

QARC Meeting Minutes - February 17 1999

Executive Present :

President: Dave Ackerman : VE3UGT (from 8:30 p.m.)

Vice President : Brian Credico VE3GRA **Secretary :** Peter Hodgson VA3PKH

Past President : Dave Ward VE3BIP **Treasurer :** Don Dalrymple VE3DQN

General Meeting :

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 p.m. by Vice President Brian VE3GRA

Guest Speakers : Brian VE3GRA introduced our guest speakers Gerry VE3APF and Jeff VE3JTR who gave a presentation on the Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) . Gerry began by explaining the difference between this digital system and the older packet system. Packet radio uses fixed transmitters and TNC's on different frequencies, communicating with each other by link radios. APRS uses Transmitters and TNC's all operating on the same frequency (144.390 mhz for VHF). Strategically placed digipeaters relay the message from one location to another according to instructions in a path string loaded into the TNC. Gerry's digipeater VE3MHZ can relay messages to VE3DVQ in Lavant, VE3SSF in Peterborough, and WX3P in New York state. In addition to message relaying the system also relays position information, this is either programmed in to the software in the case of a base station, or sent to the computer from a GPS system in the case of a mobile unit. Mobiles can then be tracked on screen. In the demonstration Gerry had his station in the Pioneer building VE3RL relay to Jeff's mobile in the parking lot VE3JTR and then the mobile relayed the signal to VE3MHZ, who forwarded the message to VE3BSB in the Ottawa area. The following web sites have live demonstrations of Java APRS: <http://www.canaprs.net> or <http://www.map.aprs.net/.....> (insert callsign here e.g. ve3jtr)

Old Business : President Dave VE3UGT thanked our guest speakers and drew for the door prize, the winner was Don VE3DQN.

Dave then spoke about the plans for a special QARC Newsletter in April.

This newsletter will be sent to Radio Amateurs who live within easy driving distance of Belleville. The object of this is to invite them to a special Open House meeting in April where the various special interest groups in the club will have displays i.e. Satellite communication, APRS & Packet, Foxhunting, Homebrew, SSTV, Kit Building. It is also the intention of the executive to survey the attendees to see if there is any interest in licence upgrading courses, such as the advanced course, or C.W. ANY MEMBERS WHO WISH TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR PUT ON A DISPLAY SHOULD CONTACT VE3UGT OR ONE OF THE EXECUTIVE.

New Business : Dave VE3UGT spoke about the very active Foxhunting group, and informed those at the meeting that new hunters, new foxes, or any other interested members were welcome to come along on any Sunday afternoon or Thursday evening in the summer months.

The foxhunters are thinking about offering a club membership as a prize for any amateur who can act as a fox for a hunt and not be found by any of the hunters. The rules have not yet been set, but any prospective foxes can contact VE3UGT.

The executive has discussed field day, and due to the lack of interest last year, we would like to have a more family oriented day with a barbecue etc. and the emphasis on fun rather than high scores. We would not operate through the night unless enough operators volunteer ahead of time. The fifty/fifty draw was won by Harold VE3HNQ.

There being no further business to conduct it was moved by VE3EGO and seconded by VE3APF that the meeting be adjourned 9:20 p.m..