



Solivita Radio Club

Meeting of Thursday, February 25, 2021

President: Reg Thomas, KD8THB
Secretary: Mike Urban, KD4PTT
Club Station License Trustee: Jeff Saly, WA4LLL

In addition to the SRC Officers, the following Members were present:

George Baltz, N3GB
Doug Bennett, WB8ZNL
Paul Bresnowitz, N2TTR
Alan McIlwain, KI8JV
Wayne Schoeffel, KJ4FXB
Marty Strakhovsky, WA1GVH
Norm Zubick, KD2ICH

The meeting was called to order by President Reg at 7:04pm.

Old Business:

Solivita Repeaters (2m; GMRS) are in a continuous evaluation of maintenance and repair.

Jeff provided an extensive assessment of the status /function of the repeaters with the following concerns and needs for the proper function of these system(s).

Primary points of concern for maintenance and/or repairs are:

New Batteries, ATS, DC Power Distribution Unit w/meter, and VHF/UHF Duplexer maintenance.

Estimate costs:

Batteries: \$120 each x2
ATS: \$140
DC power distribution: \$170
UHF Duplexer (tuning): \$125
VHF Duplexer (tuning): \$165
Duplexer (service call) pro-services: \$165
Power-pole connectors: \$25
Fuses: \$6

Total estimate for maintenance/repairs: \$1,036.00

Additionally, Alan, KI8JV suggested a possible re-cabling of the system to see if it helps to eliminate possible corrosion problems.

The Solivita CERT organization is in agreement to financing the expenses for maintenance/repair.

The Club held its 2nd Fox Hunt on Wednesday, Feb. 24th. Where five members participated in this fun Club event. All participants gathered at the Freedom Park flagpole. Reg, was the Fox and headed out into the wildernesses of Solivita to set up his “Fox Lair” from which he started his transmissions by announcing to all the “Hunter” that the game was on... thereafter, Reg transmitted his message about once each minute for all those “hunting” could track (his frequency) down. MIKE, KD4PTT, again... was the first to find the FOX, within about 30 minutes. Fun was had by all.

It was suggested by Mike, KD4PTT, (with 2 consecutive wins) that the one who finds the Fox first, should be the Fox on the next event so as to allow for others to experience the “successful find”. All those present agreed.

Jeff, WA4LLL reports that the proposed Aero-DX event has been rescheduled several times recently due to unfavorable weather conditions and the availability of the aircraft. Also, Jeff is reconsidering the computation of the “load”, which generally consists of the physical weight of the pilot, passenger(s) and the amount of fuel onboard at the time of the scheduled flight.

Many factor(s) are involved with the readiness of the aircraft and fuel, mostly, when and who had used the A/C and whether the fuel tanks have been topped off. Plus, the number of passenger and pilot (weights)

Jeff is recommending that once the weather and A/C availability elements are favorable and with considerations towards the load...that will likely be Full Fuel/Pilot/and 1 Passenger. Subsequent flights may allow for one (1) additional passenger as fuel is expended per flight. As such, the cost per passenger may be a little higher, i.e., \$60.

New Business:

New Ham Classes. Alan, KI8JV has initiated the idea of providing Ham Operator Classes for those individuals interested in becoming licensed (Technician) operators. The classes will be conducted via Zoom and are scheduled to commence March 4, 2021. At-this-time, there are 15-16 individuals signed up for the class, including 2 or 3 out-of-staters. Upon completion of the course of training, it is anticipated that, with the assistance of the VEC’s associated with the St. Cloud Radio Club, arrangements can be made for Licensing Exams.

Club Survey 2/25/2021: Reg brought forth a survey for the Membership’s consideration, to identify the Club choice for which direction to follow for the purpose of obtaining some sort of Liability Insurance coverage.

Three (3) choices of direction were presented to those Members present.

- (A) Would be willing to join ARRL and donate \$30 a year to maintain Club insurance?
- (B) You would like the Club to become a non-profit 501c3 in order to purchase insurance, collect money in the form of donations, 50/50 raffles and dues. We could also own property as a Club. If so, a Treasurer will have to be elected, bank checking accounts established, etc. Cost would be around \$60 the first year and \$40 each year after.
- (C) We leave the Club as is but end the Club's practice of doing activities outside of the monthly Club meetings.

Discussion: Reg presented the above and asked those Members present of their idea/choices. With little discussion it was suggested the Club would likely be more interested in option (A).

Reg and Jeff identified that a minimum of 51% of the Club Membership must be ARRL Members for the Club to enroll with the ARRL for insurance coverage. NOTE: The Club currently has 29 members = need 15 to be enrolled and maintained as ARRL Members.

Emergency Communications:

Reg... provided a summary of Radio Frequencies monitored by the Solivita Radio Club during emergency situations. (see accompanying Radio Freq.PDF file)

Any Club Member interested in covering any of the indicated frequencies please indicate your interest (what bands your capable of monitoring, your name and callsign) with Reg, KD8THB.

Field/Day Trip(s) – proposal.

Jerry, W9MET is planning a Club day trip to visit the Edison/Ford Museum for March. Any/all interested Members (& spouse/guest). Round trip transportation TBD (Motor Coach, i.e., Small World Tours). Estimated cost \$25/pp (transportation only) Further details to follow.

Reg is going to investigate a day/overnight trip to the Hontoon State Park. The park is actually an island accessed by pontoon boat. The purpose of the trip would be to afford the opportunity for participating in a Parks on the Air (POTA) event for members of the Club. Further details to follow.

With no further business/discussion, a motion to adjourn was called for by Reg, KD8THB.

Doug, WB8ZNL motioned to adjourn.

George, N3GB seconded the motion.

All members present agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm