



PEAKS & NULLS



MORRIS RADIO CLUB

Volume XI Issue III

March 11, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING CHANGE

On page 4 you will find an open letter to the members about the change to our virtual meeting platform. Please read it as a lot of work has gone into researching and implementing this change. For most of you there is no impact. If you are joining us with a computer there is nothing to download or install. You will still get an email invitation. Just click on the link and you will join the meeting. If you are using your phone you have to download an App. As with anything new there is sure to be a learning curve but, we believe that it will be small and that this change will benefit the club for many years to come.

THE FIELD DAY PACKETS ARE NOT OUT YET

Last year the 2020 Field Day Packets were released on February 25th. This year they are listed as "Coming Soon" and have been for the last month. When they come out we'll update everyone on any changes. Believe it or not Field Day is only 103 days away from this month's meeting.

CHECK OUT THE SPACE WEATHER

If you would like to check out what's going on with the Sun, take a look at Dr. Tamitha Skov's WX6SWW weekly predictions at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckXjdDQ-db0xz8f4PKgKsag> Tamitha has a PHD in Space Plasma Physics and works in the fields of solar and space physics research and in the testing of spacecraft materials in realistic space radiation environments. She is a credentialed space weather forecaster and has been helping the public understand the effects of Space Weather since 2013.

VE EXAMS

Last month we published an announcement about a VE exam and then Sid K2GG gave us a list of exams that he was conducting to add to it. This is something that we should have been listing all along so it is being added to Page 2 of the newsletters. You can also check the ARRL web site at http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search There you can search for exams in any Division or Section. Please remember because of the COVID restrictions walk-in's are not allowed.

Inside this issue:

UPCOMING MEETINGS	2
2021 DUES	2
UPCOMING CONTESTS	2
VE EXAMS	2
SOLAR FULX PREDICTION	3
FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES	3
OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS	4
HAMFEST CALENDAR	5



UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 15, 2021 Virtual Regular business meeting

April 19, 2021 Virtual Regular business meeting

May 17, 2021 Virtual Regular business meeting

June 21, 2021 Virtual Regular business meeting & Field Day preparations

2021 DUES

2021 DUES

Noel NO2EL is now accepting dues payments for 2021. \$15.00 for full membership, \$10.00 for associate. If you have a PayPal account, dues can now be paid by using Pay-Pal.

SELECTED UPCOMING CONTESTS

South America 10 Meter Contest	1200Z, Mar 13 to 1200Z, Mar 14
Oklahoma QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 13 to 0200Z, Mar 14 And 500Z-2200Z, Mar 14
Stew Perry Topband Challenge1	500Z, Mar 13 to 1500Z, Mar 14
EA PSK63 Contest	1600Z, Mar 13 to 1600Z, Mar 14
TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest 1	800Z, Mar 13 to 0559Z, Mar 14
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 13 to 1900Z, Mar 14
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 14 to 0100Z, Mar 15
RSGB FT4 Contest Series	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 15
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 20 to 1200Z, Mar 21
Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 20 to 0400Z, Mar 21 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 21
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 27 to 2359Z, Mar 28
Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 3 to 0200Z, Apr 4
Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 3 to 0200Z, Apr 4
FTn DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 10 to 1200Z, Apr 11
Nebraska QSO Party	1300Z, Apr 10 to 0100Z, Apr 11 and 1300Z-2200Z, Apr 11
New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 10 to 0200Z, Apr 11
Georgia QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 10 to 0400Z, Apr 11
North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 10 to 1800Z, Apr 11

VE EXAMS

03/19/2021

Newton NJ

Time: 7:15 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Sid Markowitz

Email: k2gg@ieee.org

04/12/2021

Mount Arlington NJ

Time: 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Sid Markowitz

(**Email:** k2gg@ieee.org)

04/15/2021

Belvidere NJ

Time: 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Robert P.

Roschewsk
(424) 272-1622

Email: exam@wc2fd.com

04/16/2021

Newton NJ

Time: 7:15 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Sid Markowitz

Email: k2gg@ieee.org



PREDICTED SUNSPOT NUMBER AND RADIO FLUX FOR APRIL 2021

*****SUNSPOT NUMBER*****

PREDICTED	HIGH	LOW
15.4	24.4	6.4

*****10.7 RADIO FLUX*****

PREDICTED	HIGH	LOW
75.5	84.5	67.7

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Morris Radio Club – Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2021

The meeting was held by video teleconferencing

Attendees (14) K2EMJ, K2MJF, KB2VIR, KC2RDX, KY2D, N1MID, NO2EL, WA2IMS, WA2VQF, WA2YCI, WR2G, WS2Q, W3CJD, WW2KBA

A quorum was present.

Opening of Meeting
President Ed opened the meeting at 8:02 PM

Reports:

Secretary – Bill WA2VQF reported that January minutes were issued in the February 2021 Peaks and Nulls Newsletter. Sid reported that Jim's call was busted in the attendees. It was reported as K2YD instead of KY2D

Craig WR2G moved to accept the Secretary report. Rob KC2RDX seconded. The report was accepted.

Treasurer – Noel NO2EL reported that the February account balances, The actual numbers are available from Noel.

Noel reported that he emailed dues invoices, collected dues, redid the membership application on the web site to correct a problem with browser compatibility and filed IRS for 990-N.

Joe N1MID moved that the Treasurers report be accepted. Rob KC2RDX Seconded. The Treasurers report was accepted.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business:

Joe N1MID asked if the club was interested in selling the equipment that was donated over a year ago and are currently in storage. It was also discussed about loaning the equipment to members to get on the low bands.

