

Peace River Radio Association (PRRA)

President: Don Kumpost KG5RVW

Vice President: John Wildeman K4KXX

Treasurer: Gary Craddock KN4CWF

Secretary: Jim Nuznoff WD8JEL

Directors:

Steve Soley K8AQL Dave Beck WB4GVZ Tim Clark AC2GD

Minutes of Monthly Meeting, Thursday, February 25, 2021

Punta Gorda Boat Club 802 W. Retta Esplande, Punta Gorda, Florida

AND VIA Zoom meeting

Meeting was called to order by President Don Kumpost at 7:15 pm. There were 18 in attendance, 12 in person and 6 via Zoom. A quorum was attained. One guest was in attendance, Marty Percelli, AA5UN, who is here from the Ft. Worth, TX area. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those attending. Don acknowledged the efforts made by Rick Pomerleau in improving our web pages. He then introduced tonight's presenter, Duwain Hunt, W8JJV and acknowledged the advantages of using battery power in emergencies.

Tonight's program: by Duwain Hunt: Battery options and charging.

Duwain brought a display of various working battery systems which he has been developing for quite some time. These systems have varying levels of output, cost, weight and safety. Upfront he warned us that using Lithium-Ion batteries is a bad idea because of charger limitations and the hazards of fire. While lead acid batteries have their place, their weight is a disadvantage.

One type of battery system he has utilized with great success is comprised of Lithium Iron Phosphate cells, known as "LifePo4". [A definition here: These batteries are comprised of multiple 4-cellpacks, which are placed in parallel]. These cells are available new or at a significant discount via surplus provider Batteryhookup.com. Duwain explained the importance of conditioning the cells before use, and described how that process is accomplished. He cautioned against using a 'regular' charger on any type of Lithium battery and stated the Lifepo4 cells require a special charger. He answered several questions from members including how to test for cell failure.

The second battery system he is developing utilizes Prismatic Batteries, like the ones used in mobility scooters. They are denser than the other type he demonstrated, but are already internally prewired. Don, KG5RVW also exhibited a few Prismatics he had at the meeting.

Duwain also discussed solar panels used to charge batteries in the field. Solar controllers connect to the battery and the load (radio) so the battery can be used simultaneously while charging takes place. He recommends mono-crystal solar panels over Poly-crystal due to better performance.

Business Meeting:

Jim, WD8JEL noted that the minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting had been distributed by email to all members. It was moved by Duwain, W8JJV and seconded Dave, WB4GVZ to accept the minutes. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Gary, KN4CWF noted a balance of \$11,633. We have received dues payments for 25 renewals for 2021. Gary also noted that he is expending \$75.00 for financial software, and that a proforma budget will soon be available. He announced that the club has forwarded \$1,400 (approved at the February Board Meeting) to Dave, WB4GVZ, Hamfest chairman to run the event on March 6, 2021. Move to approve by Jim, WD8JEL, seconded by Duwain, W8JJV. There was no discussion. Approved.

Old Business:

The upcoming March 6, 2021 Hamfest was discussed by Hamfest chairman, Dave Beck, WB4GVZ. He explained the rules and procedures for placing personal items for sale on the PRRA Club table and reviewed the list of volunteers and reminded members with or without assignments to help set up on Friday, 3/5/21 and help tear down on Saturday, 3/6/21 at the conclusion of the Hamfest.

Don wrapped up the meeting by encouraging members to volunteer based on their abilities, including net controllers for our Sunday evening nets. He continues to develop the club's groups.io page, and mentioned an upcoming Fox Hunt event being developed by Jim, WD8JEL.

New Business: none

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jim Nuznoff, March 12, 2021