

7 February 2024

## **FIARC Meeting Minutes – 27 January 2024**

### **Attendees:**

N7NW – Hal Goodell	KJ7RVR – Jane Tollett	W7RWH – Bob Holzgraf
AC7QN – Chuck Kemmer	KJ7JCP – Paul Thorpe	K7NMO – Pat Tackett
N7BRR – Brian Hevly	K7CRZ – Jeff Ferguson	KB7PKC – Glenn Hansen
KA7KCK = Ken Rowley		

Thank you Gail Ferguson K7GCF for the delicious cookie bars!

### **1. Minutes from 2 December 2023 were unanimously approved.**

### **2. Update from President Hal Goodell**

#### Power cut-off to radios during Net last Sunday

- Both radios went dead near the end of the Net. Wall switches power lights were on. After the Net Hal hooked up both radios to an AC source, noticed power cords to both radios were melted – inline fuses melted. The crosstalk repeater wire was warm.
- Doug Nelson came over and noticed in the power junction box one of the 20A fuse joints was possibly soldered incorrectly (acid-core solder? Not exactly sure but obviously bad or deteriorated).
- Note that the duty cycle on the cross-band is almost 100% when we use it. Most radios are designed for a 45-50% duty cycle. Due to the way cross-band repeaters are used, the recommendation is that they run on low power. However, Hal had switched the 2-meter to higher power to help improve range.
- Hal lowered the power to medium on the cross-band (440 side?), got it re-soldered, and a new power cord. Seems to be working well now.
- So, do we want to keep running the nets the way we have been doing them, which puts the extra duty cycle work on the cross-band, or do we want to switch to how Jane was doing them for a while which is to switch between 440 and 2-meter? We discussed for a bit but tabled this.
- A longer-term solution (and in the works) is moving the 440meter antenna to a better location such as the water tower on Eagle Ridge. This will reduce the power load needed by the cross-band repeater.

#### Hal's Neighborhood Interference Problem

- Hal noticed interference while on 6-meters. Using his 2-meter antenna with hand-held, he drove around the neighborhood. In his travels he also found a sparking power line, got Penn Light out to fix it. General agreement was that Penn Light is an excellent utility company.
- Drove up to a house with many LED's outside. LED's can cause sparking sounds, generally due to cheap construction. However, the end point was that it turned out to be coming from a humidifier cord. The noise travelled down the cord and made the entire house wiring act as an antenna magnifying the sound. Hal offered to put some ferrite beads on the wire and situation was happily resolved.
- Hal suggested hold hand-helds broadside to the noise, as pointed makes it difficult to pinpoint the noise direction.

#### Mike and Key Annual Swap Meet

- March 9, 9am-3pm. Volunteers are needed! If interested, go to <https://www.mikeandkey.org/index.php> To get more information on volunteering (lots of benefits). Direct link to the volunteer page is at <https://mkarc.ivolunteer.com/>

### **3. Update from Secretary Jane Tollett**

- Jim Braden, Doug Nelson, and Jane have been working to revitalize the Block program as well as get a new website for Emergency Management off the ground. We have been in discussions with a web developer and have a new name for the program – FI Ready. New website domain of FIReady.org We hope to have a revised tab on the FICRA page - replacing “Programs” with “FI Ready” is the initial plan and we will have a link back to the FICRA page from the FI Ready page.
- Good comment from Hal on the name – it will be clearer to have FI-Ready.org. Jane will look into it.
- This is also a good time to revise our FIARC web page. Please send Jane your suggestions ASAP. A few we generated were: links to past minutes, links to more organizations and other local Nets. Perhaps a new picture to replace the Radio Dog.

### **4. Projects Discussion**

#### Power Project

- Build portable GoKits, such as the one Bob brought in a few meetings back.
- Hal mentioned that Mike & Key are discussing portable GoKits at their March meeting. Hal will have more information in February as to exactly what they are covering. The meeting will have a zoom link. Our interest seems to be how to build a portable one to charge a hand-held.
- Once we have the GoKits, suggest on during a Net that people operate from battery power.

#### Net Versatility Project

- Write and communicate notes after each Net so the information gets circulated. Jane will create a sheet (attached) to fill out with participants and key comments. Copies and a notebook will be in the EOC.
- After the net the Net Leader can mail a copy of the sheet to the FIARC mailing list.
- Also suggested was to have Nets for new people and for Emergency Readiness.
- We can also invite Block Coordinators to participate in Nets or even just come to the EOC to observe.
- Run Nets or call in from other locations. The Hustler MX-270 antenna is good and is dual-band 2m/70cm. don't forget to buy a small connector device to connect to your hand-held.  
[https://www.gigaparts.com/hustler-mx-270.html?utm\\_term=sku-zhu-mx-270&gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA8NKtBhBtEiwAq5aX2EPMkwyI863qZKyVYpLbgfSoQrx94bTuVI\\_6r20PFugB66mNslOYmhoCBIUQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.gigaparts.com/hustler-mx-270.html?utm_term=sku-zhu-mx-270&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA8NKtBhBtEiwAq5aX2EPMkwyI863qZKyVYpLbgfSoQrx94bTuVI_6r20PFugB66mNslOYmhoCBIUQAvD_BwE)
- Glenn commented that when he first joined there were topics for the Nets. Jeff led this. We need to attract more people to the Nets.
- Hal mentioned having an all-island Ham mailer to reach folks.

#### Boy Scouts

- Jeff is interested in pursuing this and spoke with Paul Anderson of the local Scouts. The starting point would be a presentation which Jeff is willing to create.
- Jeff has the lengthy list of merit badge requirements, and beyond the scope of one presentation, but if a few scouts are interested in pursuing the badge perhaps some of our members could work with them.

Other – Chuck suggested, and it was well-received, that we get embroidered hats. Some have them already.

### **4. Next Meeting – Saturday 24 February 2024**

Respectfully submitted,  
EJ Tollett – KJ7RVR  
970/531-1866

The logo for JANE is rendered in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are closely spaced, and the 'A' and 'N' have a unique, slightly irregular shape, giving it a hand-drawn or blocky appearance.

Attachment – new Net form

Fox Island Emergency Preparedness Net Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Net Control: \_\_\_\_\_

Net Backup: \_\_\_\_\_

Net Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Net Closed Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Net Checkins

Note: Below enter Call Sign & Name and "X" for Band station checked in on.

#	Call Sign &	440 2m	#	Call Sign &	440 2m
1			16		
2			17		
3			18		
4			19		
5			20		
6			21		
7			22		
8			23		
9			24		
10			25		
11			26		
12			27		
13			28		
14			29		
15			30		

Comments from the NET