

SPARK meeting minutes for Tuesday, May 16, 2017

The Scranton Pocono Amateur Radio Klub (SPARK) convened at the Lackawanna County Center for Public Safety, Jessup, PA, on Tuesday, May 16, with Secretary Jeff Jones, ND3Z, in the Chair. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. President Scott Petty, KA3QLF, and Vice President Bill Dobitsch, KB3NEP, were both out of the local area on business trips. Treasurer Heath Goldstein, K3HGG, had a conflicting business engagement. A total of 14 members and one guest were in attendance. Other members were Executive Committeeman Bob Sauers, NA2T; Ray Collins, WX3A; Tom Davis, N3XMB; Dale Keklock, KA3IHR; George Lavetsky, KB3ZFG; Ron Lister, W3RAL; Tom Meredith, KB3UPN; Tom Robinson, N3NMY; Lee Romich, WA:3LBR; Robert Schultz, KC3APR; Nick Shyshuk, N3GTH; Harry Smith, KB3IDX; and John Walsh, N3URF. Our guest was John Giglio, ex-WA2BZG, of Hawley, who is returning to the hobby. Jeff asked Ray to record the proceedings.

Regarding the health and welfare of our members, Jeff reported that Art Sposto, WA3 YSS, was an administering volunteer examiner at the test session held on May 9 but has lost significant weight while receiving treatment for kidney cancer. Art is in good spirits.

Jeff read the minutes of the SPARK meeting of April 18. On motion of Bob, seconded by Ron, the club APPROVED the minutes as read. There was no Treasurer's Report.

Jeff reported on the test session of May 9, which had five applicants--all nonhams--four of whom passed their examinations and left as Technician class licensees. The fifth applicant stated that he will be returning in June to try again.

Jeff reported that Scott scheduled moving the remaining gear in the shed at the Dunmore home of Walter Kunz, AA3FC, to the SPARK garage hangar at Seamans Airport in Factoryville on Monday, May 22.

The club pilgrimage to ARRL headquarters and WIA W will be after ARRL Field Day but most likely before Labor Day.

Regarding ARRL Field Day, Scott has scheduled an equipment inventory and tower preparation for Sunday, May 21, at Seamans Airport. The SPARK meeting on June 20 will be at the FBO office deck and pavilion at Seamans Airport, beginning with a cookout at 6 p.m. (food and soft drinks provided by SPARK).

Ray suggested that the transfer of equipment from Dunmore to Factoryville be postponed until after Field Day so as not to congest the hangar space, with Scott's and Walter's approval.

Jeff talked about the volunteer examiner program. SPARK's participation in the program dates back to the very conception of the VE program created by a change in FCC regulations and policy decades ago.

Jeff mentioned some special event stations during May and some major contests, including the CQ WW WPX CW Contest during Memorial Day weekend and the ARRL June VHF Contest during the second full weekend of June (always held two weeks before Field Day).

George asked about packet radio, as well as ham radio in the International Space Station. Nick responded. Nick also talked about high-frequency (HF) digital modes, of which there are many. Our guest asked if there is any local 6-meter activity. Bob responded that there is not much SSB activity on 6 meters, but there is one local 6-meter FM repeater. With no further business before the club, on motion of Ron, seconded by Nick, the club APPROVED to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:25p.m.

[Back to Minutes Page](#)