

# FRIENDSHIP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING

August 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Ralph Rabice, W4RER, at 1:30 pm at the Holy Faith Fellowship Hall in Dunnellon. There were 15 Members present. Mr. Rabice led the group in the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence for ill and SK members, followed by the round of introductions.

The secretary's report for the July 10, 2017 meeting as posted on the club yahoo group web page was read and approved.

The treasurer's report was presented by Rhyne Killian, KA1CX, and posted on the web. There is \$1578 in the Scholarship Fund, with a total net worth of \$2042.79.

Correspondence: A "Thank You Letter" was sent to the Holy Faith Episcopal Church for allowing us to use their Fellowship Hall for Field Day. A thank you note was received from Holy Faith, thanking the club for the floor mat they donated to the church for use in the Fellowship Hall entrance.

There was considerable discussion about the club web page, including changes needed since former webmaster K9WEY is now a silent key. A motion was made and approved that the web page will be managed by a committee of three people, namely Arnold Hansen, W3BPP; Bob Toronto, KW4HU; and Al Reeves, W1JHU. They will meet at W3BPP QTH soon and get things set up. We have the proper passwords, etc.

Due primarily to Field Day and the Christmas Party, our treasury is low. A motion was made and approved to raise the dues \$5 per year, starting with the next fiscal year in March 2018. Regular dues will become \$20 per year, with family dues at \$30.

The Christmas Party was discussed. Steve Kenney, KB4SDB, is a chef and has volunteered to cook for the Christmas Party. We will have it at the regular December meeting, which is held at Holy Faith.

Ralph Rabice, W4RER, passed out a list of equipment available from SK K9WEY.

Ken Simpson, W8EK, brought a lot of information about the Ham Radio Parity Act that has passed in the House, and is presently in committee in the Senate. Although the intent of this law is very commendable, it appears that the fine print in the law has been written by lawyers from the Home Owner's Association National Organization. Lawyer K1VT who has defended more antenna cases than any other lawyer says we must defeat this bill if we want ham radio to continue to exist in its present form. There are several problems. No one is grandfathered. Hams must obtain PRIOR approval for any antennas. This means antennas that are presently approved must be approved again. Although hams must be accommodated, they could be accommodated by being permitted to have a 6 inch quarter wave whip for 440 MHz, even though they want to be on the HF bands. There is no time line for home owner's association approval. They could take 20 years if they wanted. Violation of any provisions would a federal criminal violation. This law applies to hams only, and does not apply to Cbers or SWLs. We need to recommend to our Senators that they vote against this law.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Ken Simpson, W8EK, secretary