

OSCAR Newsletter October 10, 2015

The next OSCAR meeting is **Saturday November 14th at 9:00am**, the second Saturday of the month. The meeting is held in the back room of "The Kitchen" restaurant in downtown Owatonna, located at 329 Cedar Ave N.

October 10, 2015 Meeting Notes:

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by President Randy KD0NUV.

Attendees:

Barry	KD0YRE
Bill	WA0FMG
Brian	K0BDD
Charles	KCOLXB
Dale	WB0PKG
Dave	WBOVAK
Gregg	KD0GVR
Kurt	KD0SEE
Kris	KCOREO
Len	KE0BPF
Lowell	KD0RGH
Matt	KA0PQW
Randy	KD0NUV
Sandee	KD0KSA

Secretary's Report: There was a motion made by K0BDD and seconded by AC0DA to approve the August 2015 Newsletter as minutes.

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read by KD0NUV. Motion made to approve by KA0PQW and seconded by KCOLXB. Motion carried. OSCAR membership is currently at 28 hams.

Skywarn: No formal report.

CERT: KD0KSA reported the CERT class is currently going on. There is a good representation from Waseca County and we look forward to working with them. CERT now also has a FACEBOOK page –check it out!!!

Repeater: No formal repeater report. General discussion and note that KCOREO has volunteered to take on the EchoLink responsibilities. Thanks Chris!!!

KD0SEE reported on 2 different plaque options for silent key AE0BR. Motion made to authorize approximately \$35 for the larger plaque made by KA0PQW and seconded by KE0BPF. Motion carried.

FALL PICNIC review. Good times, good food, good antennas, and good pictures posted on the website. Thanks to all who were able to attend.

RAGCHEWING ITEMS: (accuracy on following items is questionable – more or less)

- Reasonable Braun antenna towers available by Circle K in Charles City???
- KA0PQW, Matt is looking for some climbing help for some antenna work.
- KA0PQW, Matt and WBOVAK, Dave participated in a 160 code contest and placed 1st in the Region and 10th or 11th in the Nation. Congrats!!!
- Aurora Borealis and sunspots raising havoc on most bands.

- KØBDD, Brian had a preliminary announcement for the upcoming John Beargrease sled dog race in 2016. Please see information at the end of this newsletter. MUSH!!!
- KAØPQW, Matt has taken on the phone Net Tuesdays at 3860 at 5:30pm.

Motion made to adjourn by KCOLXB and seconded by KDOGVR. Meeting was adjourned at 9:41am.

Check the website for events/details/changes. www.oscarmn.org

Respectfully submitted, WAØFMG

Wondering what to do after the holidays are over? Come help us out... This is your invitation to become a race volunteer for the famous John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon. You can volunteer for one day, or for a number of days. Watching 600-750 happy sled dogs pass your duty location is a unique experience. You'll like it, and will DEFINITELY remember it.

One of my favorite volunteer services has been working with the Beargrease Amateur Radio Coalition (BARC) which provides essential communication for the annual John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon in N.E. Minnesota. It is the toughest, longest sled dog race in the lower 48 states. Fewer than 1/2 of the 36 teams finish each year. The January, 2015 race was about 380 miles, and lasted 4 days. Hams located along the race route relay team positions and health/welfare info. via many linked repeaters, in an area where cell phones are almost entirely useless. Temperatures during the annual race vary from the mid 30s to well below zero.

In 2011 we saw temperatures of -10, with wind chills around -40 to -50F. While working outside to gather official times, our HT's are worn INSIDE our clothing to keep the batteries working. At all locations, hams always have access to a warm vehicle or warm shelter. Duty time lasts up from 6 to 48 hours, depending on location and your availability. Plenty of help is needed as 8 Checkpoints and more than 20 road crossings are manned by hams working in 6 to 8 hour shifts. Each ham decides the number of hours or days he/she is able to serve. Some work at more than one remote outdoor location, moving when appropriate. Operators can also work 2-4 hour shifts at net control in Tow Harbors, Minn., an indoor duty.

This year the race starts on January 31th at 1:00pm in Duluth. The race always runs mid-Sunday to Wednesday evening. Comfortable, reasonably-priced motels are near most duty stations. Here's your chance to prove your operating abilities in a very challenging environment. You'll need a 10-50 watt mobile 2 Meter rig. HT's will work at some duty stations.

If you would like more information check out the official web site at www.beargrease.com and click on the "get involved" tab... or go to the BARC web site at www.bgarc.org

If you have more questions please feel free to give me a call at [507-475-2495](tel:507-475-2495) or [507-455-0730](tel:507-455-0730) in the evening.

Get out there and give us a hand!

Brian Dallmann – KØBDD