



MEGAHERTZ TIMES



April 2021

W3AI

PO Box 336, Perkasio, PA 18944

RF Hill Amateur Radio Club 2021

President: WA3NFV, Dan Mitten

Vice Pres.: KB3EWW, John Morell

Secretary: NI2Q, Cary Binder

Treasurer: KC3LXV, Jim Reed

News Editor: W3WTT, Bill Tribley
bill@tribley.org

CLUB INFORMATION

Mailing address:

PO Box 336, Perkasio, PA 18944

Club Repeaters: 145.31 MHz; input
144.71 MHz PL 131.8 (2 meters)
444.75 MHz, input 449.75 MHz PL
103.5 (70 cm)

Meetings: The club normally meets
at 7:30 PM on the last Thursday of
the Month

Web page: <http://www.rfhillarc.club>

Email: rfhillarc@yahoo.com

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DEADLINE for article submission is 10 days before the meeting! Please submit in Open Office (.odt) or MS Word (.docx) format.
Send to bill@tribley.org

**The April 2021, Club meeting will be held Thursday, April 29th, at 7:30 PM via Zoom.
Invitations will be sent out via the IO reflector. See you on Zoom!**

April Program

Mini ZoomFest

Following the business meeting there will be a mini-Zoom fest in place of the traditional auction. As we did in the fall photos will be posted members will be given a few mins to talk about there items All sales will then be moved to private emails and between members.

For details see the reflector! - John KB3EWW

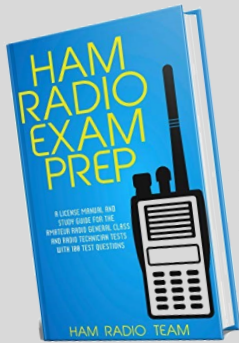
Due to the Covid-19 threat, Peter Becker, as well as most senior living facilities, have closed their campuses to visitors. The administrator at PBC will let us know when that changes.

**Stay safe and best 73,
Jim Soete, WA3YLQ, Past Secretary
RF Hill ARC, VE Team Liaison**



RF Hill Amateur Radio Club
W3AI

VE TESTING



VE testing for Technician, General and Extra Class licenses is held regularly at the Indian Valley Public Library in Telford:

100 E Church Ave.
Telford, PA 18969



Due to various factors related to Covid-19 the board has not yet scheduled in-person VE Testing for 2021. If other options become available they will be announced at meetings or on the reflector. Online options are available: <https://blog.hamstudy.org/2020/04/fully-remote-amateur-radio-license-exam-administration/>.



Highlighted Nets

SEPPTN traffic nets are on Sundays & Wednesdays at 8:00 PM local time at 145.310 MHz (-600). These nets are for anyone who would like to learn how to handle traffic as well as an on the air meeting place for members and future members.

RF Hill A-R-C Ten Meter AM Net: 29.005MHz on Sunday evening immediately following the SEPPTN

RF Hill CW Squad Net: Operates on 28.370.600 CW at approx. 7pm Tuesday stopping before the NPARC net at 8pm. This is a non formal CWs - slow speed - net for beginners and ranges in speed from 5-15 wpm.

Net Control Stations

04/25,04/28 W3WTT	07/04,07/07 WA3YLQ
05/02,05/05 KS3Z	07/11,07/14 W3WTT
05/09,05/12 KB3DEN	
05/16,05/19 WA3YLQ	
05/23,05/26 W3WTT	
05/30,06/02 KS3Z	
06/06,06/09 KB3DEN	
06/13,06/16 WA3YLQ	
06/20,06/23 W3WTT	
06/27,06/30 KS3Z	

Any questions or conflicts, please let me know. If at the last minute, the assigned net control station doesn't show-up, any net control station on frequency should run the net.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support.
Jim - KB3DEN KB3DEN@aol.com

AREA NET LISTINGS

SEPPTN Southeastern PA Practice & Traffic Net	Su/W	8 PM	145.31-
EPAEPTN - EPA Emergency Phone/Traffic Net	Daily	6 PM	3.917 +/-
Pennsylvania Traffic Net (CW)	Daily	7,10 PM	3.585
Third Region Net	Daily	4 PM	7.243 (3.917 -alt)
Eastern Area Net (EAN)	Daily	2:30 PM	7.243
Bucks County ARES	W	9 PM	147.090+
Montgomery County ARES	Th	7 PM	146.835- (pl 88.5)
EPA echo link traffic net (EAETN) Echolink AA3RG-R	Th	8 PM	146.640- (pl 82.5)



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Follow us today!

