

**Minutes of Pella Amateur Radio Club
September 20, 2020 at Kiwanis Park, Pella**

Present: Justin, KEØFKF; Kevin, KBØBGU; Tyler, KEØZZO; Mike, NØMPM; Larry, KBØMOT; Roger, WØZMU; Daniel, David, WA6CGS; Daniel, WØOTV; Bobby, KØBLC; Steve, WBØCHS; Jim E, WBØURW

1. Treasurer report:

Got \$500 Weiller grant – to repeater fund. \$.08 interest earned the past month.

2. Repeater:

- Took spectrum analyzer. Could not see difference in noise level between just listening or putting a transmitter on. No noise showing up. Seems like it is low signal issue.
- Replaced T-connector where to sets of cans join together.
- Original antenna moved from tower to Kevin's place for storage. Tested SWR on the old antenna and it tested at 2:1 or worse with no dips.

3. Fox Hunt:

- October 4, 1:30pm, meet at Kiwanis Park in Pella.
- Timed event. First one to finish wins. Driving and walking event. Can be done with a solo driver or can do a driver and antenna team. 2 foxes. Start at Kiwanis park to find first fox (may not be able to hear it from there, so may need to roam a little to start). Frequency for second fox will be on the first fox.
- Door prize is a 4MHz attenuator.
- Mike and Daniel plan to test foxes.
- Water before. And some donuts. Mike and Daniel to take care of.

4. Fox Hunt Notes from Mike and Daniel:

- Need radio to tune 2-4 MHz up or down from primary frequency.
- Nice to have S meter indicator.
- Baofeng type radio not recommended due to tendency to overload.
- Showed passive attenuator.
- Discussed body blocking technique
- Short antenna or use foil to go over antenna.
- Use loop. Downside is it gives you 2 nulls.
- Can turn Yagi antenna. If fox vertical polarized, can rotate antenna to help with locating.
- Variable attenuator. Sometimes start off bypassing the attenuator and then use the attenuator later when needed.
- Showed homemade measuring tape Yagi's. Showed Arrow antenna.
- Compass and map can be useful.
- Store fox hunt electronics in a container so don't lose.
- The 3rd harmonic can be used as well.
- Don't forget to change/charge your batteries.
- Repeater will be monitored for all the hunters.
- Can get reflections off of buildings and various obstacles.
- Don't forget to look up. Or the back side of trees.
- Watch out that you don't hit anything. Or get hit.

5. PENS (Pella Explores Near Space):

- Received letter from Pella Community Foundation. Concerned and wanted to know if projects are being done. Said we are working to complete task as planned.
- Guest speakers in schools not allowed because of covid. Mike and Jim will plan a Zoom meeting to teach the class from home.
- Can have students come outside and can launch in person.
- Before Christmas. Planning on flying a pico-sat for PC grade school, Pella intermediate, PCHS, Pella Girl Scouts. Fly latex balloon for PCHS.
- Picos are now using scientific balloons. Higher cost than previous “party” balloons, but better chance of going around the world. Float at 40k feet. Should be above most storms.

6. Around the Circle

Roger:

A week from Saturday is tailgate swapmeet at Des Moines. Starts at 9, runs til noon. No charge. Oct 3.

October 31, 5K walk for Freedom House in Pella. Starts at Federated Church.

Need volunteers for net control on Mondays. Ask on the net to see if we can get the October calendar full.

Hy-Gain Hy-Tower – Ham west of Winterset has four for sale for \$100 each.

Dave: Needs help with antenna install. Roofer is putting up the masts with pulleys and ropes ready to go. Feedline hooked up. When the roofing work is complete, Dave will send email to PellaARC@groups.io to see who from the club can come help.

Daniel – needs to work on 80m antenna.

Bobby – getting back to routine at work.

Larry – recovering from surgery.

Tyler – working rohn tower to get 2m higher.

The meeting adjourned at about 3:00 PM on Sunday, September 20, 2020