

BUTLER COUNTY VHF ASSOCIATION (BCVHFA)
Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2019

Members Present: Red W8ULC, Steve KC8VDT, Bob N8TVU, Greg AB8RG, Jim K8FL, Paul KC8ZFL, Bob WB0NPN and Matthew N8CCQ

The meeting was opened at 7:20 pm by the BCVHFA President with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by attendee's introductions.

The reading of last month's minutes was suspended because they are posted on the web site. A motion was made by Jim K8FL to accept the minutes, as posted on the web site, and was seconded by Bob WB0NPN. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Bob N8TVU gave the Treasurer's report. A minor issue with the clubs bank card and account was discussed, as it had already been resolved and an audit of the bank records had been audited prior to the meeting and everything was found to be in order by the audit committee.

A motion was made by Steve KC8VDT to accept the report as read and was seconded by Matthew N8CCQ. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Technical Committee Report - Bob N8TVU gave the Technical Committee report. All the repeaters are working correctly. A mold issue due to water leaking into the building at the 146.970 site was discussed and an email sent regarding the mold by the property owner. We are aware of the situation and care should be used if anyone has respiratory issues that plans on entering the building. The owner is working on a solution.

A motion was made by Steve KC8VDT to accept the report as read and was seconded by Matthew N8CCQ. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

ARECC - During Field Day we ran into an issue with the rotor intermittently not working during heavy use. Greg AB8RG and Bob N8TVU will begin testing the rotor system using the trouble shooting guide published by the rotor manufacture to assure measurements are where they should be.

Discussing the issue with a person that rebuilds the rotors and control boxes, we discovered the transformers have thermal cut outs built into them that could be the issue.

A bad or weak starting motor capacitor can put additional load on the transformer causing it to overheat and shut itself off to prevent damage. The other problem is the thermal protective device itself could be weak and the entire transformer would need to be replaced as it is built in and is not a separate replaceable component.

The Technical Committee will be looking into that problem and installation of the 6-160 donated transceiver.

Siren Testing - Thirty one (31) Butler County amateur radio operators from around the county are assisting the Butler County 911 Center with monitoring the Severe Weather Sirens county wide to assure they are working correctly. This month only 1 out of the thirty one did not work.

This program has helped keep severe weather warning sirens functional in the county helping to protect the citizens of Butler County. At the onset of the program there were more sirens NOT working than there were working one's. We have helped to turn that around to what it is today. A huge THANK YOU to all of the amateur radio operators county wide that have come out each and every month to support this effort.

OLD BUSINESS - State Parks On The Air is this Saturday 0900-1600 hours. We are going to Ceasar's Creek State Park joining forces with the WC8EMA group that has secured a shelter near the visitors center. All YOU need to do is show up! Everything will be provided, if you want to try out your portable HF setup bring it with you, there is plenty of room to set your station up and try it out. Jason KD8BNR and Greg AB8RG are coordinating the event and have designated areas to setup to minimize interference. The site has electrical power, running water and deluxe park style out houses, so come ready to operate and have a good time!

A motion was made by Steve KC8VDT and seconded by Matthew N8CCQ to close the meeting. The motion passed.

Evening Program: A brief presentation was made by Bob N8TVU, Bob WB0NPN and Greg AB8RG showing the usefulness of the DMR dashboard, the information it displays and how to decode it, and how a NET CONTROL OPERATOR can utilize what is being displayed. At the end of the "lesson" the Ohio DMR net began so club members got a first hand view of the net activity as well as who and what was being used globally all at the same time!

The three presenters emphasized the importance of the other club members engaging in the digital voice modes as that is where "local" amateur radio is trending to, and to keep up with the available technology.

Amateur radio started with the original digital mode called CW, since then we have added PACKET, APRS, hundreds of sound card modes, DMR, P25, NXDEN, IDEN, and many more digital modes of operation enter into the amateur radio world expanding so quickly, it is hard to keep up with. It's time to catch up and get re-involved in the NEW amateur radio world!

Secretary
Steve KC8VDT