Craig moved that it be looked into. It was passed by unimatiuous hand vote. How to loan the equipment out will researched by Noel and Craig and will be voted on later.

Noel moved that Henry K2DEU under Article I Section 5 of the MRC Constitution be voted a Life Time Membership. It was passed 14 to 0

It was decided that Ed K2EMJ will look into obtaining a plack for Life Members.

An Open Letter to Members of the Morris Radio Club from Noel, NO2EL

When Covid hit I guess we all hoped that the disruption to our in-person meetings would be a short one and we would be back to normal within a year or so. Thankfully with the help of my son Gary, N2UDZ, we were able to get our monthly meetings up and running virtually as well as weekly virtual get-togethers to check on the well-being of our members. We used his 3cx phone system account which came with a video chat/meeting product called 3cx Web Meeting. Some of our members discovered that the apps for smartphones and tablets were lacking the chat feature which was available to computer users. Harvey, WS2Q, stepped up and is currently hosting the meetings using his Zoom account which seems to have solved that problem. Our thanks go out to both Gary and Harvey.

As we move forward, it has become evident to the Club's Executive Staff (Officers) that the Club will be all virtual for a much longer time than we hoped. In my opinion I don't believe that we will be able to get back into our meeting room at the Normandy Park School before September and, even then, there might be COVID-19 testing required and some form of virtual get-togethers will continue after that.

Because of that and because the Officers firmly believe that a service which is so important to the operation of the Club should be in the control of the Club, I was asked to see what products were available to us. I investigated three products (in alphabetical order), Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, and Zoom. It turned out that Google Meet and Microsoft Teams are both part of a packaged software product (Suite). Meet is a part of Google Workspace and Teams is a part of Office 365. All three offer versions for non-profit organizations at discounted prices. Both Google and Microsoft offer free versions while Zoom's lowest price is \$75 per year.

Looking deeper into the three products, I found that Zoom was only a video conferencing product while both Google and Microsoft included additional services that could benefit our club including a Club calendar and shared cloud storage. Both Google and Microsoft are popular with Meet being used in education and Teams being used in business. There was one feature that separated Google from Microsoft. Google offered individual managed emails for each member using our URL (i.e. callsign@morrisradioclub.org). It was time to give Google a try.

It took me a while to learn the Administration Console but I was able to get the Officers setup and operating. The officers broke away from the "Drop-In" session on March 1st to test Google Meet as our video platform. Of course, it's different than 3CX and Zoom but it does everything and, in fact, it has one additional feature (closed captioning) which works surprisingly well. Everybody has the ability to present and has full control of their camera and microphone. All features are available in the Meet app for both Android and IOS including the ability to switch from front to rear camera. You do not need to have an @morrisradioclub.org email account to participate in a Google Meet meeting but you do need an account to have access to the shared cloud drive. I believe everyone will be able to see our calendar if we make it public but you would need an account to make any changes. About the only issue we've been able to identify is that all attendees in a video meeting appear to have full control of the meeting and we're not sure if that can be changed. We're investigating that issue.

That's about it. Mark, W2GM, our vice-president has come onboard as a 2nd Administrator and has been a great help. We are currently planning to host our March Monthly Meeting on March 15th using this platform. So, if you're planning to use a smartphone or tablet, go to your app store and download the Google Meet app. For anyone who might be interested, the platform can be found by searching Google Workspace for Non-Profits or G-Suite for Non-Profits (Google is in the middle of re-branding). If anybody has any questions, you can email me at no2el@morrisradioclub.org.

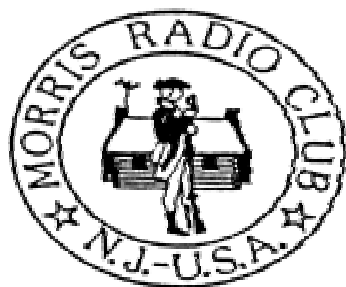


MORRIS RADIO CLUB

K2EMJ	ED PETERS	PRESIDENT
W2GM	MARK SUGARMAN	VP
WA2VQF	BILL LOFTUS	SECRETARY
NO2EL	NOEL SCHEFFEN	TREASURER

E-mail: morrisradioclub@gmail.com

WWW.MORRISRADIOCLUB.ORG



(Continued from page 3)

Jim KY2D moved that the meeting be closed. Fletch K2MJF Seconded

The meeting was closed at 8:31 PM.

WA2VQF
MRC Secretary

THE MORRIS RADIO CLUB IS AN ORGANIZATION OF AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS WHICH HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR OVER SIXTY FIVE YEARS. AS A HOBBY, AMATEUR RADIO SERVES AS A PUBLIC RESOURCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AS WELL AS AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

ALTHOUGH MANY WHO BECOME INTERESTED IN AMATEUR RADIO ARE INVOLVED IN AN ELECTRONICS RELATED FIELD, THE HOBBY APPEALS TO A WIDE VARIETY OF INDIVIDUALS.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE MORRIS RADIO CLUB IS A DIVERSE GROUP MADE UP OF MEDICAL, BUSINESS, EDUCATION, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS, AMONG OTHERS, WHOSE COMMON INTERESTS ARE COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC SERVICE.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Amateur Radio Hamfest, Flea Market

04/24/2021

Location: Fair Lawn Recycling Center
19-25 Saddle River Road
Fair lawn, NJ 07410

Website: <http://www.fairlawnarc.org>