

**DELAWARE REPEATER ASSOCIATION (DRA)**  
**MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018**  
**(as Approved 11 June 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 19 March 2018.

DRA President Frank Filipkowski (AD3M) called the meeting to order at 1905, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to honor fallen first responders, military, and Silent Keys. Frank indicated that there was no specific agenda for tonight's meeting.

**REPORTS**

Frank reported that there has been some new lighting installed at the Ebright Road Repeater site, and that a hole in the fence still needs repair. He also noted that the top of the tower light sensor is damaged; it may need a new dusk to dawn sensor. The repeater's back up power system is still good.

Vice President Dave Stepnowski (KC3AM) reported that birds are trying to get in through the vents of the bottom building, however the barbed wire is in good condition and that the interior of the building is also satisfactory. He advised that the block house needs new exterior paint, but the new roof on the block house is in good condition.

Treasurer Mark Stillman (KA3JUU) reported a beginning balance (18 December 2017) of \$1992.59; \$300.00 in dues were collected and \$0.20 of interest was accumulated. The Annual DE Division of Corporations registration fee of \$25.00 was paid, leaving an ending balance in our account of \$2267.79. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted. (Copy of Treasurer's Report is appended to these Minutes.)

Mark also reported on the status of the Newark (Windy Hills Tower) antenna installation project. He inquired about the install with a contractor who was apparently reluctant to take on the MESH Network aspects of the project. Mark's bottom line assessment was that his contact didn't really want to get involved with the project.

Secretary Dave Scott (KC3BEJ), read the minutes from the 18 December 2017 Quarterly meeting, which were prepared by outgoing Secretary Wayne Hale (K3WHH). Motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Program Director Bill Bouchard (N3EDO) discussed the desirability for guest speakers at future meetings. Dave Scott mentioned his work as an instructor for the New Castle County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course, and offered to do a future presentation on the National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS).

Bill Duveneck (KB3KYH), DE ARRL Section Chief, reported that he has set up a presence for the DE Section on Facebook. Bill also reminded attendees about the upcoming DELMARVA Ham Fest, set for Saturday 21 April 2018 at the CHEER Center in Georgetown, DE. Bill also noted that Paul Milazzo (K3PGM), will do a presentation on his efforts to establish an AREDN MESH network in New Castle

County. Bill also gave attendees an update of the Amateur Radio Parity Act's progress in the Senate. Finally, Bill raffled off a 2018 ARRL Handbook, which was won by Bill Bouchard.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dave Stepnowski and Mark Edgar (N3JPW) discussed the possibility of re-introducing packet operations in New Castle County. According to Dave and Mike, several NCC area hams are interested in this idea. This proposal generated a discussion among attendees regarding WINLINK, and the need for further instruction and practice using this platform amongst NCC amateurs, especially those involved in ARES and other public safety oriented amateur activities. It was suggested that some members bring laptops to the next DRA Quarterly meeting for a basic tutorial and demonstration on WINLINK.

Dave also brought up the status of the Newark Windy Hills Tower antenna install project. Paul Milazzo, who is spearheading a County-wide MESH network initiative, also expressed enthusiasm in getting this done, as he has the MESH equipment ready to go. Paul also inquired as to the feasibility of installing a MESH site at the WA3UYJ Repeater (146.955 MHz), located at the City of Wilmington's Porter Water Filtration Plant at the intersection of Rt. 202 and Alapocas Dr. Paul's research indicated this would be a good site to hit the MESH antenna located at Christiana Hospital. He suggested this might be an easier install than at the Windy Hills water tower.

Finally, Dave raised the issue of bringing the WA3UYJ repeater under the DRA's insurance policy. Dave has been managing and maintaining this repeater for many years, and recently incorporated it into the DELMARVA Linked Repeater System. It was determined that the DRA membership would be surveyed to get a consensus on this question. Secretary Dave Scott was tasked with surveying the membership. He will draft up a brief outline of the issue, and sent it out via the DRA's Google Groups account to get input from the full membership.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

At the 18 December 2018 meeting, it was suggested that, in addition to, or in lieu of, meetings at the Brandywine Town Center, quarterly meeting might be held at New Castle County's Gilliam Building, located in the Government Center Complex on Read's Way in New Castle, DE. This may be more convenient for DRA members who live in below the C&D Canal. Dave Scott was tasked with surveying the membership on this issue as well. Dave reported that he just got set up on the Google Groups account, and that he can now proceed to contact the membership through that platform.

Joe Petro (N1FLU) made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2037.

Next quarterly meeting will be held at the BTC on Monday 18 June 2018 at 1900.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Scott (KC3BEJ)

**Delaware Repeater Association**

**Treasurer's Report**

**March 19, 2018**

**Beginning Balance (December 18, 2018)**

**\$ 1992.59**

**Income**

Dues received	\$ 300.00
Accumulated Interest	<u>0.20</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 300.20</b>

**Expenses**

Delaware Division of Corporations	\$ 25.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>

**Balance in Checking Account**

**\$ 2267.79**

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Stillman KA3JUI, Treasurer

- Note: .04 interest from 11/30/2017 that was excluded from the 12/18/2017 Treasurer's Report added to this report.