

Branch County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2011

www.branchcountyarc.com

The November meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club was held in the Training room at the Coldwater 911 Center, Justin Lopshire presiding.

21 members and guests were present.

The meeting was started off with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendees introduced themselves to get acquainted/reacquainted.

The minutes from last month's meeting were posted on the Club website and all agreed to accept them as published.

The financial report was presented by Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI. Bills report was accepted by the members present.

Larry Camp, WB8R gave a combination Repeater/EC report.

On the repeater side, Larry began by stating that both the 2 meter and 440 repeaters are working great. Then on to the antenna project to take place at the Charter site. Larry thought that he had a tower climber lined up to do the job and was just waiting for the final confirmation before ordering the antenna. Seems that the climber has gone into hiding and cannot be contacted, so Larry is seeking another daredevil.

The EC report brought the news that starting the first of 2012, Larry will be leaving the EC position and moving on as Section Manager for the state of Michigan. His spot will be filled by Jan Hayden, KD8CYW.

Larry is in the process of issuing new RACES cards. This should be completed shortly.

There had been some difficulty with the hospital antenna to Larry and Jan made a trip there to temporarily swap antennas to determine if that was the problem, which it was. The findings were reported to the proper authorities at the hospital, and a replacement has been ordered.

A reminder was given that this year's Christmas dinner will be held at Ponderosa on the night of December 6th. The time will be 6:30 pm. This is the 1st Tuesday in December. The event will take place in the Ponderosa meeting room which is aptly situated in the rear of the eating facility.

The gift exchange rules will be the same as in the past and are available on the Club

website.

Justin informed the group that he had done some much needed cleanup work on the Club website and urged everyone to visit and see what they thought of the streamlined look and added features.

Jim Voss has found what he considers to be a nice website for anyone interested in polishing up their CW skills. Contact Jim if you want the particulars.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

This being the month of November, it was time once again for the Club Officer Elections. The openings were:

President, Secretary/Treasurer, 2 year board member and possibly a 1 year board member, depending on the presidential outcome.

Bill Slade is halfway through his 2 year Board Term.

Nominations for the positions were:

President – Justin Lopshire
Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Kubiak
Board member – Jan Hayden
Board member – Gary Moeller

A motion was made to elect the nominees without a vote, since all were running opposed.

All that remained was to determine who was to fill the two year and one year spot. It came down to a coin toss by Justin Lopshire. Jan Hayden was the winner/loser, depending on your point of view.

The new lineup for 2012 is:

Justin Lopshire – President
Bill Kubiak – Secretary/Treasurer
Jan Hayden – 2 year Board Member
Gary Moeller – 1 year Board Member
Bill Slade – 2 year Board Member (Halfway through his term)

Following a short break, Justin gave a brief overview on the changes taking place at the WTVB radio station. In the near future they hope to begin simulcasting on both AM and PM. OOPS! AM and FM. Actually, both are correct. For as long as I can remember

(actually, yesterday) WTVB has had a problem with it's nighttime propagation. Once the sun was over the horizon, WTVB "went away". Actually, it did not go away, but rather, 'went afar'. The signal ended up jumping to parts that did not really want or benefit from it. By being simulcast on FM, this should greatly help the night time coverage and keep it more stable. As I understand it, during the daylight hours, AM should have slightly better local coverage, but during the dark hours, the FM side will be more consistent. Great mini program, Justin.

NEW CALLS:

Nothing this month.

UPGRADES:

None for the month.

NEW EQUIPMENT:

Bill Shaw has acquired a 2 meter 440 SWR/Power meter via Ebay. His assessment is – Works Great.

Bill, KB8VWI now possess a Wouxun (pronounced "OCEAN" 2 meter/440 handy talky.

DX:

Some chatter around the room but nothing that I could really pick up, other than the bands are really hopping.

This months 50/50 raffle was won by Bill Shaw. Mr. Shaw and the Club split the \$24 kitty.

Also raffled off were 5 tickets to the Fort Wayne Hamfest which after much haggling and finagling, were finally disposed of.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI.