

Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Justin Lopshire, KD8JEL with 18 members and guests in attendance.

President Lopshire led the group in the pledge to the flag.

Those present introduced themselves.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Ed Trombley, N8DCC, from Munn-Reese Broadcast Engineers in Coldwater.

The September meeting minutes were read by President Lopshire and a motion to accept was received with support. The vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.

Jim Voss, WV0SS presented the Treasurer's report with a total \$1352.17 in the general fund, and a total of \$ 193.50 in the memorial fund for an aggregate total of \$1545.67. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report and place it on file was received with support and unanimously approved by the membership.

EC Report by WB8R who stated that we still need more people to participate along with a note that we are expecting considerable amounts of rain in the next 2 days and that coupled with all the leaves that will be falling could easily result in street flooding due to blocked storm drains. Caution was urged.

The Repeater report was given by WB8R, who detailed the progress towards getting our 2M repeater moved to the Charter site. We are still in a holding pattern waiting for the climber to get his ducks in a row.

Old Business –

WB8R gave a summary of the club's first Dual Fox Hunt. There were FoxBox equipment failures coupled with an entirely new concept of hunting a UHF signal. The shorter wavelengths of UHF provided us with an abundance of reflections as well as passage of signals through objects differently than experienced with VHF hunts. The failure gremlins are being investigated and will be fixed before our next effort. Still, a great learning experience and loads of fun (and frustration) was had by all. We had 13 hams participating in one form or another who represented 4 counties.

New Business-

KD8JEL offered a report on our website changes to make the website more user-friendly. The website is located at www.branchcountyar.com.

KD8JEL announced that the club now has a Facebook page to assist us in distributing information, comments and pictures about our activities. It can be found by logging into Facebook and searching for Branch County Amateur Radio Club.

WB8R gave a brief synopsis of the Simulated Emergency Test (SET), held on October 1 which had 17 participants. He noted that we were able to determine strong points and weak points in our systems and will be working on the weak areas to improve on them. It was noted that we scored 219 points, which is pretty respectable for a small group.

KD8JEL reminded all members that the club often meets at Stoogie's in Coldwater for breakfast on Saturday mornings and all are invited to attend.

KD8JEL and WV0SS gave information on the Christmas Dinner and Party which will take place at 6:30 PM at the Ponderosa in Coldwater on December 6, 2011. WB8R will touch up the Gift Exchange rules and make those available to all. Any and all are invited to attend.

No license upgrades were noted. Both Bill and Jim Shaw are sporting new Chinese HT's as is Jan, KD8CYW.

NS8T noted that he has had recent luck on 10M working into Columbia.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm. The group travelled to the building next door to the Munn-Reese facility to enjoy a great "what the heck is that thing" Q&A consisting of many types of broadcast radio equipment. Cookies, doughnuts, cider and coffee were served, capping off a great evening with conversation telling of many war stories amongst the group. Many thanks to Ed and Rick for all the work they put into the evening's entertainment!

Respectfully submitted by Larry Camp, WB8R in absence of Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI, Secretary/Treasurer/Eternal Traveler.