

Preston County Amateur Radio Club

April 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Bill Beardslee, Brad Cress, Lisa Cress, Doug Cutlip, Sandra Cutlip, Ed Messenger, Larry Slagle, Grace Slagle, Dave Sypolt

Meeting called to order at 1pm by Brad Cress, President

A sign-in sheet was passed around for all to sign.

Doug suggested a FaceBook page be set up and agreed to do so.

Ed suggested that a website be developed for the club and offered to design the website. He stated that it could be posted on QSL.net at no charge.

Doug asked if the club might want an official call sign. After discussion, this was tabled.

Doug mentioned that he and Brad are now the owners of the repeater as Doug purchased Larry Slagle's half. He plans to get the repeater working again to 100 watts and will link into his 11 repeater system. The repeater and duplexer test out fine. He hopes that the antennas are still in working order. He knows an amateur radio operator that is willing to do the climbing to help get the repeater back on-line.

Doug has talked with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in the county and they are pleased that there is a club again.

Larry Slagle said that he will still do the Sunday evening net and his wife, Grace, will help him with this as soon as the repeater is back in working order.

Doug will instruct a 2-day class for the Technician Amateur Radio license as needed. At the end of the 2-day session, testing will be given. The charge will be \$40 for each individual taking the class, which includes the \$15 testing fee, and the rest can be a donation to the club. A suggestion was made to announce the class on the local radio stations and the local newspaper.

The President asked the group what they are interested in the club doing.

- Doug mentioned that the HF Radio at the OEM center needs some attention and the group could arrange a time to trouble shoot that and see if they can fix it as a starting project for the club.
- Ed suggested a special event station at the Buckwheat Festival with a special event call.
- Brad said that Field Day is coming up June 22-23 and that the group could participate in that event. A suggestion was made to see if the club could use the OEM parking lot for the event. It was mentioned that it was done previously at the Bethlehem Church on Dogtown Road if someone wants to check on doing it there again.

Discussion was held on contacting local amateur radio operators and Dave said that he talked with Bill Young and that he was not interested in coming to the meetings, but he would contribute money or work as needed. He also talked with Bill Bonner, Rick Cornwell and Jack Wilson who all may be interested in joining the club. He also suggested that postcards could be sent to all of the licensed Ham Radio operators in the county. The fact that the club has no funding was mentioned and also that maybe an email could be sent out to those folks at no charge.

Bill said that the FEMA website has a lot of Certificate Classes available for anyone interested.

Dave suggested that we could have speakers come to the meetings, such as someone from "Project Lifesaver" (KC8RHO), or someone that can talk about new radio equipment were two he mentioned.

Doug asked Dave about possible funding from the State of WV. Dave said that there are discretionary funds, but that we would have to become a 501.3.C. More discussion on this topic took place, but no decision was made to move forward.

Doug mentioned that Ed has a repeater that he wants to put up in Preston County and that he talked with OEM and putting it on Gregg's Knob tower is a possibility. Ed will pay someone to climb the tower to get this done. No date was discussed.

Lisa mentioned that to maintain our ARRL club status that 51% of membership must be ARRL members and that Annual Reports must also be sent in.

Meeting adjourned at 2:16pm.

Approved as written at May 12, 2019 Meeting