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<http://twitter.com/W3AI>



From Our President, Dan WA3NFV

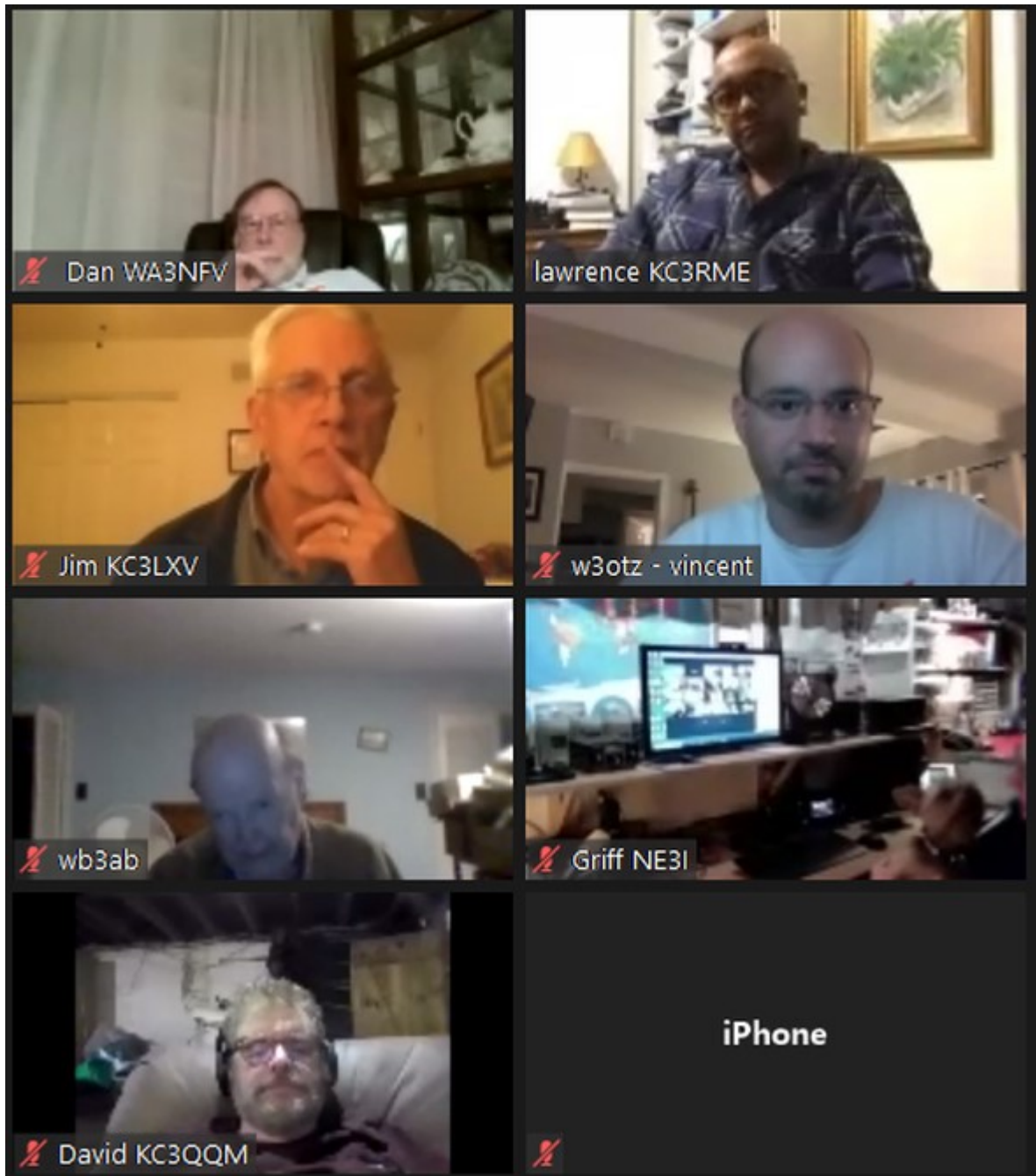
This month I would like to suggest that we take time to reflect on the importance of the technical contributions of some of the pioneers of early radio.

