00 (if they can fool the bank to underwrite this nonsense) you can solder together the most “fugly” looking RF Meter! They're expecting 1,000 early orders for this... mess.

Perhaps “there's a sucker born every minute” is an accurate phrase?

Sometimes you just have to let the dead rest in peace and resist the urge to raise them up as a member of the accursed undead, some monstrous creature that leaves ruin in its wake...

Heathkit, RIP!

Spend your money more wisely! (I'll be keeping my LP-500 Digital Station Monitor, which these clowns apparently never saw.)

...and remember to have fun!

Vy 73,

Roy AC2GS TheEditor