



EAST KOOTENAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



ZOOM MEETING Saturday September 10, 2022 (2:00 PM)

MINUTES

Members: Doug Newberry VA7QZ, Gavin Jacobs VE7GSJ, Wayne Mercer VA7BUP, Jeff Pollock VA7BAJ, Gerry Loewen VA7LGR

Meeting called to order by Doug VA7QZ at 14:08

1. Adoption of the agenda

Motion to accept by Wayne VA7BUP, seconded by Jeff VA7BAJ, motion is carried.

2. Sick or injured amateurs

Tim VE7QQ reported to Doug VA7QZ that his family had contracted COVID, and is why Tim was not present.

3. Minutes - Adoption

June 18, 2022 – Gavin VE7GSJ reports that under “Site Visits”, regarding “3 for, 5 against,” it should read “motion defeated”, and on the very last line, vote should not say “unanimous”, but simply “motion passed”.

Wayne VA7BUP noted that in the minutes, it was stated that there was no ground rod found for the repeater, and asked what the plan was for remediation. To be discussed during repeater committee section.

Motion to accept as corrected by Gerry VA7LGR, seconded by Wayne VA7BUP. Motion is carried.

4. Business arising from the minutes:

A) Executive met with Terry Balan from RDEK. Meeting was to try to ascertain what the RDEK expects from us, what we are expected to do in the event of an actual emergency. EKARC is not sure of what the actual role should be with RDEK EOC. Doug reached out to the West Kootenay club and asked them what they do with the EOC in Nelson. WKARC goes in to the EOC in Nelson once a week, tests the equipment and makes sure everything works and then they are in standby until the EOC is activated.

Terry has been talking to EOC/RDEK/EMBC as to where we would fit in their emergency response program. We are currently in “fact finding” mode between RDEK, EMBC, and EKARC.

Gavin VE7GSJ mentions that the Surrey Amateur Radio Club has a very active emergency preparation group with regular readiness training sessions with their EOC in Surrey.

B) Grant request status – Gavin re-sent the request to Terry. EKARC executive met with Terry the week prior to this meeting that there is a grant from CBT for Small Community Wildfire Readiness. Doug talked to Natasha from CBT, and explained that we were at the ready in case of a major telecom outage (e.g. Rogers outage in July 2022) and were able to support the RDEK in the event of a “grid down” situation.

Ad hoc committee to be put together. More information to follow as we have it.

C) Field day – Just south of Cranbrook, VA7QZ and VA7VEB made about 100 contacts with the VE7IP club call. Conditions were good to start, but then got quite bad after noon on Sunday. Tom VE7TGA was there as well helping with setup.

5. Communications

Nil

6. Treasurers Report (VE7GSJ)

A) New Members

No new members.

B) Financial Report (Gavin VE7GSJ)

Last financial report was given at BBQ, period ending May 31st. This report is for period ending July 31st. Only thing of note was that we had a few people pay their dues. VA7KK (Gerard Hnatiw) joined the club just after the last club meeting, and VA7AZY (Jari Boren) joined during this period as well.

C) Auditors Report (Brian VA7VEB)

Brian not present.

7. Committee Reports

Executive (VA7QZ)

No report.

Repeater Committee (VE7GSJ)

Arnold Schultz VE7CZI and Jari Boren VA7AZY got the key to the comms shack on Mt. Midgely and went up to the site. Log across trail, Jari had chainsaw with him so that was not a problem. Our antenna equipment is on a red pole. Only two stations inside the shack, one is amateur radio, one is search & rescue. We believe the 2 bay folded dipole is ours. APRS unit is digipeater, has dedicated power supply, Motorola MCX radio, Kantronics KPC-3 TNC. Has surge protection. Goal is to tune the unit back up, update coordinates and put it back in before the snow flies.

Gavin reports that Wes Paynter (ex club member) who works for Flexinet (we are co-located for VE7RIN) and we may be able to get internet service at the VE7RIN repeater.

Third item is that Doug VA7QZ and Gavin VE7GSJ went to Baker (VE7CAP) to perform maintenance on the repeater and updated the programming in the repeater controller, and changed the routing of one of the coax cables and it seems to have fixed the drop-outs of VE7CAP. Programming in the repeater was mistakenly set to have the repeater at VE7CAP announce itself as VE7RIN.

Frequency Coordinator (VE7MRP)

Dan VE7MRP not present. No report.

Emergency Operation Center Coordinators (VA7VEB, VE7MRP)

Dan VE7MRP was not present. Brian VE7VEB not present, no report.

Website Site and social media (VE7QQ)

Tim VE7QQ not present, no report from Tim. Doug VA7QZ reports that we did test our EKARC Google Workspace meeting capability, and it is free for us to use, was easy to set up and works well so we may move to use that versus Zoom.

Net Controller Coordinator (VE7QQ)

Tim VE7QQ not present, no report.

8. New Business

Wayne VA7BUP asked about the SIRG repeater at Hall Mountain. Doug VA7QZ to contact Lane from WKARC for more info.

Doug brings up the group discussion about raising community awareness. We need to raise our public awareness as a club. Lance VE7LOC wants to run a course to get people their licenses. Doug VA7QZ asks group for ideas. Wayne VA7BUP suggests a weekly event by the Tim Hortons at the mall in Cranbrook. Doug VA7QZ suggests 12x12” decals for when we do set up somewhere for increased visibility. Wayne VA7BUP asks about smaller 4x4” decals for our vehicles.

Wayne VA7BUP moves to investigate cost of having (100) small decals reprinted, Jeff VA7BAJ seconds. All in favour, motion is carried.

Coffee meeting to be held in October.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn from Gavin VE7GSJ at 15:02.

Our mission: Since 1935 the mission of the East Kootenay Amateur Radio Club is to promote the technical knowledge and use of amateur radio through, training, mentoring, community service and enhancing fellowship among radio amateurs.

<https://ekarc.ca>