

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, April 29, 2021

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

AND VIA Zoom meeting

General, introductory comments:

Meeting was called to order by President Don Kumpost at 7:15 pm. Between in-person and zoom attendees, a quorum was attained. The Flag was honored by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by those attending. Don honored Chuck Coulter, K9MZN, whose recent passing was noted. Dave Beck and Ron Farley attended his military funeral on April 28. Chuck was a veteran of both WWII and Korea, where as a radio man in the Signal Corps he was quite subject to attack. In-person visitor Gary Noel, W4GPN was welcomed. Gary comes to this area from the Florida Keys. Zoom visitor Elvin Mendz, who is studying for his ham license was also welcomed by the PRRA membership. Steve Carey, KO4SPC announced that he had won a contest sponsored by Bridgecom, in which he received amateur equipment valued at \$1,600. Tom Chance, K9XV related his activities in the recent Florida QSO Party. A unique feature of the station he operated was that it used one tri-band antenna and special splitters going to multiple rigs. Band conditions during the contest were less than optimum.

Program presented by Don Kumpost, KG5RVW on Propagation losses.

Don discussed radio transmission gains and losses from transmitter to receiver and the varying effects they have on the signal strength. He began reviewing basic terms related to antenna gains and explained how antenna gain changes signal concentration. Transmission line loss, to include impact of SWR was also discussed as well as Free Space Power Loss (FSPL) which is the effect of power being spread out over greater and greater area as it moves further from the transmission source. All these elements and their impact were brought together in a final formula to estimate the received signal level given frequency, distance, antenna gains and feedline loss. The take away from his presentation is for operators to minimize feed line loss, and maximize antenna gain (where appropriate).

Business Meeting:

Secretary report: Jim, WD8JEL noted that the minutes of the March 25, 2021 meeting had been distributed by email to all members. It was moved by Ron, KG4QIV and seconded by Gary, K3GS to accept the minutes. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Gary, KN4CWF declared that there were currently 62 members. There was no official report to vote on, this will be provided at the next meeting.

Vice President report by John, K4KXX centered on our club's activities at the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda. Installation of our club station on the main floor of the facility is underway. He described some of the amenities of the Museum which makes it a real tourist attraction. Tom Lambie, N4XJQ, has donated an antenna to be installed on the museum's roof. It is 32' tall and covers 6 thru 80 meters. Initial equipment to be installed is a club owned Icom transceiver with power supply. The club is looking for accessory items to complete the installation. Ron, KG4QIV reiterated our desire to place Vietnam era radio gear in the station as well. Don, KG5RVW has offered a set of semaphore flags as well. Club members will be encouraged to use the station, especially those who are restricted from operating HF at their HOA restricted homes. ID cards will be issued to club members once they are trained on use of the gear there. John said a 'grand opening' will be scheduled and promoted.

Business:

1-Field Day is June 26 and 27, to be held at the Boat House. John, K4KXX is chairman, with Erwin in charge of QSO data. Many details remain to be worked out, including the number of stations that we will be operating. **2-Sunday evening VHF net.** Additional net controllers still needed. It was suggested that we do our check-ins first, then go back to the operators for comments. Jim, WD8JEL said he would consider doing that the next Sunday when he is net controller. **3-DMR Monday night net.** Additional net controllers needed. One member volunteered. **4-CW net.** Don again suggested the addition of this to our club's activities. Frequencies and modes to be worked out. **5-Webmaster activities.** Rick, KO4ETQ continues to improve our net presence. He now puts a link to our Zoom meeting on our web page to encourage involvement. **6.-Groups.io page.** Don is adding a Ham-Traders' page to accomplish this. **7-Gator repeater (147.015) update.** Don announced that Dan Hayes has rescinded his offer to donate a Fusion/Analog repeater for that facility. **8-Volunteer Examiners/Radio School.** There was some discussion about what is involved in doing this. No motions.

It was moved, seconded and voted affirmatively to adjourn the meeting. 8:42 PM

Submitted by Jim Nuznoff, May 5, 2021