

MANATEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MINUTES Membership Business Meeting
May 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Jim Woodson, KE4INM, Director, at 7:00 PM. The President, Vice President and Jerry Johnson, Director were not present. We all participated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Each person introduced themselves. There were two guests, Elaine and Myron White, KJ4TWG and TWH, respectively.

Eighteen members were in attendance so and a quorum was established.

The minutes from the previous meetings were accepted / approved as published on the web site www.manatee-arc.org. The treasurer's report was given by Frank Morton which showed a total balance of \$4,928.43. A motion to file for audit was approved by the membership. Clarification of the report regarding the telephone was explained. The telephone is required to allow control of the repeater. There is not dial capability since it was removed some time ago due to malicious abuse use of the repeater.

There was no membership report, since membership chairman was not present.

Education chairman indicated the new Technician Class manual is now available from the ARRL and reflects the Technician question Pool becoming effective in July 2010. A number of our members are Technician level. It would be nice if we could generate some desire to upgrade at which time we can conduct a class. There will be an Extra Class starting in January 2011. It was asked if there was any interest in a General Class. We have indication there are two who would like to attend such a class. If a couple more indicate some interest we'll schedule a class which should be about six weeks in duration. Weekends or weekday evenings dependent on the desire of the students.

The broken mike award recipient is conspicuous by his absence on the air. Anyone hearing from KJ4NRK make special note so that he might shed the honor. Here is all that is needed to move on: check-in to the MARCI net twice, complete a QSO with a MARCI member (in good standing,) operate during a MARCI event, complete 5 QSO's, wait for three full moons to pass, and find someone in the club who qualifies for the "Broken Mike Award". Good luck, Ryan, we think you can do it!

Unfortunately, our participation in the Florida QSO party 24-25 April was cancelled due to illness in the family.

A reminder, the Saturday after the MARCI meeting, breakfast at Feona's in Oneco will start about 9:30. Y'll come and enjoy comradeship as well as the good food. Reminder about participation on the Thursday night net on the club repeater 146.820. The tone will be turned on this Friday, 100 Hz.

Annual elections were held. The nominated candidates include:

President - Ed Skalecki, NI4MX, Vice President - Jim Woodson, KE4INM, Secretary - Roger Byron, KR4WS, Treasurer - Jerry Johnson, AE4XW, Director - Jonelle Nabergall, KI4WSN, Director - Bruce Theroux, KJ4IFH, Director - Frank Morton, AC4MK

The secretary was directed to cast one unanimous vote for the slate of nominees.

A reminder Field Day is the last weekend in June so put that on the calendar. We will setup at the Palmetto Wal-Mart and are allowed to remain overnight. There will be (barring any more pressing news event) a TV crew doing interviews and the Bradenton Herald will be there for pictures. There is always a need for operators. Now is the chance for anyone to come operate on HF with helpful Elmer alongside. We'll demo the procedure then introduce each to the basic operation and take each as far into the skill as is desired. It is the fun event of the year.

Jim Woodson presented NVIS - Near Vertical Incident Skywave talk. NVIS is a radio-wave propagation method that provides usable signals in the range between [groundwave](#) and [skywave](#) distances (usually 30 to 400 miles, or 50 to 650 km). It is used mainly for military and [paramilitary](#) communications and by [radio amateurs](#). The radio waves travel upwards into the [ionosphere](#), where they are [refracted](#) back down and can be received within a circular region up to 650 km from the transmitter. If the frequency is too high, refraction fails to occur and if it is too low absorption reduces the signal strength. The usable frequencies for NVIS communications are between 1.8 MHz and 15 MHz. The most common bands used in amateur radio are 3.5 MHz and 7 MHz, with experimental use of 5 MHz ([60 meters](#)) frequencies. The lowest layer of the ionosphere, called the [D layer](#), causes attenuation of low frequencies during the day. This layer disappears at night enabling improved communications at the lower frequencies during this time

An NVIS antenna configuration is a horizontally polarized (parallel with the surface of the earth) radiating element that is from 1/20th [wavelength](#) (λ) to 1/8th wavelength above the ground. That proximity to the ground forces the majority of the radiation to go straight up. Overall efficiency of the antenna can be increased by placing a [ground](#) wire slightly longer than the antenna parallel to and directly underneath the antenna. While the ground wire is not necessary under good to excellent [propagation](#) conditions, antenna [gain](#) in the 3 dB to 6 dB range are common when the ground wire is used. Thanks Jim.

Greg Blanchard, newsletter editor, handed out the March newsletter. Thanks Gregg

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectful Submitted
Roger Byron, KR4WS