One person who we honor every time we say *Megahertz*, is Heinrich R. Hertz (b.1857). Although Hertz died in 1894 at an early age, his contributions were significant. He was the first to prove the existence of electromagnetic waves, that electromagnetic waves had polarity and that electromagnetic waves could be reflected. He is credited with proving that the calculations of Physicists before him, were valid, including those of Maxwell. Had he lived longer I would be willing to bet, that he would have regretted having answered the question "What is the useful purpose of electromagnetic waves?", with "Nothing, I guess." Think about that the next time you make a contact or drive by the T-Mobile store!

March Meeting Faces 1/4



March Meeting Faces 2/4

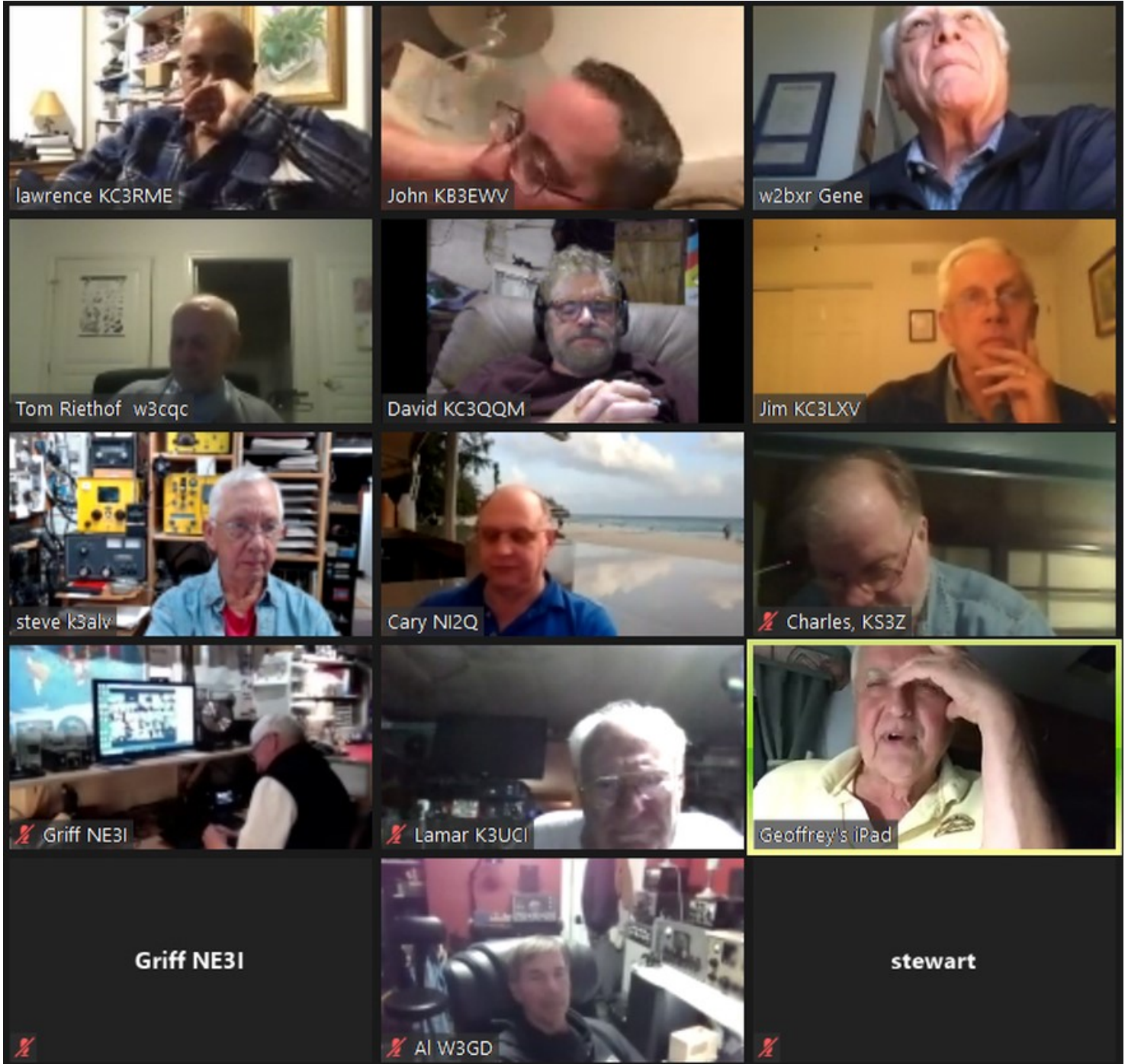


What is the callsign of the iPhone and can it do CW? Inquiring minds want to know... Thanks to Joe, N3CRP, our faithful Photographer Of The Zoom.

March Meeting Faces 3/4



March Meeting Faces 4/4



Just for grins I have simply cut up what Joe gave me and presented it somewhat out of order. Last month I commented too soon about us getting too good at these photo sessions... -ed.

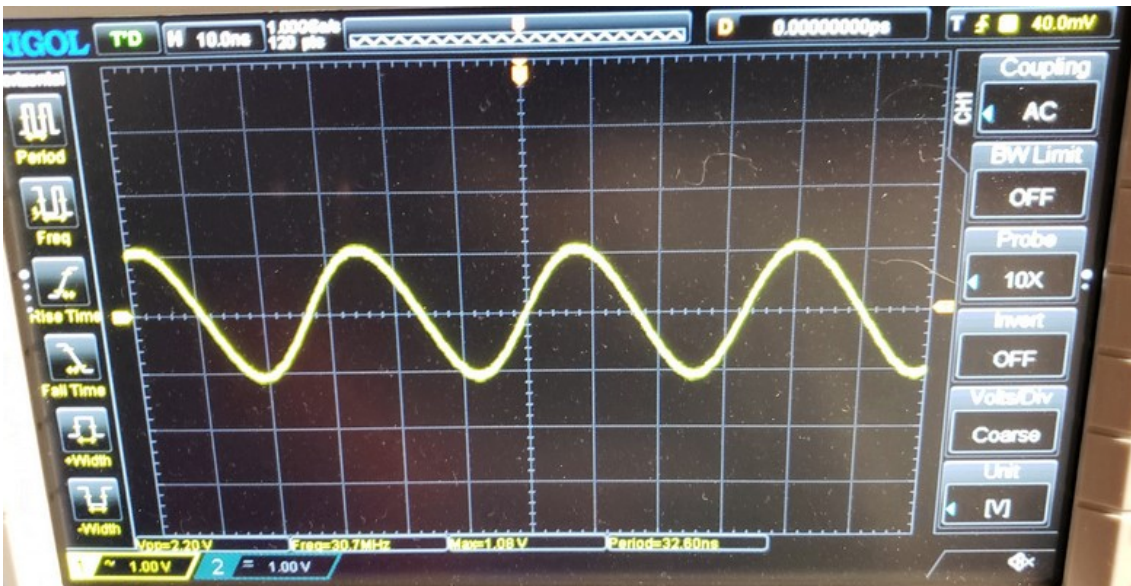
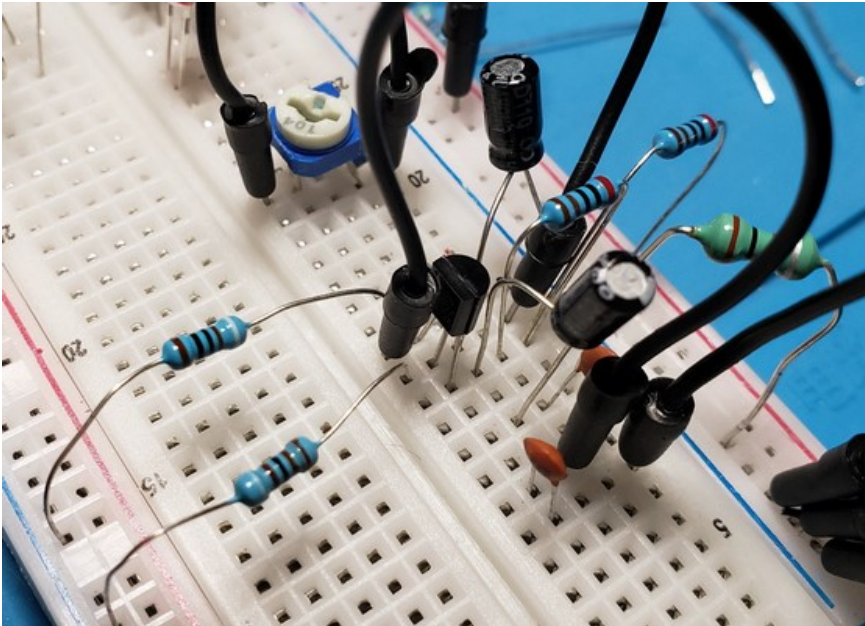
Four Watts CW and a Regen to Ohio!



