The EPARC Key

We're Radio-Active

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EPARC Holds First Meeting

In an atmosphere of enthusiasm and conviviality, the first meeting of the Eastern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club (EPARC) convened at 8:00 pm on Tuesday, August 28, 1990, at the High's Regional Office on Route 11 in Pikeside, West Virginia. In attendance were Dale (KF8FM), Ruby (N8MBO), and Carrie (KB8HAR) Birmingham; Gary (N8MAZ) and Shane (N8MDC) Buckland; Dave (KF8FL), Brenda, and Mike (KB8KKT) Hartman; Jim (KW8I) Hoffman; Ken (AK2U) Holdridge; Fran (KB8IDL) Kuecker; and Bob (KB4UXY) and Sally Morrison. Those absent but having expressed an interest in the club were Andrew (Carl) (KB8KNE) Birmingham; Darrel Collins; Pat (WV8E) Fowler; and Bill (KC4MLY) Harden.

Future Meetings

It was agreed that future meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:00 pm at the High's Regional Office. Special club meetings/functions will be scheduled as needed and will be announced at the regular meetings, in the newsletter, and on the air.

Newsletter

The newsletter will be published once a month, one week prior to the subsequent meeting, and will sum up previous meeting activities, and will present a forum for stories, features, and other club announcements/business (see the cut-off dates noted on page 1 under "Key Dates," for submission of materials to the newsletter). All items for the newsletter should be called in or mailed to Fran at the telephone numbers/address listed on the club roster. One copy of the newsletter will be mailed to each member household; extra copies of the newsletter will be available on request for distribution to other interested parties or at club functions.

Dues

In terms of club dues, all concurred that each ham *household* should be assessed an annual membership fee of \$12.00. These dues will be payable to EPARC as soon as the club checking account is established; Jim will advise the club as to when this transaction has been completed (the paperwork has been filed).

Key Dates

Saturday, September 22—1st VE "dry run" test
Tuesday, September 25—8:00 PM, EPARC meeting
Tuesday, October 11—Vol 1, No 2 newsletter info due date
Tuesday, October 23—8:00 PM, EPARC meeting
Wednesday, October 24—2nd VE "dry run" test (if needed)
Tuesday, November 13—Vol 1, No 3 newsletter info due date
Tuesday, November 27—8:00 PM, EPARC meeting
Saturday, December 15—1st VE tests given (tentative)
Tuesday, December 18—Vol 1, No 4 newsletter info due date

VE Meeting Minutes Reviewed

The first order of business at the EPARC meeting was to review the minutes from the second VE meeting held on August 25, 1990, at the home of Dave and Brenda Hartman. The objective of this meeting was to further efforts to establish a local VEC site. Those present were Dale and Ruby Birmingham; Pat Fowler; Brenda and Dave Hartman; and Jim Hoffman.

Discussion included selection of Saturday, September 22, 1990 at the first "dry run" test and Wednesday, October 24, 1990, as the second "dry run" test, if needed. Saturday, December 15, 1990 was tentatively established as the first actual VE test date, with advertising to begin one month prior to testing. The High's Regional Office will be the official VE test site. Pat Fowler agreed to call for test materials and also to serve as the ARRL liaison. Brenda Hartman will be the VEC contact person.

Additional discussion included the formation of the new club, and selection of "Eastern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club" as the club name, and agreement on Tuesday, August 28, 1990 at 8:00 pm as the club's first meeting date. A special note of thanks was expressed to Janet Holdridge for permitting the club to meet at the High's office.

Bylaws; Elections

While the group consensus was that EPARC should be an informal organization, it was noted that Pat has agreed to secure a copy of bylaws from an existing amateur radio club

(Bylaws, continued from page 1)

for EPARC to consider, modify, and adopt. These bylaws should be available for perusal and discussion at the next club meeting. Jim noted that adoption of bylaws and a charter, and election of officers were necessary antecedents to filing the papers to secure the club's tax exempt status.

