

2 October 2022

FIARC Meeting Minutes – 24 September 2022

Attendees:

N7NW – Hal Goodell	KI7CQM – Jim Braden	KJ7RVR – Jane Tollett
KI7ZTW – Steve Soares	K7ND – Jim Christianson	AC7QN – Chuck Kemmer
N3RDO – Alex Hoffman	WA7KCK – Ken Rowley	N7BRR – Brian Hevly

The September 24th FIARC meeting was convened at 10:00 am in the Gazebo - thanks to all for attending.

1. Minutes from the August 27 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Updates from Hal Goodell, President

- We are at the beginning of a new Sunspot cycle
- 6meter VHF limited to summer propagation, but can work much further when E, F1, F2 layers are ionized.
- Normally atmospheric E layer(90-160km) can get 1500 miles/hop, maybe 3000 miles if a double hop
- If F2 (300 km) ionizes, a single hop is more like 2500-3000 miles. Can likely use 10 meters.
- '88, '89 were big sunspot years
- Possibly some Trans equatorial Propagation (TEP) in December
<http://ve2xk.com/indice.html> - this is the handout Hal brought to the meeting
<https://www.britannica.com/science/ionosphere-and-magnetosphere> Hal's other information

3. Updates from Jim Braden, Vice-President

- FICRA and the FICRA Building Trust are going to merge. Working through the details, things in a bit of a flux.
- Planning an overhaul of the Emergency Preparation system this fall
- Looking for volunteer Hams to ride with Citizen Patrollers (to be called Emergency Patrollers) to help with communications during emergencies
- Want to do a re-analysis of what we are doing for emergency response planning and execution.
- Some issues with Insurance risk with what the Emergency Patrol is being asked to do.

4. Updates from Jane Tollett, Secretary

- Draft website attached, only comment was to try to highlight upcoming events more clearly. The draft has been submitted to Howard Stapleton for programming with that same request.
- The proposed website location will be under the current "Programs" tab

5. HAM Class October 22-23

- The Fall License Class will be October 22-23 at the Nichols Center; Keep spreading the word- we currently have 15 attendees. Please have prospective students email Jane at e.jane.tollett@gmail.com.
- There was approval to host a "Get on the Air" class either in November or December. Jane will canvass attendees to see who would like a session to help program their future new radios and learn how to get on the air and transmit properly. Dave Haycock, an ARRL-certified instructor, has offered to help with the class. Perhaps we could open the class to any Fox Island Hams. CHRP pre-load software can be put onto the website as an option. Several members expressed interest in helping people program radios. Thank you.
- Additionally, Jane will schedule a GoKit setup and operate class as well as a separate class on VARA. Jeff has agreed to lead the two classes, which we will schedule at the 10/29 meeting for after the HAM license class.
- Jane will send a reminder to attendees before the class requesting they get their FRN number before class. The \$35 FCC registration fee will be handled by licensees after passing their test. No cost to upgrade.

6. Miscellaneous

- No word yet from the Boy Scouts regarding if they are interested in our help to get the Radio badge or to develop an Eagle Scout project. Jim said they are not getting a lot of members right now.
- Jim reminded everyone of the 5 key responsibilities of the Block Coordinators:
 - a. Find out what is happening, such as through PCAAlert
 - b. Take care of yourself and your family
 - c. Tour your neighborhood
 - d. Get necessary information to the EOC/Leadership team
 - e. Help your neighborhood work together to source and allocate resources.
- A copy of the revised Net Control Preamble is attached.
- Thank you to all who call in and to those leading the Net as well.
- Someone asked Jane what coax cable her amazing new antenna uses. It is LMR-240.
- Alex mentioned that the origin of the word “Ham” was not the oft-repeated Hyman-Almay-Murray Harvard story, but in fact regular Morse Code operators considering the radio operators to be “ham-fisted”. There seem to be a number of versions of the origin of the reference of “Ham” – see article below.
https://en.citizendium.org/wiki/Etymology_of_ham_radio
- Finally, for a smile, here is the “Corntenna” video.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WG1e1K1RR-s>

7. Next meetings:

October 29 (Note this is the 5th Saturday due to the class)

Respectfully Submitted,

JANE

EJ Tollett KJ7RVR

Attachment – revised Net Control Preamble and instructions