

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, March 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, 10 in person and 8 via Zoom. A quorum was attained. The Flag was honored by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by those attending. Don asked for input from attendees regarding new radio purchases or activities. Gary, KN4CWF talked about his new RST-DX software defined radio. Jim, WD8JEL mentioned that he was developing a 10 meter version of the 6 meter antenna offered to local hams as a CARS project. Doug Young, KM4LKC mentioned to the group that there is an existing semi-local 10 meter net, namely the Windmill Net at 9pm on Sunday evenings on 28.450 USB, using horizontal polarization.

Tonight's program: by Doug Young, KM4LKC. "The Charlotte Amateur Radio Society Emergency Communications Exercises"

Doug began his presentation by thanking those who participated in Phase 1 of this exercise, which took place on December 5, 2020. He also summarized some of the previous amateur radio emergency activities that has taken place in the Charlotte County area. He then explained that these exercises take place with the assumption of the lack of access to the internet and telephones (landline and cellular), as well as severe travel limitations, something that would exist during a hurricane.

Phase One utilized VHF and UHF frequencies only using a combination of hand-held radios at ground level, and mobile units 10 miles apart in a triangular layout. The mobiles used 23-foot painters' poles to maximize line of sight distance. There was also passing time stamped traffic. A summary of the results showed mobile to hand-held range was generally reliable out to about 5 miles. Future such operations will try to extend the range to 8 miles. Some suggestions were made by attendees to improve future such operations.

Phase Two, to take place on Saturday, April 24, 2021 will utilize 4 fixed locations, with communication taking place on 6 meters and 40 meters. Modes will include voice, JS8 and WinLink.

Phase Three is being scheduled for fall, 2021, and its objectives and goals are yet to be defined.

Business Meeting:

Secretary report: Jim, WD8JEL noted that the minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting had been distributed by email to all members. It was moved by John, K4KXX and seconded by Gary, KN4CWF to accept the minutes. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Gary, KN4CWF presented an outline of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget [March thru February]. He projected an income of \$3,600 and operating expenses of \$2,250. The expenses included the usual: insurance, web fees, state documentation, rent, field day and picnic. He updated us on number of paid-up members for calendar year 2021. Move to approve by Jim, WD8JEL, seconded by John, K4KXX. There was no discussion. Approved.

Vice President report by John, K4KXX centered on our club's potential participation/partnership with the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda. John has already met with key volunteers to discuss placing an actual amateur station on site. He is to meet with museum officials on or about 3/30 to obtain more specifics. Our involvement there would be a great public relations opportunity in the community.

Old Business:

The Recently completed March 6, 2021 Hamfest was reviewed by Hamfest Chairman Dave Beck. Attendance was approximately 160, with a net income approaching \$1,400. He thanked all who attended and especially those who volunteered. Next year's Hamfest is Saturday, March 5.

Don wrapped up the meeting by encouraging members be involved in our club's current nets, and promoted the idea of CW nets for learning and/or ragchewing. He continues to develop the club's groups.io page, and with Rick, KO4ETQ's assistance, our web page.

New Business: none

It was moved, seconded and voted affirmatively to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted by Jim Nuznoff, April 11, 2021