As part of Sunday at the Park Griff NE3I set up a 4W 40M CW rig with a regenerative receiver. He made a contact in Ohio on 7114KHz. This is Dan's fishing pole antenna. Note the green counterpoise wire, a critical part of the antenna system. Photo and technical detail courtesy Dan WA3NFV

Sunday at the Park





Here are some pictures of the group today. Also, the picture of the colpitts oscillator I created for 10m.

I didn't get a chance to get out the pixie...i was having too much fun with discussions and seeing the other rigs!

Enjoy!

73 - Vince W3OTZ

Where There's a Ham There's a Way

I was replacing the noisy PTT switch my inherited HT, a Yaesu FT-23R (which has been sitting in my garage for at least 10 years since I obtained it), and in order to complete this task, the display circuit board needs to be removed from the front cover. After removing the 6 screws holding it down, I found the speaker was basically soldered to the circuit board and glued to the front cover. I don't know if this was normally the case, but my SK brother-in-law's call was all over the insides of the unit, so I'll assume some of this was his handywork. I unsoldered the speaker and replaced the pc mounted micro switch in about 5 minutes with the aid of a disordering iron (If you don't have one, get one!).

I put the circuit board back into place, fired I up and there was no sound coming out of the speaker, but the speaker mic worked fine. Well my eyes aren't the sharpest anymore, so I grabbed my loop to check the speaker connections and everything looked fine. I removed the circuit board again and found that the foil connecting point (basically a small circuit board) for the ultra-thin magnetic speaker wire had been ripped away breaking the magnetic speaker wire.

I wasn't about to go looking for a replacement speaker for an HT from the late 1980's early 1990's, so I had to come up with a plan. I figured if I could find an old circuit board laying around, I could cut the foil trace off the board and glue it to the existing terminal board on the speaker. I found a board from an old T.V. bar generator which had really good traces on it. I tried use a razor knife to scrape off a piece, but that went nowhere fast. I remembered a few projects that went south as a kid and one of them had the foil lifted off the circuit board after repeatedly trying to fix a cold solder connection. I decided I would use a soldering gun to repeat my past mistakes, but this time it was for a good cause. After successfully removing a nice section of foil and cutting to fit, I super glued it to the speaker in the location from whence the original foil trace came.

The next part was the trickiest. I had to see if the foil trace would stay put when I put heat to it for soldering. The remaining magnetic wire was very short, so I only had one shot at success all the way around. I tinned the magnetic speaker wire and the foil trace, and then soldered them together. Everything stayed put! I mounted the circuit board, soldered the speaker to the board, tested for receive audio and started to put the H.T. back together when I realized I put the rubber membrane switch pad in upside down. Wash rinse and repeat!

The good news is after the second disassembly and assembly everything still worked fine.

