Meeting Minutes for
July 28, 2020
Present were

| Name | Call Sign | Name | Call Sign |
|---|---|---|---|
| Graham Hicks | W4PJS | Joel Hinshaw | KD7JG |
| Tyson Brooks | KI7FXJ | Don Magee | KD7CEM |
| Ted Ivester | N7NSL | Michael Abernathy | KK7MA |
| Dennis Bottoroff | KJ7ODW | Gary Anger | W7GFA |
| Chris Leavitt | (soon) | Javan Ireland | (soon) |
| Jason Fouts | W7JSN | | |
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## Introductions:

Tyson called for introductions of the members and visitors.

## Minutes Read & Treasury report:

The minutes from our June meeting were read and accepted as submitted with one correction referring to the frequency for the ARES Voice net on 80 meters. Thank you, Jason, for pointing out the error.

Mike KF7STP was unable to attend but sent Tyson an email stating that the balance in the club checking account is $2294.59.

## Old Business:

- The Fire station meeting room is still not available, and no date has been set for resuming the club meetings there. Ted N7NSL again offered to host the meetings at the Grace Bible Church. Meetings at the Pioneer Park pavilion is another option. It was decided to take a wait and see position before deciding on the next meeting location.

- The Club breakfast at Denney's is on again and will be the second Saturday each month at 9:00 AM.

- The MyPI group still wants to have another Ham Radio training session for their group of young people but due to virus restrictions on group gatherings nothing has been scheduled. Robin Gerber one of the groups leaders is working on a camp out on their property North of Elgin and would like to have our Club setup a station if possible. At this time nothing has been scheduled.

- The Club Repeater (146.98) located at the Grande Ronde Hospital is functioning properly both on voice and Wires-X. Physical access to the repeater is restricted due to the virus problem.

## New Business:

- The Club was able to assemble a Field Day outing at Bird Track Spring campground again this year. There were 7 stations again this year, which gave our group a 7A classification. Tyson handed out a Field Day data sheet giving the number of contacts, modes worked and total contacts. Our points were down from last year but all in all everyone participating thought things worked well. One of the operators had a miss hap with a fire pit grate Saturday evening and required 23 stitches and a trip to the ER. The safety protocols were discussed and it was decided that as a group we need to be more helpful to other operators and ask for help if needed.

- Club elections are scheduled for this coming January. Tyson will be stepping down as president so be thinking of someone to take the helm this January.

- The annual Club Picnic, which has been held on Labor Day the last several years at Joel and Gail's home in Summerville will not be available this year. Mike KK7MA offered to host the gathering at his home in La Grande.

## ARES Report:

The ARES group headed by Jason W7JSN gave an update on activities. The group uses Winlink, a computer program to send digital email type messages to other ARES stations using the VHF and HF bands. Recently the VARA software modem was updated to version 4 and previous versions will no longer work. The Group does a weekly exercise using Winlink at 6:00 PM followed by a voice net on 3955 khz which starts at 6:15 PM. Everyone is welcome to participate in either portion of the exercise. The VHF packet node has been moved from Mike's KK7MA QTH to the EOC in The Police station basement. The node operates on 144.93 MHZ.

## VE Report:

Gary W7GFA gave a short update on testing. There was a test session in June or early July (not sure of the date) for two candidates. Ron Wilson upgraded to General Class and the other gentleman didn't quite make the Tech Class. Javan Ireland and Chris Leavitt are just about ready to take the Tech test along with some others. The VE group will set another test date soon.

## Other Discussions:

- Club QSL cards were discussed and if you have a design in mind or would like to be involved send your design to the membership via email.
- The Field Day, Gun Snow and RTTY contest contacts have been uploaded to E-qsl and LoTw. The Club has 3430 contacts in our logbook program.
- The Club encourages members to operate under the Club call sign but if you do please contact one of the officers about the operation and contacts must be logged on a computer logbook program capable of producing a ADIF-2 data file of the contacts so we can upload that data to E-qsl and LoTw. Also, contacts must be logged in UTC time. Do not use local, 24 hour local or military time formats.

## Presentations:

Ted N7NSL did a short program abut a J-pole VHF / UHF antenna he and some of the other members built using aluminum rod and angle aluminum. The antenna showed a very good match on the extended frequencies. The cost of the material and connectors was minimal. Anyone interested in building one should contact Ted N7NSL.