

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

April 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Reminders

- 1) The yearly membership renewals were due by March 31. You need to pay your dues for this fiscal year to continue to be a current member in good standing. \$15 Sustaining, \$10 Full, \$5 Associate, \$1 Family. You can download the form from the club website (w8lky.org) and mail it in to the club P.O. Box listed at the top of the form, or you can attend the next meeting and fill out the form there, and pay your money. The club secretary will have renewal forms for your use.
- 2) The deadline for the 2nd Club T-shirt order is April 30, 2019. Immediately after that date, the order will be submitted, so get them while you can folks. The prices are: \$9 each for the cotton shirts, and \$13 each for the Dri-fit shirts. Those prices are for shirts up to 2X in size. Any shirts ordered above that size will cost \$3 extra per shirt. Mail the money along with information on the number of T's, type of T's, and sizes to either the Club P.O. Box, to Tony (KD8BBK) directly, or to Ron (KE8HCY) directly. You must pre-pay before the order is placed.
- 3) We have found a new home for the 2 meter repeater. The repeater will be offline from 7 A.M. to around 12 P.M. on Saturday, 20 April for installation at the new site with a temporary antenna.
- 4) We elected a new Vice President at the April meeting. Doug Matthew (KB8DNQ) is the new Vice President of the club.
- 5) John would like to remind everyone that the Fusion Repeater has a ½ second delay from when you key your microphone and when it starts transmitting. He suggests counting to 2 or 3 before you start talking so that the beginning of your transmission is not cut off. This is for the 2 Meter Machine. It would be good practice to get in the habit of doing this always when talking on any radio frequency.

We would like to welcome Kevin Settle (N8KEV) to the club, and welcome Lorin Kleinhans (KD8WVE) back to the club.

Meeting called to order by: President Ron Rittenhouse (KE8HCY)

Devotion led by: Frank Sanor (WA8WHP)

Pledge of Allegiance led by: Tony Schillig (KD8BBK)

1) Roll call was taken: 15 members present – 1 guest present

Members

John Myers (KD8MQ)	Ben Davis (KD8KMQ)
Charlie Theiss (KE8EQI)	Andy Magda (AC8JR)
Frank Sanor (WA8WHP)	Peter Lucke (N8IGZ)
Doug Matthew (KB8DNQ)	Bob Warner (WB8OVQ)
Karen Warner (WD8BIW)	Dwight Turner (KD8YFV)
Dave Kleinhans (KE8IYN)	Howard Miller (K8DXR)
Tony Schillig (KD8BBK)	Ron Rittenhouse (KE8HCY)
Dave Moreno (KE8JLP)	

Guests

Miriam Sanor

2) Introductions:

- a) Introduction of members was done.
- b) Introduction of guests was done.

3) Members birthday recognition:

John Augustein 4/16

Joe Young (KC8TAC) 4/20

Ron Rittenhouse (KE8HCY) 4/25

4) Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved.

5) Treasurer's Report: Checking \$XXXXXX, Savings N/A

6) Reading of Last Meetings Minutes from March - Secretary - Waived.

7) Officers Reports:

President Activity: Ron (KE8HCY) stated that he gave a Power Point Presentation to the Alliance Rotary Club last week. There were 28 members present. We were acknowledged for assisting with the Rotary Castle Run which they indicated that they appreciated. We have another PPP coming up on 22 April at Rodman Public Library for the Alliance Historical Society at 7 P.M. Ron would like some help with the presentation from club members with years of Ham experience for a Q & A session at the end of the presentation.

Secretary Activity: Reminder of the Club Membership Dues overdue for renewal.

Trustee's Activity: Nothing until the election of the new V.P.

8) Committee Reports:

a) 2 Meter Net - Tomas (KC8ZEH): Tomas was not in attendance.

b) 10 Meter CW Net - Frank Sanor (WA8WHP): We need more participation on the CW Net. Frank stated that he's more than happy to slow down the pace of the keying to 5 words per minute if necessary.

c) 10 Meter Sideband Net - John (KD8MQ): John stated that the 10 Meter Sideband Net has been going good. We have the same group of followers that show up every week. If it wasn't for Tom (AB8RZ) he'd have more of a problem than he does with the Net. As such, he's been having fun with it. The frequency has been moved to 28.420 MHz. John stated that he will not be there on 25 April because he will be involved in a Fox Hunt, and would appreciate it if someone would volunteer to run the Net in his absence.

