

Minutes-January 19, 2023, General Meeting

By Jim Gifford KD8APT, Secretary

Executive Committee Members Present

President: Ray Hitt N8VMX, Newsletter, Field Day

Vice President: Glenn Rodgers KE8LZD, Greeter, Shack Tours

Treasurer: John Westerkamp W8LRJ, Communications Center

Secretary: Jim Gifford KD8APT

Jr. Director: Don Parker KB8PSL (via Zoom)

Sr. Director: Jim Lusk KC8EFD, Clubhouse

Functional Coordinators Present:

Jim Totten WA8HUB, BARC Lunch Bunch

Ryan McClure KE8DKC, Call-in

Ken Gunton W8ASA, Contesting

Tom McClory KE8FWZ, Youth

Trevor Clarke K8TRC, Skills Night

Executive Committee Members Absent

N/A

At 7:30pm, President Ray Hitt KD8OPN led attendees in the pledge of allegiance. Hitt told attendees of the upcoming General License Class. Following is the press release issued by the club:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring a General License Class beginning Saturday, February 18, 2023, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm in the Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club (BARC) Clubhouse at [51 South East Street, Bellbrook, OH 45305](#) (lower level). The sessions are over four Saturdays (February 18, 25, and March 4, 11) with the Exam on Wednesday evening March 15. The exam will be at the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) Clubhouse, [6619 Bellefontaine Road, Huber Heights](#).

The textbook will be the ARRL General Class License Manual, which is available at URL:
: <https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/114241> from the American Radio Relay League.

The class and the exam are free. The application fee for the new license holder is \$35 and is payable to the FCC upon successful completion of the exam. There is no fee to upgrade an existing license. Details of the fee and how to pay are provided by the Examiners upon passing the test.

Members each then introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes

Ken Gunton W8ASA moved we accept the minutes as published; Glenn Rodgers KE8LZD seconded; passed.

Agenda Item 2. Treasurer's Report

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John Westerkamp W8LRJ said that income last month was mostly from dues income and the Kroger rewards program. Expenses included \$165 for insurance; \$70 for the Internet fee, \$60 for the ICOM software to project the ICOM radios on the overhead screen. We ended with a balance of \$9,168.47. He said he will prepare a budget to present to the Planning meeting in February. Westerkamp also said that the Amazon Smiles program is being discontinued by Amazon.

Following is the report as emailed before the meeting:

Fund	31-Dec-22	Income	Expenses	31-Jan-23
General	\$6,252.05	\$231.04	\$390.11	\$6,092.98
Comm center	\$1,995.76	\$0.00	\$60.48	\$1,935.28
Refreshments	\$637.71	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$677.71
Repeater	\$462.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$462.50
ALL FUNDS	\$9,348.02	\$271.04	\$450.59	\$9,168.47

Jim Totten WA8HUB moved we accept the report; Ken Gunton seconded; passed.

Agenda Item 3. President's Report

- Club Goals for 2023

Ray Hitt wants club members to spread their wings and venture into areas where perhaps they had not been before. He used himself as an example where he is going to strive to relearn Morse Code this year. He said there are several subjects where BARC can instruct and help members learn new skills, such as CW, DMR, EchoLink, etc. He said that he would like to see these areas of education be connected in presentations, skill night, other education activities, and the *Full Quieting* newsletter.

Hitt complimented Paul Sharp on bring some of these ideas forward in his tenure as president.

- Filling of vacant coordinator positions

Hitt said we have several key coordinator positions open. One is Field Day where Hitt is still the coordinator but would like someone to shadow him to take it over since he is now president and also editor of the newsletter.

- Restructuring of Committees (defer to John Westerkamp for details)

Ray Hitt deferred to John Westerkamp on a proposed structuring of how coordinators are to report to align with the Constitution's established committees. Westerkamp placed the following on the overhead screen and described how each committee could report to a chair who would then report to the Planning Group. He used the Education Committee as an example.

Standing Committees and Functional Coordinators (New)

- **Clubhouse Committee**

Clubhouse Coordinator (Chair) Jim Lusk, KC8EFD
Communications Center John Westerkamp, W8LRJ
Greeter Glenn Rodgers, KE8LZD
Hospitality and Librarian Natinka Siwecki, KD8NUA

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Information Technology John Westerkamp, W8LRJ
Talk-In Net Ryan McClure, KE8DKC
Website John Westerkamp, W8LRJ

- **Education Committee**

Education Coordinator (Chair) Open
Contesting Ken Gunton, W8ASA
Full Quieting Editor Ray Hitt, N8VMX
Programs Glenn Rodgers, KE8LZD
Tech Night/Workbench Co-Coordinator Trevor Clarke, K8TRC
Youth Tom McClory, KE8FWZ

- **Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Emergency Coordinator (Chair) Open
Net Manager Paul Sharp, KD8OPN
Public Service Don Parker, KB8PSL
QSL Cards Roger Hoffman, WB9BXT
Repeaters and Domain Servers Russ Roysden, N8NPT
Repeater Network and Nodes (AllStar, EchoLink, and
Wires-X) John Westerkamp, W8LRJ
W8DGN License Trustee Eric Vinande, KG6NFJ

- **Field Day Committee**

Field Day Coordinator (Chair) Ray Hitt, N8VMX

- **North America QSO Party (defer to John Westerkamp for details)**

Westerkamp announced the clubhouse would be open starting at 1pm on the following Saturday. He said this is an excellent opportunity for new hams to get on HF on the air.

