

Minutes of the Butte Radio Club Monthly Meeting

Date: March 1, 2025

Location: Butte Library

Time: 10:45 AM

In Attendance:

Gene Bodenberger (N7ARO), Kevin Haugen (K7RSI), Rick DuPrey (KD0TSC), Tom Hoffman (KZ7T), Rodney Pewitt (N7TRG), Erik Bodenberger (KA7JMH), Verne Brown (KK6DIO), Jack Hook (KK7IZN), Rob Sisson (KE7IYU), Jerry McDonald (W7FVB), Steve Shannon (AI7KS).

Treasurer's Report:

Jack gave the Treasurer's Report:

We began March with \$586.04 and received \$19 from the donation jar at Annie's. The balance at the end of the month was \$605.04.

Then he announced that Tom (KZ7T) had presented him with a check for \$2000 to help pay for the repeater replacement and maintenance. The attending members enthusiastically applauded his generosity.

Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report:

Motion Made: Steve Shannon

Seconded: Erik Bodenberger

Vote

Aye: All

Nay:

Abstain:

Reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Any Corrections? None

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting with noted corrections

Motion Made: Jack Hook

Seconded: Rodney Pewitt

Vote

Aye: All

Nay:

Abstain:

Business Plan: At the Annual Meeting in December the following cursory budget and simple description of future activities was presented. This section will be repeated each month to remind us of what we set out to accomplish. Completed Budget Items will be removed from List. Where appropriate, progress reports will be attached to each item.:

Budget Items Remaining:

April: PO Box - ~\$190

August: Insurance ~\$250

Unknown: Forest Service Fees – Unknown at this time – we must ensure we have extra in the treasury or get real serious about fundraising!

Unknown: Electrician – Unknown at this time.

List of Items to be Completed in 2025:

Forest Service application: Our local contact, Mandy Child) was one of several employees terminated (DOGE). Before she left she gave me the name and phone number of her boss (Sandra Walund (406) 859-3211) who will be assuming her duties. Ms. Walund is in Philipsburg. I'll call her next week.

Now that we have been approved as a 501(c)(3), start looking into applying for grants from NorthWestern Energy, Butte Community Foundation, Town Pump Foundation, ARDC, etc.

Website!!!! – Published, keep it current!

Transfer of title for trailer – Once the trailer is transferred, we must fill out the request for exemption from Property Taxes for MT DOR.

Steve spent an afternoon looking through all the papers in the filing cabinets at the old hospital. He was unable to find a title for the trailer. Rick DuPrey will look to see if he finds a registration. We may have to file for a lost title, then transfer the trailer, including whatever re-registration needs to be done.

Rick DuPrey suggested that maybe we can help the CAP with radio communication education. He will look into it.

Any other business for the good of the order:

Emergency Planning Meeting and afterwards:

Steve attended the county Emergency Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday. Because of Rodney's work schedule he may not be able to attend many meetings, so Lisa Carey will put Steve's name on as the committee member and Rodney as Proxy.

Lisa showed Steve the room at the Justice Center where she expects we would operate in the event of an emergency. She mentioned that Jason Parrish has looked over the box of ham radio equipment that was purchased for us to use in an emergency and he found it to be in working order. She thought he might get a chance to put it together, but she has to get a desk for the room first. She also has to get rid of some medical stuff that is currently stored there, like hospital gowns.

I suggested that it would be better for us to put the equipment together because we would be the people to use it anyway. I also suggested to her that I think one or more of us should operate from there periodically to make sure the equipment is all there and still works. She sounded like she liked the idea.

Steve mentioned to her that the setup will also need an antenna. Gene said he believes there's some kind of HyGain vertical antenna that was purchased with the amateur radio equipment.

The MARCONI Project

From the ARRL site:

The MARCONI Project was developed by the Meriden Radio Amateur Club (MARAC) as part of a grant awarded through the ARRL Club Grants Program beginning in September 2022. The Project is designed to assist clubs to become more active and engaged with their members and their local community. The name MARCONI references both an early innovator in radio communications, and is an acronym for "Motivating Amateur Radio Clubs to Open New Initiatives."

Developed as part of the suite of offerings in the MARCONI Program are eight (8) Activity Programs available to clubs. They are as follows:

- [POTA – Parks on the Air \(PDF\)](#)
- [Fox Hunting \(PDF\)](#)
- [CW Training \(PDF\)](#)
- [Satellite Communications \(PDF\)](#)

- [VE Sessions \(PDF\)](#)
- [Served Agencies \(PDF\)](#)
- [NCS Training and Traffic Passing \(PDF\)](#)
- [Balloon Science \(PDF\)](#)

For more information and links to the above PDFs: <https://www.arrl.org/marconi-program>

Any other business for the good of the order:

Rob Sisson said he would be unable to attend the Wings and Wheels event, which is planned for June 7. He was wondering if someone else would be interested in attending the club table.

Steve mentioned that he could help some since he would be right next to the radio table with his Big Sky Rocketry table. Rob will still attend the organizational meetings while we try to find another person.

Rick DuPrey asked if a friend of his with Cerebral Palsy would be able to take the ham exams. The VEs in the room (Tom, Rodney, Rob, and Steve) all assured him that reasonable accommodations would be made for his friend. Rick mentioned he thought it would be a positive thing for our club.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion Made: Jack Hook

Seconded: Rick DuPrey

Aye: All