



December 2010 Newsletter

Vol. 18 Issue 12

NEXT MEETING

Saturday December 4th @ 7pm
at the American Red Cross

Elections of Officers Will be held at the Meeting Please Show Up We need a Good Turnout

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND

Balance 10/31/10	\$600.66
Dues Paid	+00.00
Deposit	+607.61
Expenses	-126.88
Balance 11/28/10	\$1,081.39

Expenses were for tower trailer and to reserve church for X-Mas party. Deposit was transfer from savings for all tower trailer repairs to this date and insurances on repeaters.

MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance 10/31/10	\$3,390.55
Dues Paid	+00.00
Deposit	+ 00.00
Donations & Interest	+07.28
Expenses	-607.61
Balance 11/28/10	\$2,790.22

Expense moneys transferred to general fund from tower trailer repairs.

Submitted by KB0SVG Mary Nystrom AARC Treasurer

Minutes for the November 2010 Meeting

Austin Amateur Radio Club Meeting, November 6, 2010, at American Red Cross Bldg. Club president Tom, KC0VII called the meeting to order at 7 pm. A quorum was present. Attendance 19:

Dean KA0RMP Jay KC0HXM Mary KC0SVG Brownsdale Mike KC0AAB
Vernon KB0ZBU Vince KC0NPG Hayward Mike KC0YQU Don KC0CSF
Erv WB0LSG Dillon KD0DTX Al N0RZO Steve KB0MEX Dick WB0FWI
John KB0SPM Denny KD0CSY Bob K0IHV Tom KC0VII Carl WA0RLY
Jan W0LUX

Tom KC0VII gave his family's profound gratitude to the club members for expression of kindness given to them during his wife's recovery period from serious injuries. The prayers, offers of assistance and food donations were greatly appreciated.

The October meeting was held at Gymocha. There were not enough attendees to constitute a quorum; therefore, no minutes, no business transacted. Just talk, talk, talk.

Treasurer, Mary KC0SVG, recommended transferring \$607.61 from the maintenance fund to the checking account to cover impending fees for repeater equipment insurance, antenna trailer maintenance, and miscellaneous items. Vince KC0NPG made a motion to approve the funds transfer; Al N0RZO seconded it; motion unanimously approved.

Denny KD0CSY made a motion to pay the annual \$10 fee to the Minnesota Repeater Council, motion seconded by Mike KC0AAB; Motion unanimously approved. Action: Mary KC0VSG.

Old Business: As a matter of general interest the purchase of coax cable and barrel connectors, authorized in August, was received and placed in the club inventory as planned. See John KB0SPM and Mike KC0AAB for further details.

New Business: December 4th meeting will include election of club officers for 2011.

Dues: After members discussed the history of club dues, Jan W0LUX made a motion that club dues for 2011 remain the same as 2010, payable at the December meeting; motion seconded by Mike KC0AAB. Motion approved.

The annual club Christmas Party / Winter Party will be held January 8, at Crane Chapel. Food will be catered by HY-VEE. Because of the club's dwindling treasury funds, this year we can't afford to offer members a subsidized dinner, all party participants will be charged the same rate. Mary KC0SVG will solicit RSVP at the December meeting. Estimated cost \$12 each. Drawing for door prizes...do you have a worthy item to donate?

The popular Tech Class will be conducted in the near future. A lively discussion on "how to" indicated sufficient interest to proceed with tech projects to help ward off winter doldrums and avoid cabin fever. Tom KC0VII, Al NORCE, Brownsdale Mike, Hayward Mike, Jay KC0HXM were among many who favored the idea of building items from "scratch", learning how to solder, and ordering kits from the likes of Ramsey, Ten Tech, Bionics, APRS and many other sources.

Vern KB0ZBU and Don KC0CFS waxed eloquently about working with “boards” and many nodded their head in approval of tech classes where ever they might be held. Action: Tom, Al, and all others.

Dean KA0RMP brought up the idea for the club to get involved with at least one on-the-air contest during the months ahead. John KB0SPM suggested the February Minnesota QSO Party as a short, simple and easy contest in our own grand state of MN. It was pointed out by Carl WA0RLY, Steve KB0MEX, Bob K0IHV and Dick WB0FWI that the February 4th Minnesota QSO Party is low-pressure, 8-hour primarily HF event, that can be a lot of fun. Vince KC0NPG will schedule the Red Cross Building for this event. Its flag pole can be used to help support dipole antennas and portable poles can be used to secure the wire ends. This can turn into a full blown adventure involving all the club members – anyone have a contest logging software program? MN QSO software updates are available for the party. Dillon, KD0DTX, provided the group with instant information about the contest from his wonder phone. Thanks Dillon. Action: Dean and others.

