

Columbia Amateur Radio Club

April 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Due to the Corona Virus and the stay-at-home order from our Governor, our monthly meeting was held online through Zoom so that all of our members could participate from the comfort of their own homes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Dan Cunningham K9DBC.

Announcements

There has been a great response to Zoom. Last week two training sessions were held online so that everyone could learn how to participate in our meeting.

Phil Shreeves will do a presentation on Satellite Radio this evening.

The club presently has 137 members.

Our Sunday night 2 Meter Repeater Net report for the month showed that there were 4 nets with 144 check-ins, and 16 announcements.

Treasurer Doug White, N4NYK, reported that the club has a balance of \$5,412.56.

Gary Anderson announced that a class on Get Radioactive will be held on Wednesday April 8th at 7:00 PM. It will be held online, and anyone interested can go to our website to register.

Every evening, CARC will conduct an informal net on 147.33 at 7:30 PM for updates and information on the Corona Virus. All are invited to listen in and offer insights and information to the present Corona Virus situation.

Clark Frady K4HI, is working on replacing the 2 meter side of the K4HI repeater at 147.60 with a new Yaesu Fusion. It will be both analog and digital and will be easy to set up. The cost will be about \$1000 and he has set up a GoFund me page. Clark, Mike Gill N4MSG, and Ryan Headley W4EAE are working very hard on this project and hope to have it up and running sometime during the summer.

Steve Nixon KC4UAL, announced the restarting of the ARES meeting on Thursday, April 9th at 8:30 on the club repeater.

Mike Wieber N1BQQ, is working to get an ARES statewide, HF net going on Tuesdays or Thursdays. He is trying to find a less busy frequency for the net. It will be at 6:00 Or 7:00 PM. He is starting with the HF net going, then Winlink, and packet network. However, everything is on hold because of the virus.

Program

Our program this evening was given by Phil Shreeves N7GZT, and was a power point presentation about the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, or AMSAT. The presentation was an introduction to the operation of FM satellites. Radio satellites have been in operation for over 50 years. Each one has a lifespan of approximately 5 years. AMSAT is run strictly by volunteers with at least a technician's license and is inexpensive to get started in, although it is very crowded because there are so many amateurs trying to make contacts.

There are 3 new satellites getting ready to go, one that was scheduled for the 4th quarter of 2019 but is being held up because of the present conditions, one in the summer of 2020 (may also be delayed), and one in 2020 - 2021 which is the first satellite to aim to a higher LEO orbit.

An AMSAT membership includes a Journal and discounts on purchases through AMSET store and supports all OSCAR satellites operating amateur radio on ISS. The first OSACR was launched in 1961 and there have been more than 100 launched that were operational. Because of limited battery life, etc. there are only about 30 currently operating. If you would like further information on AMSAT, call Phil at 803-206-6038. Additional information can also be found at AMSAT.org. The presentation was followed by questions and answers. CARC would like to thank Phil for his very informative presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Covey W1GTJ, Secretary