Cary NI2Q

RF Hill ARC Meeting Minutes

Date 25-Mar-2021

Welcome/Call to Order: WA3NVF @ 7:34 PM EDT

Roll Call: Dan-WA3NFV-Dan, John-KB3EWV, Cary-NI2Q, Charles-KS3Z, Kevin-KW3P, Jim-KC3LXV, Lamar-K3UCI, Tom-W3CQC, Charles-K3WW, Stan-KB3GMF, Lawrence-KC3RME, Gene-W2BXR, Al-W3GD, Jim-WA3YLQ, Geoff-KC3HEQ, Dave-KC3QQM, Vince-W3OTZ, Pat-K3KSE, Steve-K3ALV, John-WB3ABH, Griff-NE3I, Paul-W3RKL, Dave-N2VUZ

Officer Reports:

President, Dan-WA3NFV: Auction cancelled due to COVID, Zoomfest next month, Field day to be operated same as last year except home stations limited to 100W.

Vice President, John-KB3EWV: Bill to do a presentation on mobile power sources. Wants people to report on other hobbies and interests

Secretary, Cary-NI2Q: Vote to accept minutes as corrected by Kevin KW3P and 2nd by Charles KS3Z. Two 2nd readings, 2nd reading for John Slaymaker KB3ZWH who was not present, voted on and passed unanimously. First reading for Lawrence KC3RME.

Treasurer, Jim-KC3LXV: Financial report was presented. Income from 3 new members, and W3AEH SK estate sale commissions. No expenses. Motion to approve by Geoff KC3HEQ and 2nd by Gene W2BXR. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Programs: John KB3EWV, Tonight is "Ask the Experts", April is Zoomfest to replace the auction and May will cover Field Day stuff.

Repeater Report: Charles KS3Z reported that his field day generator is being exercised and the repeater is working fine after the battery backup fuse holder was repaired.

Net report: Jim-KB3DEN sent report to Charles KS3Z. SEPPTN check-ins for Feb. 2021 with a total of 113 messages which averages 13 over 8 sessions. Net control schedule sent, and the amount of check-ins is constant.

NE3I reported the CW Squad is going well. 3 check ins this week and 8 has been the largest number of check-ins so far. All stations are improving.

WA3NVF reported on the 29.005 MHz AM and 28.370 MHz ssb nets.

VE Team: WA3YLQ reported that there are going to be changes in VE team the future. Library where test sessions are usually held is partially open. A virtual testing plan is being considered (see MHz Times).

MHz Times No report but MHz Times was published and submitted to the club for the March 2021 meeting.

RF Hill ARC Meeting Minutes cont'd

Webmaster's Report: N2VUZ. Changes were made to the club's website including adding stuff to menus, page for the rebar antenna and the Constitution. Menu system changed to improve usability. Dan WA3NFV thanked Paul W3RKL for his rebar antenna contribution. QRZ.com page has been fixed to reflect club membership.

KS3Z said that there were zero Facebook visits and no posts. Vince W3OTZ asked about an Instagram account and Dan WA3NFV said we don't have one. Vince W3OTZ said he will create an account for the club and was told by John KB3EWV that all passwords need to be shared with the President and the Secretary. Vince W3OTZ will follow-up with John KB3EWV. Lawrence KC3RME offered to help.

Membership Status: KC3BVI – John Slaymaker was approved and added to the roster

Health and Welfare: Steve K3ALV conversed with Irv AF3IF who is slowing down but doing OK. Tom W3CQC said he doesn't know when Peter Becker will open again.

Old Business

Kevin KW3P asked about output power for FD operating from home using battery. Club response is that there is no power restriction (note-1500W is max allowed by FCC).

New Business

Lawrence KC3RME thanked Charles KS3Z for all his help.

John KB3UWV is not in favor of RF Hill ARC Field Day but will loan equipment

Geoff KC3HEQ will be operating a special event station, W4S on April 17th, 2021 between 8AM – 12PM on 20M or 40M. This special event is from April 13th – 18th 2021.

Adjournment: John KB3EWV moved, Jim KC3LXV 2nd. Dan WA3NFV adjourned the meeting at 8:23PM DST.

Program: John KB3EWV – Ask the experts.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cary R Binder, NI2Q, Secretary RF Hill ARC.