Antenna trailer: Brownsdale Mike said the trailer needs to be relocated for winter storage from his place in Brownsdale to Rick Enright’s place in Rose Creek. Mary offered to contact Rick to arrange receiving the trailer. Mike reworked the rotor mounting plate by welding it onto the tower’s top section, centering and affixing the rotor onto the plate, then finished the project by painting the metal parts; the unit is fully operational. Thanks Mike, a job well done. Action: Mike, Mary.

Erv, WB0LSG, shared an email from former Club member Ken Tate, now living in Florida. Ken, with club longevity dating back into the ‘40’s, is helping Erv collect memorabilia for our archive. Ken alluded to the fact he is sending Erv a package of old stuff that might help his cause. If the data can be posted to the club’s web site, Al N0RZO will find a way to do it. Thanks guys. See our web site, Austinarc.org. Action: Erv, Al

General information: 150 MHZ through 175 MHZ will be converting to NARROW BAND in the near future. This change will be cause a lot of public service equipment to become obsolete unless modifications can be made to the aging rigs.

Speaking of aging equipment, it was brought by Vern KB0ZBU and discussed that the batteries used to support the club repeaters should be service checked: are the batteries getting too old? Are they ready to be replaced? Action: Al N0RZO, Vern KB0ZBU

A club fund raiser is being planned starting December 4th. Al N0RZO has generously donated a very good, loaded, recent model laptop computer to be raffled with the proceeds going into the club general fund. Tickets to sell will be available at the December meeting, drawing will be at half-time during the club’s Winter Party, Jan 8. Even at \$5 (?) per ticket, this should be an easy sell.

Don’t forget to check the fantastic club web site: Austinarc.org. Thanks to Al N0RZO all contributors.

December 4th meeting will be at 7 pm at the Mower County American Red Cross building in Downtown Austin, MN – Spamtown USA.

Visitors are welcome to our meetings. Invite a friend or neighbor who is interested in our radio hobby, encourage an inactive ham to get back on the air, then enjoy the fun of being connected to the cutting edge of technology...past, present, future. 73.

Jan W0LUX motioned the meeting be adjourned, seconded my AI N0RZO.
Approved.

With peace and harmony prevailing, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Dean A Johnson, KA0RMP AARC Club Secretary

**The AARC CHRISTMAS PARTY is all set to be held at
The Crane Community Chapel in Austin, MN.
Date is set for January 8, 2011 to be catered by Hy-Vee.**

**The AARC contest activity for the MN QSO Party
is approved to be held at the American Red Cross BLDG.
Vince KC0NPG was able to get the date scheduled.
Date is Saturday February 5, 2011 from 8am to 6pm.
The Club meeting will be at 9am same day, same place.**

**Congratulations to Jay KC0HXM
for his upgrade to General Class in October.**

**Congratulations to Hayward Brian KD0MPK
for his upgrade to General Class in November.**

AARC Red Cross CPR Recertification Class

Mary KB0SVG held the annual CPR recertification class on Saturday Nov. 27, 2010 from 1pm to 4pm. The 5 usual candidates were in attendance – Dean KA0RMP, Ray KG0UG, Mike KC0AKT, Vince KC0NPG and John KB0SPM. All candidates successfully passed the yearly recertification. Congratulations to all and thank you to Mary KB0SVG to willingly take care of this every year.

Twin Towers Repeater Maintenance

At about 1:00pm on Saturday November 20, 2010, a small crew of local willing Hams ventured to the Twin Towers in downtown Austin to do maintenance and install a protective metal cabinet at the repeater and digi-peater location in the penthouse of building number one. The group consisted of Tom KC0VII (Electronics and Computer Consultant), Jay KC0HXM (Fabrication and Installation Specialist), Mike KC0YQU (Supervision and Wiring Technician) and John KB0SPM (Janitor and Key Master). The task was completed in 2 hours. **High compliments to Jay KC0HXM for his first class planning and creation of the wonderful metal cabinet that now houses and protects the 2 repeaters and the digi-peater.**

AARC Recommended Nets

Sunday Night – Austin 146.730 FM Net - 7:00pm CST
Sunday Night – Owatonna 145.490 FM Net - 7:30pm CST
Sunday Night – Albert Lea 146.880 FM Net - 8:00pm CST
Sunday Night – Austin 50.400 AM Rag Chew Net - 8:30pm CST
Sunday Night – Northern Lights 144.260 USB Net – 9pm CST
Monday Night – North Iowa Net 147.315 FM Net – 6:30pm CDT
Tuesday Night – Austin 28.410 USB Rag Chew Net - 7:00pm CST

CLUB OFFICERS

President --- Tom Crowley KC0VII
Vice President --- Mike Hansen KC0YQU
Treasurer --- Mary Nystrom KB0SVG
Secretary --- Dean Johnson KA0RMP