d) Homeland Security Net - Lorin (KD8WVE): There were 5 check-ins on 4/8.

e) 2 Meter Repeater - John (KD8MQ): John stated that he heard back from Mike (the owner of WIVM (T.V. station) in Canton concerning the possible new site, and stated that Mike has agreed to let us use his tower. The ground elevation is 1200+ ft. The tower is 300 ft tall. The tower is located west of Alliance in the area of State St. and Paris Ave. We will not be at the top of the tower, but instead preliminary plans would put us about 250 ft up. John stated that we will have a pretty high profile machine once it's in place. This would put us at just shy of the 1500' ASL mark. The goal is to be up and operational on the new tower by Field Day. Again, as stated above, the 2 Meter Repeater is expected to be down for the move and temporary installation from 7 A.M. to around Noon on Saturday, 20 April. We will be spending some money on new (quality) feed line, a new dual

band antenna (UHF / VHF), batteries and charge controller. We only want to do this once, especially since we'll be hiring a professional to climb the tower.

f) 440 Repeater - John (KD8MQ): The maintenance on the 440 Repeater is being put on hold until after the 2 Meter Repeater is in place. A vote was taken, and \$55 for a different antenna was approved.

g) 2019 Field Days - John (KD8MQ): John stated that he's going to start working on plans for the Field Day this month.

h) Ways & Means - Andy (AC8JR): Nothing current to report. The fund raiser will begin in July.

i) Training Classes - Frank (WA8WHP): Frank stated that he's still looking for more people for the classes. He's been talking to 2 people about it that may be interested.

j) 501C-3 - John (KD8MQ): Unless we hear something from the attorney describing a problem, we're just waiting for approval confirmation in approx. 150 days. John will contact the attorney in the next month to check in.

k) 2 Meter Tower - John (KD8MQ): Discussed above.

9) Old Business:

a) 2018 Member Awards: No award recipients in attendance.

b) Echo link: Nothing New at this time.

c) Power Point Presentation: Discussed above.

d) Club T-shirts: Discussed above.

e) Picnic on June 12 at the Cabin at Silver Park. The time will be given in the next month's Minutes.

f) Relay for Life @ UMU: The Relay was the 12th and 13th of this month. The club is a patient category sponsor. The proceeds mainly go to cancer research.

10) New Business:

a) The Wayne County Maker Faire is being held Saturday 18 May from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. They have everything from crocheting to robotics. The web address is: waynecounty.makerfaire.com The address is: University of Akron / Wayne College 1901 Smucker Rd. Orrville, Ohio.

b) John submitted a bill for approval for repairs of the club rigs. The bill is \$18.07. It was approved by vote.

c) John requested that we move the pre-meeting dinner back to Frank's Family Restaurant at 6 P.M. Discussions were had, and it was decided to make the change.

d) The Marion Amateur Radio Club hosted a Marion County Event - (Ham Radio and Robotics) on April 11, 12 and 13. Information was posted on our club website.

11) Program: John (KD8MQ) and Tony (KD8BBK) - Will be posted at end.

12) Announcements:

Breakfast will be at 8:30 A.M. on 4 May at Don Poncho's Restaurant located at 2105 W. State St. in Alliance.

Dinner will be at 6:00 P.M. on 8 May at Frank's Family Restaurant located at 428 E. State St. in Alliance.

13) Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be on 8 May at 7:30 P.M. located at the Alliance City Hospital Café Conference Room.

14) Roundtable: Secretary Dave (KE8JLP) needs a copy of the FCC Renewal paperwork and the ARRL Special Service Club Renewal paperwork. Dwight (KD8YFV) stated that the ARRL website has information about research that the NOAA has done on sunspot activity. It mentions that they predict that the solar minimum has been reached and that sunspot activity will start to gradually increase in the next year.

15) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

16) 50/50 Drawing: The club made \$21.00.

17) Trustee's Election of Vice President: The nominee was Doug Matthew (KB8DNQ). A vote was taken, and Doug was voted in as the new Vice President.

