Disney Emergency Amateur Radio Services

D. E. A. R. S.

MEETING MINUTES

PO Box 690905, Orlando, Florida 32869-0905 [http://www.wd4wdw.org](http://www.wd4wdw.org/)

Type meeting: Members Monthly Club Meeting November 13, 2019

Meeting Location: Disney’s Pop Century Cast Services Building B, Magic Conference Room

Attendees:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Steve Martin | Ian Ward | Andy Milluzzi | David Glasser | Brenda Davis |
| Michael DiPersio | Larry Blake | Steven Van Cleve | Sean Wall | Rebekah Bachstein |
| Ricardo Galarza | Cliff Tamplin | Zachary Van Iderstine | Joe Parker | Angel Hernandez |
| Eric Israel | Joe Eisenberg |  |  |  |

Call to order at 6:01 pm by Andy Milluzzi

Presentation of Colors and Salute

Introductions were held with each attendee being asked their Name, Callsign, and 2020 Radio Goal(s)

**Secretary’s Report**

* Minutes from the previous general and executive board meetings have been made available on the club’s website, <http://www.wd4wdw.org>
* One revision to the previous executive board meeting minutes was received
* Previous meeting minutes were accepted by the attendees
* Announced that membership forms were available for anyone wishing to fill one out

**Treasurer's Report**

* The club’s current bank balance is $12,054.35
* The transaction register was off by $0.30 for the Lasko fan. It has been corrected.
* We had two transactions since the last general meeting: a maintenance fee of $5.00 and an Amazon Smile donation of $15.99
* The new high-velocity fan was used for both inventory day and the Maker Faire event

**Special Committee Reports**

* No new updates

**Guest Speaker** – Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, remotely via Skype discussing ham radio kit building

* Joe was first licensed in 1969 and currently lives in Lincoln, NE
* Joe is an IT Field Technician by trade
* The local amateur radio club in Lincoln, NE consists of 330 club members, of which 70-90 usually attend each meeting
* Joe has been writing monthly kit-building articles for CQ Magazine for the last 10 years
* Joe has spoken thirty times at the Dayton Hamvention. He typically wears a tall cat-in-the-hat style hat and is very noticeable.
* Several kit suppliers were listed including MFJ, Heathkit, Elenco, etc.
* Several tips were provided before beginning assembly of a kit, such as having a multimeter, speaker, dummy load, power source, a board holder, reference receiver, etc.
* Some items to keep on hand include an assortment of standardized resistors, capacitors, diodes and transistors, commonly used plugs and jacks, power plugs, soldering and de-soldering aids, and an emery board for enameled wire.
* Joe mentioned some good soldering irons but his favorite is a $60 soldering station model 3020-XTS available from <https://www.xtronicusa.com> (which is also located in his hometown)
* He also mentioned some nice-to-have items such as a variable-voltage metered power supply, frequency counter, oscilloscope, general coverage receiver, a radio for relaxation, antenna wire, and a container to keep parts secure between sessions
* A good container to keep parts in is a Plano 1354 Tackle/Tool Box available in different colors at various sports and hobby stores
* Joe recommends sorting parts by most often used in a plastic see-through cupcake tray for easy access
* When building kits with multiple stages test the circuit after each stage rather than at the end. Also, place the parts for each stage in their own container so you can see if any were left over at stage completion.
* When building a kit with no sequence start with the resistors first, capacitors next, then diodes, transistors, ICs, then any remaining less-common parts. Be sure to check the board and documentation to avoid blocking access to parts.
* Toroids are sometimes difficult. Unwind wire carefully to avoid kinks. Count turns as passes through the center of the coil. Do not be frustrated – wind them in advance if necessary.
* Common part mistakes include confusing RF chokes with resistors, value and polarization of capacitors, mistaken diode markings, and bending or breaking fragile parts such as glass diodes
* A $12 component tester kit can be purchased from <https://bangood.com>
* Joe showed pictures and spoke about several kits that he has worked on in the past including a Murania AM Radio, Wall Wart Tamer, 30M Cricket, Nouveau 75 QRP AM Transceiver, and several others

**Old Business**

Reports from October Events

* Ride for Ronald – Thanks to Brenda and Angel for helping out with this event
* Inventory Day – Paul, Steve, and Ian helped take inventory and label just under 100 items of value within the shack, trailer, and MCOM-2 van
* Maker Faire 2019 – Andy, Sean, Ian, and Paul all helped out. They satellite pass tracking was popular, the DEARS van was very visible, and approximately $20 in donations were received.

December meeting ideas

* While we traditionally hold a dinner at Golden Corral, some members have expressed an interest in doing something different this year
* The club would like to try to have dinner at Toledo on top of Disney’s Coronado Springs Gran Destino Tower in place of a general club meeting in December. The dinner would be at the same date and time as the normal monthly meeting (Wednesday, December 11th). Family members and guests are welcome to attend and everyone will be responsible for purchasing their own meals.

Shack Update

* The A/C needs repair
* We need to coordinate with OARC to pick up the antenna
* Permitting work is still up in the air for the tower work
* Disney requires all people working on a Disney-owned structure be trained and approved to work on a lift. We may need to contract out the antenna removal and installation.
* We still want to price the antenna addons for 40-meters and 80-meters

**New Business**

* Ricardo will be handling Net Control for the upcoming Wednesday, November 27th D.E.A.R.S. Net at 7pm. Also known as the “Fun Net” on 147.300 offset +600 PL/CTCSS 103.5 and EchoLink node #632802. This month it falls on the day before Thanksgiving.
* Our next Executive Board Meeting will occur on Wednesday, December 4th due to the holidays. This will take the place of the regular November and December board meetings.
* Club Vans
  + Discussions were held on whether we need the van(s) and how much work we should do on them
  + Steve Van Cleve knows a body shop in LaBelle, FL that may be willing to do an inspection of the MCOM-2 van as well as banging out the dents and repainting it at a reasonable cost. We may have to help with the work and it may take a few weeks.
  + Purchasing a new van would not be financially wise
  + The club discussed replacing the van with something else such as a trailer or pickup truck. However, after deliberating on the matter the club would prefer to keep the existing van.
  + We do not and will not have a garage or covered parking for the vans
  + We will be taking ownership of the MCOM-2 van in December because the plates expire at that time
  + We will be asking Ricardo for a wish-list of what he would like for the van
  + The battery in the MCOM-2 van does not hold a charge, especially with our limited usage. The solar cell trickle charge isn’t enough to keep it charged.
  + The locks on the MCOM-1 van are broken. We may want to remove items of value, such as light bars, before selling or disposing of the van.
  + We are still awaiting a response from Jim Tyree on the title of the MCOM-1 van
* A new “chat and chew” location will need to be decided upon. The McDonalds where it is currently held is undergoing major renovations and will not be available for the next few months.

**Open Discussion** (limited to 10 minutes total)

* Mike KC2Q suggested that we hold another special event soon

There was a raffle for three runDisney-themed items

Next general club meeting: December 11th, 2019 at 6pm (dinner)

Adjourn: 7:53pm