- **BARC General License Exam Training Session (defer to Paul Sharp for details)**

The General Class will be held here at the clubhouse (see above for dates and times).

- **Storage Area Cleanout (defer to Paul Sharp for details)**

Paul Sharp will notify those who need to attend and participate.

Agenda Item 4. Coordinators' Reports

Ray Hitt mentioned that he needs someone to volunteer to shadow him as Field Day coordinator. He also asked for inputs to *Full Quieting* newsletter.

John Westerkamp, as Communications Center Coordinator, said that the stations are finished after the rearrangement. He said he hopes to paint the back wall soon and place founders' photos, the club license, and club award on that wall.

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Trevor Clarke K8TRC coordinates Tech Night. Clarke said he needs ideas, and he said he is looking at project for next month.

Steve Siwecki KD8NUC, speaking for his wife, Tink KD8NUA, Movie Night Coordinator (absent tonight) said that Movie Night was a week from this date. The movie is *Top Gun Maverick*. Format is dessert and a movie.

Glenn Rodgers encouraged members to come and participate in the North American QSO Party the coming Saturday. The Saturday following the QSO Party, January 28, is Winter Field Day at Hills and Dales Park (Paw Paw shelter). Rodgers said this was a great chance to try out antennas and equipment. He also mentioned the February General Meeting speaker will discuss the new Ohio law on cell phone usage in automobiles and how the state legislature was persuaded to write in an exclusion for ham radio.

Jim Totten announced the upcoming BARC Lunch Bunch with the next one the following Tuesday at First Watch.

Paul Sharp WS8R told attendees about the Sunday BARC Net at 8pm. He also mentioned a recent meeting of the Flex Users Group at the clubhouse and said all are invited. The group found that having it at the clubhouse was advantageous because they could use the screen instead of folks gathering around a radio at someone's house.

Agenda Item 6. Presentation – Paul Sharp on Parks on the Air (POTA)

Paul Sharp presented a PowerPoint presentation about POTA. After the PowerPoint presentation, John Westerkamp projected the waterfall display of one of the club radios on the screen and attendees were able to see how he answered an active POTA activation in Texas.

Parks On The Air, 101

Most everything you always wanted to know

Paul A. Sharp, WS8R

POTA, Introduction

- Contact them at: paul@pota.org
- Create account at: <https://pota.org/>
- Started in early 2017 when the ARRL's National Parks on the Air special event ended
- So much fun, let's continue and expand
- Goal: contact and/or activate as many POTA as you can
- International in scope
 - USA has 9772 parks
 - Canada has 4087 parks
 - England has 683 parks
 - North Korea no parks
- Impress your friends, spouse and family with awards
- POTA is a Special Event, not a contest
- Good learning for pileups
- Rag chewing

How does this work?

- There are 2 categories of operators: Activators and Hunters
- Activators operate portable from within POTA designated parks
- Hunters make contact with activators
- Also Park 2 Park contacts
- Each park has its own designator, USA parks are K, W, A, or N-XXXX
 - K-0034 is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Contacts on Voice, CW, Digital and smoke signal, all bands
- Not all parks are eligible

What qualifies as a Park for POTA

- All parks must be owned and operated by a State/Provincial or Federal/National agency.
- Does not include parks that have part/shared ownership, sponsorship, or are operated by private organizations or local governments
- To be considered for inclusion, the park must meet the above requirements and offer an informational website detailing current boundary maps.

Why do POTA?

- It is fun
- Collect awards
- Builds confidence in talking on HF
- Get over "Mike Fright"
- Non threatening learning experience
- Non competitive environment
- Can have a scripted or long response
- Not a contest but can be busy with pileups

How to get started

- As the hunter
- Open your account at <https://pota.org/>
- The home page is the spotting page:
 - Who is on the air.
 - What parks they are in.
 - What frequencies and modes they are operating on.

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What next, as the Hunter

- Select the band
- Select the park to contact
- Tune to the frequency
- Answer the POTA CQ
- Start talking and make your contact
- POTA does not require a specific exchange in a QSO
 - Normally call sign and signal report
- Have a sip of your favorite beverage
- Repeat above
- Pat yourself on the back for a successful POTA day
- The activator records the contact and uploads it to POTA.

As the Activator

- Open your account at <https://pota.org/> and spot yourself
- Set up at the park, be within the boundary
- Start transmitting calling CQ
- Answer the CQs
- Insure you have a complete contact
- POTA does not require a specific exchange in a QSO
- Log the calls in an ADIF format
 - Minimum is date, time, frequency, band, and mode
- Submit the logs

Awards, Too Many to List

- Parks activated, many versions
- Parks Hunted
- Late Shift Activator Contacts
- Late Shift Hunter Contacts
- Park 2 Park
- Repeat Offender Activator, activate a park 20 times
- Repeat Offender Hunter, hunt a park 20 times

A Sample, Hold Your Applause



A really good example! 1000 contacts



Jim Totten moved we close the meeting; Larry Darner KD8RER seconded.

The meeting ended at about 8:26pm.