Nominations were accepted of the following individuals for club offices:

Nominees

Dave Hartman
Dale Birmingham
Ken Holdridge
Jim Hoffman
Ruby Birmingham
Pat Fowler
Dale Birmingham

Fran Kuecker

Offices

President
President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
VE Liaison
Special Events
Coordinator
Newsletter Coordinator/
Club Historian

Election of officers will be completed at the next club meeting.

Miscellaneous Business

- Jim observed that a committee was needed to review and prepare the club incorporation forms, which would also require mapping out a budget plan. Jim, Gary, Ken, and Fran agreed to serve on the committee and to meet at a date yet to be determined. Jim will chair this committee and contact the others about the first meeting.
- The younger group members, Mike, Darrell, Carrie, Carl, and, in absentia, Jimmy Harden, were asked to devise ideas for a club logo, to be evaluated and voted on at the next club meeting.
- Several members have contacts that may be able to help us purchase and silk screen club Tshirts at a reasonable price. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.
- Jim agreed to secure a post office box for the club at the Kearneysville post office.
- Shane volunteered to design letterhead for the club.
- The very important matter of refreshments (hi, hi) to be served at club meetings was discussed

and it was agreed that club members would take turns bringing munchies and beverages to the meetings. Dave and Bob volunteered to cater the September 25 meeting.

Up For Discussion. . . .

Several topics were raised for discussion at the next and future meetings, including:

- · The construction of a repeater. One long-term club project will tentatively be to build a repeater. In order to realize this objective, club members noted that we would (a) need to set up a repeater fund; (b) find a suitable site (Dale commented that he has a potential site in mind); need to decide whether this repeater would cover the 2, 440, or 10 meter band, and whether the repeater will have a phone patch. Dave indicated that, at least for one local repeater, quarterly maintenance costs about \$20.00. The merits and disadvantages of the three suggested bands were debated, including: (a) the 2 meter band is essentially full and hence unavailable; (b) most club members do not have dual band equipment and would have to purchase such equipment if the 440 band was used, a major expense; (c) Dave observed that the 440 band does not have the coverage that 2 meters has, but does have plenty of available band space and only a 5 megahertz split; (d) Ken expressed reservations about 10 meter repeaters and added that, again, most club members do not have 10 meter FM rigs. Finally, Ken and others noted that equipment will need to be secured to build the repeater, an expensive and time-consuming prospect.
- Gary stated that his company may be able to render a donation to EPARC once our taxexempt status has become official. Many thanks to Gary for this good news.
- Another project open for discussion is the convening of training classes for individuals interested in securing novice, technician, and general class licenses. The suggestion was made to pool our training materials and resources or at least to develop a list of available materials for training purposes. Dave also mentioned that KC4NYZ, Bruce, has a 4-hour general class videotape theory series he may be willing to lend the club.
- Fran said she will check into the possibility of bring the NOAA Skywarn training class on-site at a future date.

(Discussion, continued from page 2)

 Club members expressed an interest in setting up a 10 meter weekly CW net to assist all of us in sharpening our code skills and achieving further license upgrades.

Before the meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm, Bob and Sally, as newcomers to our area, asked everyone to introduce themselves, describe how they earn the money that supports their radio habit, and indicate where each person hails from. Bob also mentioned that he is active military and will soon be leaving for Panama for a year tour of duty. He said he would do his best to stay in touch with club activities. We certainly welcome Bob, Sally, and their daughter, Melissa, to our group.

Upgrade Corner

A hearty congratulations is offered from all of us to Darrell Collins, who on the evening of August 25, 1990, passed his 5 wpm code test to successfully complete his efforts to obtain his novice amateur radio license. Darrell, we're all proud of you and look forward to hearing you on the air!

Editorial Notes: December 25th is the fourth Tuesday of the month; another club meeting date will need to be selected for December.

Fran subscribes to both *WorldRadio*, and *QST*. If anyone would be interested in obtaining the past issues, let Fran know.