

Minutes-April 17, 2025, General Meeting

By Jim Gifford N8KET, Secretary

Executive Committee Members Present

President: Geoff Kline, KI5VNB

Vice President: Eric Bramini, KC8OPY

Treasurer: John Westerkamp W8LRJ, Webmaster, Comm Center

Secretary: Jim Gifford N8KET

Senior Director: Bob French AC8ZU, POTA, Tech Night

Junior Director: Don Macon KE8WVJ

Executive Committee Members Absent

None

President Geoff Kline KI5VNB welcomed members and guests and led in introductions. Two speakers were introduced. As the presentation was being set up, Kline asked for any volunteers to help at the Hamvention Flea Market, which starts the next day.

1) Bruna Begali from Begali Keys

Bruna Begali from Begali Keys, a company known for quality, presented a very interesting and in-depth talk on the company's high-quality Morse code keys.

Begali keys started in 1954 as a knitting machine parts company, and after the industry changed, Begali switched to making finely crafted Morse code keys.

She spoke of her dad's first trip to the United States and attending Hamvention at Hara Arena. He set up from the trunk of his car, and some kind ham radio operators offered to let him use a table and chair. Sales started very slowly, but over the years the precision and quality led to many more sales and visits to Hamvention.

She highlighted the craftsmanship and precision of Begali Keys by showing the gathered BARC membership a presentation of the factory and process the company uses in Italy.

Officina Meccanica Pietro Begali

Via Badia 22

I-25060 Cellatica (BS)

Italy

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2) Michael Martens KB9VBR: Five Years of POTA, what I've learned

Michael Martins, a popular YouTube contributor from Wisconsin spoke on: "Five Years of POTA, What I've Learned."

Minutes-April 17, 2025, General Meeting

Martens KB9VBR presented a PowerPoint presentation on what he has learned about activating Parks on the Air (POTA) and highlighted methods, equipment, and the joy of operating.

From the KB9VBR YouTube page: "Hi I'm Michael, KB9VBR, and I'm on a mission to inspire and educate the amateur radio community. I've been a ham radio operator since 1999, so my interests are varied and run deep. But most of all, ham radio is more than a hobby; it's a lifestyle that I enjoy and love to share with others.

My goal is to share positive and uplifting videos. I'll answer your questions and take deeper dives into some of the mysterious parts of ham radio. Whether you are a new ham or a grizzled veteran, I'm sure there will be something you'll like.

Ham Radio Q&A answers your amateur radio questions and explores the different aspects of the hobby. Ham Radio Q&A is brought to you by KB9VBR Antennas: Supplier of Amateur Radio, Land Mobile, Scanner, Low Power FM, and Airband VHF/UHF Antennas."

Find out more at: <http://www.jpole-antenna.com> and www.youtube.com/@KB9VBRAntennas

72.9K subscribers·747 videos
9,693,037 views
www.youtube.com/@KB9VBRAntennas

General meeting minutes, as emailed

Questions/Comments/or motions:

Glenn Rodgers WI8O moved we accept; Ray Hitt N8VMX seconded; passed.

Treasurer's report – John Westerkamp

John Westerkamp W8LRJ provided an update on finances: His emailed report is below:

No activity this month so far except for one check to cover the Hamvention Flea Market booth. We did have \$16.87 interest on the CD and \$21.00 from the refreshment jar at the end of April. Our balance as of the May Membership Meeting is \$11,952.00. We continue to be in excellent financial shape as we anticipate a number of expenditures related to our move.

Thanks!

John Westerkamp, W8LRJ
Treasurer

Fund	30-Apr-25	Income	Expenses	31-May-25
General	\$4,361.44	\$0.00	\$142.00	\$4,219.44
Comm center	\$1,007.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,007.43
Refreshments	\$988.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$988.34
Repeater	\$319.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$319.53
All Liquid Funds	\$6,676.74	\$0.00	\$142.00	\$6,534.74

Minutes-April 17, 2025, General Meeting

6 Month CD	\$5,417.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,417.26
ALL FUNDS	\$12,094.00	\$0.00	\$142.00	\$11,952.00

Jim Totten WA8HUB moved we accept the treasurer's report; Eric Bramini KC8OPY seconded; passed.

Updates from coordinators

No reports

The meeting adjourned about 9pm after a motion from Glenn Rodgers. Bill Weaner KB8BKW seconded. Passed.