

**DELAWARE REPEATER ASSOCIATION (DRA)**  
**MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**MONDAY 10 September 2018**  
**As approved 10 December 2018**

The Quarterly meeting of the Delaware Repeater Association (DRA) was held at the Brandywine Town Center Community Recreation Center, 4050 Brandywine Parkway, North Wilmington, DE, on Monday, 10 September 2018.

DRA President Frank Filipkowski (AD3M) called the meeting to order at 1911, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to honor fallen first responders, military, and Silent Keys.

The following amateurs were present for this meeting: John Chambers WA3UDU; Paul Milazzo K3PGM; Steve Leishman N3TMK; John DiGiovanni N3LUD (board member-at-large); Bill Greenhalgh W3DE (trustee); Dave Scott KC3BEJ (Secretary); Mark Stillman KA3JUJ (Treasurer); Frank Filipkowski AD3M (President); Tom Perry KC3FAU; and Tom Gerard KB3ONZ.

#### **REPORTS**

Frank Filipkowski reported on routine maintenance at the Ebright Road tower (W3DRA). He will also make a presentation on Winlink telnet and packet operations at the post meeting training session.

Bill Greenhalgh discussed ongoing activity with packet communications at the tower. He noted that there was a packet beacon internet connection via the MESH network. Bill is sysop to control what's going on regarding the packet operations. He also noted that he bought two copies of WINLINK software, and had some difficulty doing an update, but he and Paul Milazzo got things up and running.

John DiGiovanni noted the upcoming Saturday, 20 October, Annual DE Statewide ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET). John also thanked those members of the DRA who participated in the Annual Christiana Care Heartwalk on Sunday 10 September at the Wilmington Riverfront. Unfortunately the event was cancelled due to rain and flooded conditions on the course; but dedicated amateurs showed up to help!

Mark Stillman gave the Treasurer's report, indicating a balance in the account of \$2015.97 as of this date. The report was unanimously approved. A copy of the Treasurer's report will be appended to final approved minutes of this meeting.

Dave Scott read sections of the edited minutes from the 11 June 2018 meeting (members were e-mailed the full version of the edited minutes prior to the meeting). The edited minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Bill Greenhalgh mentioned that the *Proceedings of the Radio Club of America* may be interested in publishing an article on our MESH network if we can meet the end of September deadline.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Paul Milazzo gave an update on the MESH network. He reported that he fixed a cable fault on the ground level of the 900 MHz node (SW Node). He reported that the East Node has a problem- it resets to the factory default setting after a certain period of time. He can fix the problem remotely, but the fix only lasts a short time. He suspects that possible water intrusion into the surge suppressor is contributing to the problem. He suggested a drone inspection to analyze the problem; everything else is working fine.

Paul also reported that Brenden McNeil W3VD mentioned that a new building under construction at the Christiana Hospital complex in Newark may interfere with our MESH node there. Paul also indicated that a drone inspection may be needed for the Wilmington Hospital MESH network.

Mark Stillman raised the topic of establishing a Pay Pal account, to facilitate dues payments. He will look into possible modifications to the DRA web site to enable a Pay Pal option. The consensus of meeting attendees is that whatever short term issues we might have to get set up with Pay Pal will be more than made up by future convenience and ease of dues payments.

Meeting was adjourned at 1937.

A training session on WINLINK by Frank Filipkowski followed.

Next meeting will be Monday 10 December 2018 at the Brandywine Town Center

Respectfully submitted

Dave Scott KC3BEJ, Secretary