

MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2018 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Howard Suffill, W2HTS was absent so the meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by vice president Rem Hunnewell, K2REM at the Red Cross. There were 19 members present. After the pledge to the flag, all present introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Art, W2NAZ and seconded by Marty, N2BMK to accept the minutes from the last meeting as published on the members only web page. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John, KC2YWL was absent so there was no Treasurer's report.

Field Day

Rem, K2REM reported that we did reasonably well on Field Day considering the poor propagation. We scored 1458 QSO points and had 910 bonus points for a total score of 2368. John, KA2F asked for a breakdown of the QSO count for digital operation. No one at the meeting had that information but it will be made available.

Hamfest

Denis, K2NPT reported that the Hamfest site has been approved by MOESC and that two notices have been sent out. There is yet no decision on refreshments. Mike, K1MH reported that the VE exam schedule has been set at ARRL. Harry, KD2EJW volunteered to help with the hamfest in any way needed.

Repeater

Phil, N2EDX and Denis, K2NPT reported that the Wires-X on the new repeater is getting a big workout with lots of activity. The Wires-X equipment is presently off premises and no one knew when it might be moved to the GSARA radio room at the Red Cross (it needs internet access).

The audio quality of the new repeater was noted as improved over that of the old repeater. There was some concern that the absence of a courtesy beep prevented users from checking if they are hitting the repeater by "ker-chunking" it. Hopefully, all will get used to this.

An e-mail was received from Rich, N2SMV noting that the repeater was only S 4-5 at his QTH in Manalapan. It used to be a solid S9 so now he has trouble with interference from Bangor. A drop of 4 "S" units is about 24 dB – much greater than the less than 3 dB drop in output power. It is unclear why the coverage is so much worse north and west of the repeater. Rich, N2SMV is looking into using the Middletown repeater for some of the ARES/RACES activity.

It was suggested that we have another program at a GSARA meeting to describe and demonstrate Fusion and Wires-X. Bob, W2OD volunteered to see if that could be done at the August 1 program meeting.

New Business

Alan, W2NIR observed that the eagle on top of the flag pole is broken. He made a motion to investigate the cost of replacing the eagle which was seconded by Blair, KD2EPA. The motion

passed unanimously. Harry, KD2EJW knew of a place that might have such a replacement and volunteered to check into it.

Close

The 50/50 prize of \$15.00 was won by Marty, N2BMK. With unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary