



St. Augustine Amateur Radio Society

MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2023

Airport Conference Center

Attendees

John Albertson AK4N
Alan Alsobrook KD4QOF
Jack Ernissee K4KSW
Dennis Fernandez N4KPI
Mike Frame KN4FKC
Rick Hatton KK4GGL
Frank Kirbyson KN4CLP
Sue Kirbyson KN4KNC
Joe Logan KO4VOY
Buzz Miklos WA4GPM
Ron Morgan KM4AC
Kevin Pellegrino KM4PHI
Doug Parmeter KK4FZT
Rick Reuther W2BFD

Larry Sapp WD8SEL
Frank Sileo N1PE
Bob Sileo N2PE
Buddy Tison KK4RXC
Franco Venturi K4VZ
Linda Visman KN4KJC
Richard Visman NN2T
Dave Wilcox K8WPE
Craig Wisman W3LCI
Allen Wyatt W4YO

Guest:
Peter Stackpole N1MLE

- Bob Sileo called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm ET and asked members to stand for the Pledge to the Flag.
- Bob recognized a guest this evening, Peter Stackpole N1MLE who has been visiting for the winter from Maine. He also recognized Dave Wilcox who will be returning to Michigan soon, but plans to be back in St Augustine next winter.
- Approval of the Minutes- Motion to approve as written by Franco Venturi, seconded by Rick Hatton and approved unanimously.
- Approval of the Treasurers Report- Kevin gave a report of the current treasury, Motion to approve as presented by Richard Visman, seconded by Jack Ernissee and approved unanimously.
- Discussion Items:
 - Joe Barnhart KQ4ECD has volunteered to be our Public Relations Chairman. Joe has excellent writing skills and will be an asset to the club.
 - **Tee Shirts and Golf Shirts with the club logo.** John Albertson presented what he has learned from getting a cost estimate at the Sports Corner. At present, Golf shirts would be about \$30 each with a 12-shirt minimum and Tee shirts about \$20 each with a 48 shirt minimum. There

was considerable discussion of this with several alternatives being mentioned, each of which requires more research. John is going to continue to work on this big project for which he is to be thanked. He mentioned that he has already learned a lot more about shirts than he ever wanted to know.

- This month's events.
 - Friday lunches (We had 14 at the last one) (Neds)
 - Last Saturday Breakfast – March 25. (The Spot)

- Next Operating Event
 - FL State Parks on the Air
 - April 1-2
 - Returning to Faver-Dykes and the pavilion has been reserved for both days.
 - An Event Chairperson is needed.

- In other business, the 50/50 was won by Alan Alsobrook.

- **Program: Introduction to Software Defined Radio (SDR 101) Presented by Franco Venturi K4VZ**
 - Franco began by mentioning that SDRs come in both standalone versions that are relatively cheap and are programmed/operated with a computer as well as being the basis for most modern transceivers including both Icoms and Yaesu.
 - He gave us a brief overview of how an SDR converts the signal from our antenna into a digital stream of information and included such concepts as sampling rates and problems such as aliasing. He explained SDRs depend on a complex mathematical algorithm called the Fast Fourier Transform. Of course, most users can ignore all of this and just treat the SDR as a black box that our computers may use as a source.
 - We learned that a very basic 8-bit SDR can be had for about \$30, but that there are fancier versions with higher resolution (14 bit) that cost from about \$100 up to over \$5000. These may be equipped with analog filtering to improve image rejection.
 - Franco demonstrated his SDR (14 bit) using a program on his laptop. I believe he said this software was "GNU Radio". He also mentioned that SDRsharp was a good program to use with the little 8-bit SDRs.
 - The bottom line is that Franco delivered an outstanding program that was both at a high level of technical complexity but also in the end very down to earth. He received a big round of applause.

- Our next meeting will be on April 4 at 6:30 pm via ZOOM.
 - The program will be on the DXCC and presented by John Smith K3GO who recently earned his **5 Band DXCC**.

- Jack Ernissee made motion to Adjourn the meeting at about 8pm. Seconded and approved.

Approved at April 4 meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison" followed by a long horizontal flourish.