BUTLER COUNTY VHF ASSOCIATION (BCVHFA)
Meeting Minutes for January 2, 2019

Members Present: Red W8ULC, Steve KC8VDT, Bob N8TVU, Dave N8DHW, Greg AB8RG, Jim K8FL, Paul KC8ZFL, Ed WD8MQJ, Tim KA8DZU and Neal KD8SSA.

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by the BCVHFA Vice 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 Dave N8DHW to accept the minutes, as posted on the web site, and was seconded by Paul KC8ZFL. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Bob N8TVU gave the Treasurer's report. A motion was made by Jim K8FL to accept the report, as read, and was seconded by Dave N8DHW. The motion passed.

Trustee Meeting - The Treasurer books were audited by Greg AB8RG, Steve KC8VDT and Gerald W8ULC. Books were found to be accurate and in order.

Technical Committee Report

Bob N8TVU gave the Technical Committee report.
145.2100 - working on reduced power due to a bad antenna SWR. We are attempting to make contact with the University powers to be to inquire on getting it changed out and possibly adding a UHF antenna to that site.

146.9700 - working - still getting a little white noise interference once in a while that affects weak signals into the machine. We are working to identify where it is coming from.

147.3300 - Working great, good coverage, however Greg AB8RG found a glitch in his equipment after re-tuning the duplexers, so he wants to re check them when the weather breaks.

224.9600 - continues to function despite an issue with stabilization during high winds.

444.1125 - working very well great coverage no reported issues.

444.3000 - working on low power, applied to OARC for a location change to one of the VHF sites. If we can get this coordinated for Butler Tech, we will use the RFS 455-5N 12 DB gain station master at this site.

The Oxford site we plan on using a Diamond F-718 for that UHF antenna, and a Hustler G7-144 for the VHF replacement antenna.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Center (ARECC)

OPS-3B hard drive already crashed and everything on it was lost. It was replaced by a 120GB SSD and most everything we think was on it was reloaded over a 4 day period of time.

OPS-3A had a 120GB SSD purchased to replace that 80GB hard drive as well, that project is going to be complete by the end of January, via backups and disk imaging.

T Due to the possibility of the other four computers having the same issue, the club approved the purchase of four more 120 Gigabyte Solid State Drives to replace the 80 GB hard drives than are now in the machines at OPS-1, OPS-2, OPS-4A and OPS-4B.

These computers were donated to BCVHFA from a pharmacy and were ON all the time so the drives that came with them have hundreds of hours on them.

OPS-1 HF fully functional 144-220-440 fully functional

OPS-2 HF fully functional 144-440 fully functional

OPS-3 A&B 144-220-440 fully functional

OPS-4 A&B 144-800 fully functional

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - The Jones family members Dennis KD8OFO, Betty KB8EVP, and John N8GBF. Welcome aboard to all of you!

Siren Testing - Both club and non club affiliated amateur radio operators from around the county are assisting the Butler County 911 Center to observe over 40 Severe Weather Sirens county wide the first Wednesday of each month that report the working condition of the Tornado Alerting Sirens.

This program has proven to be a valuable tool to the county officials providing first hand spotter information on non-working units and malfunctioning units as well as what exactly is not working on them.

In the beginning over 4 years ago now, 15% of the sirens observed monthly actually worked! Now less than 10% are found to malfunction in some manner. Some rotate with no sound, strobe lights don’t work, some sounds with no rotation or some just don’t work at all.

It has sped up the repair time on malfunctioning sirens from months to weeks if the fix is simple. At least two sirens remain out of service as the main controller board had to be pulled and sent back to the manufacture to be rebuilt or replaced and reprogrammed.

OLD BUSINESS - We purchased four more replacement Solid State Drives for the rest of the computers in the radio room/ARECC.

In November it was discussed about getting another DUNESTAR 400 band pass filter for OPS-1 setup like the one at OPS-2, now that we have the one on OPS-2 operating correctly with full power output.

Dunestar 400 - $505.00
TopTen automatic band switch - $195.00
Six way automatic antenna switch - $120.00
Interface cable to the radio - $30.00

What this will do is allow 6-160 meter operation automatically switching the antennas available to the proper antenna port for the band(s) you are operating on and change the band pass filter to the band you are working automatically. No operator confusion!

For example when operating on 10-15-20 meters, the assembly will port the radio to the tri-band beam. On 40 & 80 it will port the radio to the 40-80 meter dipole. On 6 meters it will port the radio to the 6 meter beam. It can be setup to port the radio to a 12-17-30 & 60 meter dipole as well for the WARC bands, all without the operator worrying if they have selected the right antenna or not.

NEW BUSINESS - Discussions were held on the following topics:
Catching up with the times by starting a FACEBOOK page and opening a Twitter account to announce Special Events such as covered bridge, light house's and State Parks on the Air, Field Day, and other operating opportunities.

Posting club meeting information and presentations at meetings that would be beneficial to new and old hams alike.

Evening Program: A presentation was made by Bob N8TVU about how the 2.4 GHz wifi panels used on Field Day to link the parking lot operator sites to the computers inside the ARECC so they can share one common log file and "see" what bands are being operated on. Bob dismantled a panel just like the ones we use on FD that had been struck by lightning at the 970 tower site several years ago, that was no longer usable or repairable.

The matrix of 9 approximately 1.25" squares with a grounding screw in the middle of each square, provides vertical and horizontal polarization selectable via the built in setup software using a browser.

Greg AB8RG gave an instructional on how to make a total disk image of your existing hard drive and to copy it onto another NEW hard drive of Solid state Drive, so all you have to do when done is put the new drive into your machine and turn it back on.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting 2035 hrs by Steve KC8VDT and seconded by Jim K8FL.

Secretary
Steve KC8VDT