

29 October 2023

FIARC Meeting Minutes – 28 October 2023

Attendees:

N7NW – Hal Goodell	KI7cQM – Jim Braden	W7RWH – Bob Holzgraf
AC7QN – Chuck Kemmer	K7ND – Jim Christianson	KJ7JCB – Paul Thorpe
K1GCF – Gail Ferguson	K7CRZ – Jeff Ferguson	KK7KJT – Kirsi Vivolin

Thank you, Gail Ferguson K1GCF, for the delicious ginger snap cookies. Jim Braden shared that Secretary Jane has been ill but is recovering and, hopefully, back soon.

1. **Minutes from 23 September 2023 were unanimously approved.**
2. **Ham General Activity** Hal led a discussion on taking advantage of the current propagation conditions and moon position for reaching out for connections around the world.
3. **Boy Scouts** Jeff Ferguson reopened the subject of having Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts participate in an open house to learn about ham radio. It was decided that Jeff would contact Paul Anderson of the Boy Scouts (Paul Anderson is Jeff's neighbor) and Jim Braden would make contact with the Cub Scout leadership to confirm their interest in conducting these radio opportunities. A question we should ask is: Are we able to contribute towards a badge for scouts or cubs to earn with such a radio participation? Functions like touring the radio room and EEOC station, relaying messages between the radio room and the remote-located go kit, including parents in the tour, checking on badge requirements, and setting up a communication process with the International Space Station are to be considered.
If Scouts' and Cubs' interest is confirmed, Hal will participate in setting up the process, equipment, and any protocols necessary.
4. **YAGI Antenna project** The subject of our YAGI antennas was then entertained by the group with Chuck and Bob working on testing attenuators, and working to understand how the new radios with automatic squawk/squelch management would deal with the YAGI antennas and attenuators. More to come on this.
5. **Personal Go Kits** Bob showed his personal go kit for safekeeping and transport of his emergency, portable radio equipment. He indicated that his kit was in an Apache plastic container from Harbor Freight with foam inside that could be cut to fit equipment. Jim Braden asked what the essentials should be in a personal go kit for each person to be prepared to deal with Emergency communication. The answer was basically a radio and a power back up battery. Bob got into solar power and other equipment that can be very good for long-term power supply support in the kit. Roll up J poles are available that can be stored in a tight space, too. We need to check with Jeff, Bob, or Hal on how to acquire those.
For acquiring attenuators, apparently a person with the call sign KCON would be the source. Jim Braden will contact Jeff, or Bob, or Hal to tie down that access more definitively.

6. **Radio Interference** Jim asked if our direction finding YAGIs would be of any help to find radio interference at a person's residence. Doug and Kirsi have a chronic buzz on their system that they haven't been able to chase down. Hal indicated that since the buzz was heard on their transmitting that, it is probably something in their radio. Hal led an extensive discussion on how our home computers, if left on continuously, can develop internal interference and end up with performance being altered which has resulted in radio interference.
We will get in touch with Kirsi and Doug to help resolve this.
7. **Net Control** Jim Braden announced that he would take anybody who is interested in becoming an alternate or backup for net control down to the basement to get familiar with the equipment and the process of net control operator. Chuck and Bob toured the radio room and indicated they would get back to the club if they would be able to participate in net control in some capacity.

NEXT MEETING DATE!

Next Meeting The fourth Saturday is November 25th which is Thanksgiving weekend. Further, the fourth Saturday in December will be on December 23rd the Saturday of the Christmas/Holiday weekend. Our next Saturday Radio Club meeting will be on December 2nd - a combination November/December meeting. If you would like to bring some additional festive holiday food, please do so and we will make it a bit more of a social meeting.

Our club has an important social element to it. Lots of nice members that get along and us newbies (relatively new hams) especially appreciate the experienced members helping with our questions and taking on special presentations like they have (Chuck on Yagi antennas and Bob on individual emergency communication go kits). Fascinating, and important, stuff.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Braden for Secretary Jane Tollett