

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGS COUNTY RADIO CLUB

KCRC



September 2017

The Semi-Ridiculously Abridged Edition

Volume 4, Issue 9^A

Minutes of the September 2017 KCRC Meeting, September 6th, 2017

Our September “Pre-Meeting Question and Answer Session” was *tabled* again for next month, due to a lack of questions (apparently everyone knows everything these days).

The monthly meeting was called to order at 8:05 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, Joe AC2AE, Al, Jason KD2LRX, and our newly rejoined member Gene KY2MY!

Treasurer Report—Richard KA2KDQ, reported that our Treasury currently has \$597.50 in assets in our bank account, and \$32.46 in our Club PayPal account, for a total of \$629.96. We have four new Club members since last month—Don KD2DIG, Marty W2MPR, Robert, and Gene KY2MY!

2 Meter Report—Richard KA2KDQ has been having issues with his radios. He has arranged some temporary set up in his car for recent Nets, but has not been able to complete these temporary measures prior to the start of the Net. In the past two weeks Milen KG2C substituted for Richard, but this is not an acceptable long term solution. A permanent solution was again strongly advised to Richard, but until that might be possible, he was asked to check into the Repeater PRIOR to the scheduled Net—if his signal is subpar, his responsibilities will be carried out by either Milen KG2C or Simon KD2LQE for that Net. The past two Net sessions have shown an increase in participation, which might be due to some degree on the substitute Net Control Operator’s clear signal.

10 Meter Report—Our Net Control operator, Milen KG2C reported an active Net, averaging as many as 20 check-ins. Milen plans to be moving from his present QTH and may not be available for 10M communication next month. He requests that anyone with a decent 10M signal, who is interested, volunteers to be Net Control for the 10M Net, at least until he can get some “wire in the air”.

KCRC TechNet —Our Net Control Operator and Host, Roy AC2GS, reported that the TechNet is doing well—sometimes, at the beginning of each Net it takes a little longer to get people to participate, but as the TechNet progresses more and more people check-in with questions and comments. He asked club members to consider participating more, especially at the beginning to get “the ball rolling”.

KC2RC FusionNet—Our Net Control Operator Jason KD2LRX reported approximately 10-13 participants each week. The Repeater is having problem locking up in Fusion mode, which required last week’s FusionNet to be transmitted in analog FM. Phil KB2NGU has offered the use of his Fusion Repeater as an analog bridge to our FusionNet—his Repeater is at 446.875MHz, -2MHz offset, 245Hz PL Tone, KC2RC’s “room number” is #40821. Details will be made available on the club’s website.

Old News: Our most recent VE Session was July 23rd. We had 10 participants. Six examinees earned their Technician licenses, and 3 upgraded to a General license. Our next scheduled VE exam will be September 17th of this year. 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 57 Club Members in good standing!

Repeater status was reported by Mitch N2RGA—Friend of The Club, Andy WA2CDL was kind enough to evaluate our Repeater. It was “de-emphasizing” the audio twice, which was causing a bass-y mushy audio, when this was corrected the audio “brightened up”. He also found some worn out coaxial cables on our duplexer that were generating some additional background noise, Andy promises to return soon to the Repeater site to make a complete evaluation of it from radio, to duplexer, to antenna and offer his suggestions!

Field Day was discussed. James KB2FMH reported in absentia, that Field Day will continue to be an outdoors event, he advised Mitch of options, regarding screened in gazebos, but their cost was prohibitive, and that he is working on a winter Field Day for the Club.

The September Club Picnic at Manhattan Beach is scheduled for September 24th, very few people (3!) have indicated that they plan to attend, or what they will bring. **PLEASE** contact Mitch if you plan to come to the picnic!

With regard to our semi-annual mail membership drive, Roy AC2GS generated the new database and *freshened* the promotional copy. Mitch N2RGA will arrange for printing and mailing the promotions to new Hams.

New Business: There is a scheduling problem with next month's meeting of October 4th, which will be Succoth Eve, **our meeting will be changed for Tuesday October 2nd instead**. Keep an eye on our website for changes.

Mitch emailed a poll trying to find the best method to communicate with the general membership of the Club—NO ONE responded (Roy AC2GS voiced the possible use of smoke signals).

A motion was made, and passed unanimously to increase the KCRC annual dues from its present baseline of \$25 per year to \$30, starting for the 2018 membership year, which would be more commensurate with other clubs in the area and to offset the increased price increases since our dues were last increased (we remain one of the least expensive Clubs to belong to in the Metropolitan area).

Roy AC2GS submitted a proposed “refresh” of the KCRC Bylaws—simplifying some parts and clarifying some contradictory parts and removing archaic parts that have not been held for many years. They were reviewed by a Quorum of members in good standing and passed unanimously. Our Bylaws require a second vote after email publication of the proposed changes and time for any comments. We have decided to dealy this final vote for our annual year end Holiday Party, since that usually draws the largest number of members. The new Bylaws will go into effect January 1, 2018.

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 <http://live.KC2RC.com> !

At 9:50 PM the meeting was adjourned.

See ya' all in October!

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, September 6th, 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)

Op-Ed

Readers will little note, nor long remember what I write here today.

Such is the nature of the written word these days.

But eternal vigilance **IS** the price of our liberty.

The aims and motivation of “*Preppers*” are much like ours in this Amateur Radio hobby - when all else fails, there is still the radio. As such, *Preppers* have included radio communications as a vital part of their checklist of provisions.

There is nothing wrong in being prepared for the worse. Our emergency amateur services are a testament to being there to help our fellow man and woman. Although some apocryphal global catastrophe might better be dealt with by the more pessimistic suggestion to ‘bend over and kiss your backside goodbye’.

I would urge those people haunted by a sense of doom, vaguely hovering above, out there in our future to watch your step closely and not allow yourself to fall down a fascist rabbit hole.

Too close from the Prepper movement, dimly sensed in their periphery, lie the sundry militia, sovereign, nationalist, separatist, paranoid groups half hiding under their chosen rocks.

They offer many different labels, and on the surface, might have convinced those who have had superficial exposure to them, that they stand for Patriotism, Individual Freedom, and the Love of God and Country. But just below the surface, drenched into these organization’s bones, blood and sinew are paranoia, hate and distrust against “the other” - sometimes it is race, sometimes it is religion, in a pinch it can be right-handed against those sinister little left-handed people!

Hate doesn’t need any reasons - it feeds upon ignorance and suspicion.

So, if you find yourself veering into such an organization, think twice. Remember that patriotism can be the last refuge of the scoundrel, and in the words of Nancy Reagan, “Just say no!”.

I have known at least one Ham, and ex-member of our club that fell down that rabbit hole.

I urge you to listen to the angels of your better nature, and not to join him, and others like him.

No good can come from the wellspring of hate.

May God have mercy upon us, we poor imperfect mortals.

73,

Roy AC2GS

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