



St. Augustine Amateur Radio Society **MEETING MINUTES(Draft)**

November 7, 2023

Regular meeting via Google Meets

John Albertson AK4N
Richard Anthony W4RMA
Dave Berman WA2PAY
David Crosby KO4KPU
Jackson Driskell KB4B
Jack Ernissee K4KSW
Rick Hatton KK4GGL
Leo Kim KQ4HWF
Ron Morgan KM4AC
Doug Parmenter KK4FZT
Kevin Pelligrino KM4PHI
Clint Porter KC4LOV
Rick Reuther W2BFD
Aaron Richmond KQ4FFR
Kyle Richmond KA1FKR
Larry Sapp WD8SEL

Bob Sileo N2PE
Frank Sileo N1PE
Larry Slight W4KTJ
Jason Smith K4LHS
Reg Smith KA4LGJ
John Stahl, WA2AAQ
Jonathon Thron W3WD
Buddy Tison KK4RXC
Andrew Vallas KQ4KVN
Franco Venturi K4VZ
Linda Visman KN4KJC
Richard Visman NN2T
Richard Wallace KG6YEM
Diane Rabideau-Wise WA4ZDQ
Craig Wisman W3LCI
Allen Wyatt W4YO

Business portion of the Meeting

- 1) Bob Sileo called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm ET.
- 2) Bob led the pledge to the US flag.
- 3) New member recognition and Upgrades:
- 4) Approval of October 3, 2023, meeting minutes
Allen Wyatt and Bob Sileo distributed the draft minutes via email on 11/7/2023.
Clint Porter moved to approve the minutes as written, Franco Venturi seconded.
Motion made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote of the members online.
- 5) Treasurer's report. Kevin reported that with expenses paid, there is \$7,064.42 in the account. Motion by Richard Visman and seconded by Clint Porter to approve the report. Approved unanimously by members online.
- 6) Discussion - Bob mentioned that he has placed an order for the "Ed Fong" antennas that several members requested. This is also the club's way of saying thanks for Ed's excellent presentation for our September virtual meeting.

- 7) This Month's events. Bob reminded everyone of the weekly lunches and the last Saturday breakfast on November 25.
Upcoming Operating event:
 - Winter Field Day
 - January 27 and 28, 2024
 - Location TBD (St County Fairgrounds no available)
 - Need an event Chairman.
- 8) Nomination of Officers for 2024
 - a) Bob called for nominations and mentioned that there were other ways to help the club like being an event chairman or presenting a program.
 - b) After some discussion, Richard Visman nominated the current officers to serve another term. Clint Porter seconded the nominations.
 - c) The election of officers will occur at the December meeting where additional nominations may be added to the ballot.
- 9) Next Meeting.
 - a) December 5, 2023
 - b) Brisky's BBQ.
- 10) Adjourn business meeting: Motion made by Richard Visman to adjourn, seconded by Franco Venturi, and approved by the members present.

PROGRAM: Virtual Antenna Party: "Any antenna is better than no antenna."

John Albertson presented his solution to an effective antenna that avoids the attention of his HOA. He is using an 80-meter end fed antenna that goes from a short post up to a tree and then turns and connects to a small shed at the other side of his backyard. The antenna terminates into a homebuilt Unun which John put together using an electrical box from Home Depot and a pre-wound toroid that he acquired online. John has worked several hundred DX stations using this antenna. He has more than earned his DXCC, having over a hundred contacts on each of several bands.

Buddy Tison showed his very effective array of antenna. He does not have an HOA to contend with (just an XYL). He uses multiple push up masts to support his dipoles. The push ups are supported using a combination of guys and wooden posts. His main concerns are that a storm does not bring down one of his masts onto a neighbor's car or property. He very much values his relationship with his neighbors and wishes to keep their friendship and respect. Buddy brings his coax into his home through an excellently designed and assembled feed through that incorporates a grounding system and lightning arrestors. (I am quite envious of his installation.) Buddy has also worked several hundred DX contacts all over the world using his antenna farm, and all on SSB!

Franco Venturi showed off his portable QRP antenna system. This system can be quickly assembled and put on the air either in his back yard or a park to work POTA contacts. His system uses a stake that can be quickly inserted into the ground to both support and "ground the antenna. It uses relatively short radials that have not caused Franco problems getting reasonable SWR values as he mostly works 20 meters and above.

Jack Ernissee showed off his “buddy pole” antenna system which he acquired at the Orlando hamfest, getting a good deal so that the vendor would not have to transport it back to Seattle. This system is basically a extendable vertical using an inductor to match it to the feedline and get a good SWR. Jack mentioned that due to the reactance of the inductor, the antenna resonates at different frequency than its lowest SWR point. Jack is currently working a combination of SSB and FT8 using this HOA friendly antenna. Over the years Jack has managed to make over 7000 contacts using SSB, CW, (he is a real ham) and FT8.

Danny Miller was not able to attend the meeting, but he provided pictures of his totally indoor antenna arrangement for his QRP rig. This antenna is literally attached to his ceiling and uses an inductor wound on an empty soda bottle. Danny works both CW and FT8 and makes many DX contacts all from this simple station in his Condo on Anastasia Island.

Bob Sileo showed 10 meter and 40-meter dipoles, made of spare wire rope and speaker wire.

Richard Visman added a short presentation on his recent DXpedition to Grand Bahama Island where his not only activated that island but also was able to activate three national parks for the first time. Richard found a nice house to rent that was located very remotely and in a picturesque spot overlooking the ocean. He had ample power and excellent internet which allowed Juan Lopez (AC6ZM) to operate the station remotely using the same call sign as Richard. Linda was able to join Richard for a few days of the trip. Each time Richard called CQ his FT8 screen turned red with replies.

The meeting concluded at about 8:30 pm.