

QSY SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010

Scott, KC2NTV opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m.

Field Day was the opening subject. Scott asked that all those present who were willing to volunteer in the Field Day setup and operation please identify themselves. Those volunteering were:

KC2VDG
W2PTF
W1ZMB
KB2VJP
N2QZ
WA2WMJ
KC2NTV
WB2LQF
KC2QFR
KC2AFK

Anyone desiring to volunteer but who was unable to attend tonight's meeting should contact Scott, KC2NTV.

It was agreed that two (2) meetings will be held prior to Field Day. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. at GoodFellas. The second meeting will be held "around" May 25-26 and the exact day, time, and place will be determined later. Fred, KC2QFR is going to put the checklist up on the QSY website (www.qsysociety.org) and volunteers are asked to review it. If you know what you would like to do, let Scott know as soon as possible and you may be able to avoid the meeting(s).

Scott reported that Brian Penny confirmed that the pavilion will not be available on Friday evening so all Field Day activity is now committed to Saturday and Sunday only.

N2QZ will discuss computer networking at the April 28 meeting. N2QZ will set up the programming on the laptops in advance and asked for at least one full week. At the present time, it looks like we may have enough volunteered laptops but if you are in a position to offer one up please let Scott know as soon as possible. This would be good backup "just in case". The sources for the volunteered laptops to-date are:

1 – WA2WMJ
2 – County
1 – QSY
1 – KC2LOR
1 – KE2FI

The "First Annual Two Meter and Six Meter FM Simplex QSY QSO Party" was held as planned. The idea came from Fred, KC2QFR, and all agreed that even while actual participation was low, it was a sound idea and should be repeated, perhaps on a more frequent basis than annual. Dave, KC2AFK read an email he received from Andrew, W2BOS who acknowledged the "fun and value" of the exercise. There was some discussion of whether there might be a better time for the next one but it was agreed that

that might be a moving target. It was suggested, however, that the title of the contest might be a bit long!

Scott read an email that Shirley, N2SKP asked him specifically to read to the members. It was received from "Kelly" and was addressed to QSY members. The email asked for QSY members to "volunteer" participation in the Rally New York Road Race in the Walton-Monticello area on April 16-17. The volunteers would be providing communications. Scott read the email verbatim. Scott then read an email received from Pete, N2YJZ in which he advised that this was a 'grey' area which could jeopardize the license of anyone participating. The reason is that this organization is a 'for profit' entity and only "emergency" communications could be provided. While keeping times and transmitting them for a non-profit is allowable, doing the same thing for a 'for profit' is not allowed nor is it considered "emergency" communication. It was also observed by some members present that MBARC does not participate either. Those present agreed that this request was not a good idea and the issue was closed.

JB, WA2WMJ opened the Show 'n Tell with his new homebrew 220 mhz portable antenna specifically designed for rapid assembly/disassembly. JB constructed it entirely of PVC and aluminum tube. It's basically a dipole that quickly becomes a 3 element beam with an estimated 6-8 db gain and mounts on a simple tripod. JB then demonstrated his 2 meter, 5 element portable beam that employed the same type of PVC-aluminum tube design and construction. This beam was designed to quickly switch polarization. Scott hooked his ICOM handi-talkie up to it and one could clearly hear the directivity as we eavesdropped on a simplex conversation going on. JB's final item was a 6 meter MOXON made from aluminum lawnchairs. Scott had borrowed it and confirmed it worked FB for 6 meter QSOs. The MOXON is also an antenna that can be used either vertically or horizontally.

Stan, WB2LQF demonstrated his Direct Conversion receiver built from plans in the 2010 ARRL Handbook. Direct Conversion had its roots in the 1920s and predated the superheterodyne. The benefits of Direct Conversion include circuit simplicity and excellent sensitivity. The downside includes very poor image rejection, selectivity, and tendencies toward hum, and microphonics – the very problems that superhets were designed to overcome. In a DC receiver, the signal rides in on the antenna and into a mixer where it is mixed with a local oscillator signal about 1 khz lower. Then it goes to a filter that throws out all the mixer's products (sum, harmonics) except for the difference which is this 1000 cycle tone. This 1000 cycle tone then goes to an audio amplifier and on to the speaker or headphone. There are no IFs in a DC receiver. DC receivers are known for their tube like purity of sound. Stan suggested that anyone interested in exploring DC receivers might want to take a look at www.tentec.com. They sell a \$32 kit called the Model 1056 which comes with all the parts necessary to build a DC receiver for any one amateur band 160-80-40-30-20-17-15-12 or 10 meters. This receiver would make an ideal companion for a small QRP transmitter for those who might wish to experiment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.