John (KD8MQ) and Tony (KD8BBK) Program:

Tony stated that he got permission and used the club call (W8LKY) last month for a CW Sprint. Tony belongs to a huge group of 28,000 members called the SKCC (Straight Key Century Club). It's a bunch of old and young Hams that are learning or want to learn CW. They run a Weekend CW Sprint every month on the Saturday following the 6th. It runs from Saturday morning to Sunday evening. Joining is free. When you join the SKCC you get a number that belongs to your call. When making contacts, you exchange numbers. Then for the Weekend Sprint, they may have a special theme. On Veterans Day, when you work a Veteran you get bonus points. A lot of it is slow code at 3 - 5 words a minute. There will also be 25 words a minute and everything in between. You just exchange your number, state and name. The guys who started this have their own logging software. You can download the logging software for free. It's great logging software. Tony said that he ran in the last Weekend Sprint and that he and his friend (Randy Hayes - M8KQ) together made 146 contacts in a little over 3 hours. They made contacts in 42 different states and 6 different countries. The coolest part was when he got some QSL cards in the P.O. Box for the club. He got a card from one gentleman that was accompanied by a letter. They were from a man named Doug Whener (K4IHY).

Doug Whener (K4IHY) stated in his letter:

A few days ago when working the SKCC, the call W8LKY rang a bell. Then it came to me. That was the call sign of the Tri County Amateur Radio Club which was located in the basement of the Chapman Hall on the campus of Mount Union College. The members of that club were guys who taught me the regulations and theory and helped me polish my code in the fall of 1961. It enabled me to obtain my Novice Ticket in January of 1962.

Several of us passed at that same time: Rob Wright (KN8DEG), Ray Scovill (KN8DEN), Doug Whener (KN8DEP), and a couple of others. I don't remember the date, but I passed the General as (K8DEP) in January of 1962. A few memories of my time with the club are in order: Jim Ferguson (K8LTG) was the main instructor; Dan Gezwald (K8BHH) was one of the others, good teachers.

I recall hearing the first Ham Satellite (O1) as it passed overhead with what I recall as a constant dit, dit, dit, dit, dit, dit. I had watched Sputnik pass overhead a very few years earlier. Wow, we've come a long way haven't we?

I believe that I had a chance to operate W8LKY some in the early 60's, especially before I got my own rig. Civil Defense had some Gonset 2 Meter (AM) rigs that were made available to some of the club members. That was the first set up I had on the farm out in Atwater.

Your website brought back a lot of memories. Sometime in the mid 60's, probably 64 - 66, the club relocated to the National Guard Armory down on Vine St. Along with a couple of other youngsters, we hauled an antenna (I don't remember the details.) up the 100 ft tower on the west end of the building and installed it. It was the 60's, no safety harnesses, no hard hats, etc. We were young and stupid but lived to tell about it. I'm thinking that it was shortly before I headed off to Navy Boot camp.

That's how I ended up in Virginia. I'd met my wife of over 51 years at Mount Union, but finished up with a chemistry degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. My main career was with a chemical firm in Portsmouth, Virginia, but I finished my occupation years as a high school chemistry teacher in Virginia Beach. Upon retiring, we built a house here in Virginia on the eastern shore and have been here for 8 years.

A certified pack rat, I dug through some of the old cards and found some of the earliest ones and I scanned them and included them in this copy of the historical file.

From my earliest operation on the Gonset, I progressed to my own Heath kit DX60 / HR10 combo and then to a used Heath kit SB102. It gave up its guts a few years back and I now have a very awesome Kenwood TS-590SG. My antennas are dipoles hung in the trees but they function amazingly well.

Great working yawl, and glad the clubs still around, just with different name, so it seems. I hope to QSO again.

Tony then mentioned how great and surprising it is to contact someone that's been in Ham that long, especially when he once was a club member.

John then stated that the last 2 times he's gone out over the air, he's gotten emails from 2 contacts. One was from Sweden. The other was a man that told John that he was the man's first HF contact ever.

With Tony's experience the weekend before, along with John's similar enjoyment, it got John thinking. He decided to look through his files. He had picked up a bunch of QSL cards in an antique shop in Zanesville. They were contacts made by W8ODB. John's never actually met him, but feels like he has because of all of the QSL cards.

A lot of W8ODB's QSL cards came from the Alliance area. John then spoke to Bob Valentine (W8SU) up in Newton Falls. Bob sent John scans of W8CMS QSL cards from the 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's. Some of them are from the Alliance area.

Tony and John then passed around the QSL cards they'd been sent.

It was very interesting to see all of the old QSL cards, especially the ones from the Alliance area.