

DELAWARE REPEATER ASSOCIATION (DRA)
MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING
MONDAY 10 December 2018
(Approved 11 March 2019)

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 December 2018.

DRA President Frank Filipkowski (AD3M) called the meeting to order at 1908, 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: Wayne Hale K3WHH; Bill Duveneck KB3KYH (ARRL DE Section Manager); Paul Milazzo K3PGM; Jack Boxbaum N3JEB; Jeff Backus N3GJB; John DiGiovanni N3LUD (board member-at-large); Bill Greenhalgh W3DE (trustee); Dave Scott KC3BEJ (Secretary); Mark Stillman KA3JUI (Treasurer); Mark Edgar N3JPW; and Frank Filipkowski AD3M (President).

REPORTS

Frank Filipkowski reported on routine maintenance at the Ebright Road tower (W3DRA). He noted that there has not been too much activity at Ebright Rd.

Mark Stillman gave the Treasurer's report, indicating a balance in the account of \$2048.32 as of 4 December 2018. The report was unanimously approved. A copy of the Treasurer's report will be appended to final approved minutes of this meeting. Mark also noted that the 2019 annual dues were coming due, with rates of \$20/individual or \$30/family. Mark further reported that DRA has set up a Pay Pal account, which may be accessed via the DRA web site at www.DRA73.org.

Dave Scott gave a synopsis of the 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.

John DiGiovanni noted students from the First State School for Physical Disabilities were interested in amateur radio, and were looking for donations of amateur radio test prep books, and other related technical material. John also advised that active CARES volunteers needed to get flu vaccination badges to access certain areas of the hospital. He also noted that his packet station N3LUD-10 was still out of operation. To avoid conflict with the W3DRA-10 packet station on 145.010, he will get a new frequency when he gets the station up and running again.

Bill Greenhalgh advised that the license for W3DRA will need to be renewed in 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Greenhalgh mentioned that *The Radio Club of America* published a YouTube video about their recent meeting, where, in addition to other subjects, the club discussed new developments in 5G wireless technology. 5G technology is now approved and implementation is planned by 2025.

Bill Duveneck gave a presentation on the new ARES Connect program. He recommended all interested Amateurs signup. Bill also noted that one of the "areas for improvement" that came out of the October 2018 DE ARRL Statewide Emergency Test (SET), was the need for greater proficiency with Winlink. He advised that a working group had been established to address this issue, and periodic Winlink exercises would be forthcoming.

Bill held a "no charge" raffle for a new 2019 ARRL Handbook, which was won by Dave Scott.

Some discussion followed on the merits of Winlink vs. a MESH Network. Paul noted that the MESH Network backbone was still a work in progress. He observed that a steady funding stream would be needed to achieve a well -functioning regional network. He suggested that the DRA considerer registering as a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization, whereupon the DRA might be in a good position to look into grants for this purpose.

Paul also reported that the D-STAR function at the Ebright Rd repeater (70cm band) was not functioning, but he had diagnosed the problem and the applicable replacement parts were on order.

Mark Stillman inquired to John DiGiovanni if Echo Link could be used on the CARES Net, and John replied affirmatively.

OLD BUSINESS

Paul Milazzo noted that the Newark water tower repeater 900MHz node intermittently resets. A drone examination in October 2018 revealed an ineffectively secured cable plug, which may be affected by wind, causing the internal surge suppressor to short out, causing an intermittent reset. He advised a climber would need to go upon the tower to fix this problem.

The link to Christiana Hospital has been operable for some 400 days, but other issues should be addressed in Spring 2019.

Meeting was adjourned at 2010.

Next meeting will be Monday 11 March 2019 at the Brandywine Town Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Scott KC3BEJ, Secretary

Delaware Repeater Association

Treasurer's Report

March 5, 2019

Beginning Balance (December 4, 2018)

\$ 2048.32

Income

Dues Received	\$ 185.89
Accumulated Interest	<u>\$.16</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 186.05

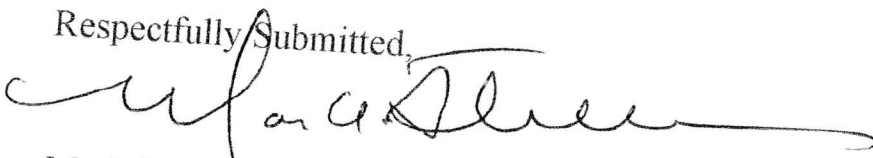
Expenses

Annual Franchise Tax Filing (DE)	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 25.00

Balance in Checking Account

\$2209.37

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Stillman KA3JUI, Treasurer