

# Victoria Amateur Radio Club

## General Meeting

### January 21, 2021

#### Opening

The regular meeting of the Victoria Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:00 PM on January 21, 2021 via controlled net on the 145.190 repeater frequency by **Brenson Abbott, KF5VZ**. Roll Call was conducted by controlled net and is recorded at the end of this report.

#### Reports

Quorum affirmed.

Steve was not present to provide a treasurer report.

There were no minutes from the December meeting. There was only a small social event and no business was conducted.

#### Club Business

(**Bob Whitaker, KI5PG**) Public Relations Report –

**Bob KI5PG** expressed his disappointment with the FCC over the public advisory that was issued on Jan 17, 2021 which seemed to infer that amateur radio operators may utilize amateur radio frequencies to commit or participate in criminal activities.

Events and activity planning for 2021 is difficult to plan during these covid restricted periods. He expects we may possibly be stuck in this mode thru mid-summer.

Winter field day is coming up, but it will probably be voluntary participation at this point.

The Outdoor EXPO is coming up and **John Johnston, KF5HHC** will make a report on that.

Summer field day is typically in June and may be a limited activity.

There had been some thought about another ham licensing examination before the new FCC fee goes into effect. We should have at least 30 days notice before the fee goes into effect, so we may be able to put together a testing session on short notice.

For the rest of the year, we can plan some things on a remote basis over the air, would like to plan activities geared toward our newest hams. There is a good article in this month's QST magazine. It contains several suggestions about how to involve new hams, get them involved and on the air.

Depending on how the COVID numbers are going later this year we would like to plan a test session with a training session leading up to the test, with a boot camp like last year.

We could also provide assistance to hams. One subject might be how to setup a base station antenna.

If anyone is interested or needs help in setting up a base antenna **Bob KI5PG** offered up some quick things to think about.

1. Site – describe your location – send pics so we can see the terrain around your house.
2. What type of antenna you might like to have, uhf, vhf, etc. Will it be indoors, or outdoors

3. Do you have a suitable power supply, or if you need one to get set up.  
Assistance was offered in estimating costs and in obtaining materials needed to get your base station on the air.

**Tax Exempt Status Update** - We did receive a favorable ruling from the IRS in December, many thanks to **Catherine, KI5FOX** for handling the application and doing the heavy lifting in that effort.

This week **Bob, KI5PG** filed an application with the state comptroller for exemption of franchise taxes using Form AP-204. It is expected to take about six weeks for approval. We will have to file Form-990 just to report activities. No taxes due, just do a formal filing by May 15<sup>th</sup> of this year.

**(Harvey Babb, WB5MCT)** - Repeater status report and update

We are now talking on a new-to-us 145.190 repeater. If anyone experiences any problems with the repeater, get with **Harvey, WB5MCT** either on the radio or by email.

Working on upgrades on the 443.800 repeater. Hoping to get that taken care of over the next month or so.

**(Gary Garnett, WT0B)**

Expressed thanks to **Harvey, WB5MCT** on 145.190 work.

145.13 is on low power temporarily and may be off the air but should be back by the end of this weekend or early next week.

443.8 as **Harvey, WB5MCT** mentioned of planned work and power upgrades, may go off-line when the upgrade occurs in the near future.

These repeater projects have been going on since hurricane Harvey. Work includes locations, feedline, and antennas, etc.

Further work is planned on all repeaters across the board.

Around the counties, informally, there have been conversations about looking at doing something with the Goliad repeater.

The Dewitt county Coletto Creek group is still working with the county to make those improvements.

Jackson county has been very busy with repeater work.

**(Bill Rakowitz, W5ITZ)**

They have had a tower crew install their vhf and uhf antennas.

The vhf is on its permanent antenna. The location is @ 500'.

The uhf antenna has been installed in it's permanent location and the move of the repeater to that tower location should happen soon.

**(John Johnston, KF5HHC)**

Family Outdoor Expo Update – he has some signups but could use more volunteers. The window to sign up closes February 2<sup>nd</sup>. If there are any questions he can be emailed at [KF5HHC@gmail.com](mailto:KF5HHC@gmail.com) or called at 361-550-9011

## **New business**

### **(Brenson Abbott, KF5VZ)**

Called for a motion to reimburse Bob for crystals used in the repeaters.

**Gary Garnett, WT0B** Made the motion,

**Harvey Babb, WB5MCT** seconded the motion.

Brenson called for anyone having opposition to the motion to express such.

None heard - the motion passed. The club will reimburse Bob for crystals.

### **(Bob Whitaker, KI5PG)**

If members aren't receiving his emails please let him know by sending an email to [KI5PG@arrl.net](mailto:KI5PG@arrl.net) and he will add you to the mail list.

Also, mentioned that 2021 membership dues are due. And pointed out that the membership application is available on the website.

### **(Erin, KI5LKM)**

Had a question about how to submit membership dues.

**Brenson Abbott, KF5VZ** explained the best way is to mail a check with your call sign indicated on it to get signed up. The cost is \$15 for single person or \$20/family.

As a potential club event, **Erin, KI5LKM** offered up a suggestion for an over-the-air book club as a possibility.

**Brenson Abbott, KF5VZ** requested an overview of what he had in mind for consideration.

### **(Gary Garnett, WT0B)**

Plan is to use the VARC adopted 146.550 simplex frequency at the expo

Varc website is updated weekly, take a look.

### **(Brenson Abbott, KF5VZ)**

Brenson mentioned some of the contents of the website

### **(Darrell Klimitchek, KI5GAP)**

Reminder of the Winter Field Day coming up at the end the month. Unfortunately, due to the COVID situation, pulling together a group event is not getting any real traction. I propose to anyone wanting to participate, that we participate individually as we did for

Summer Field day. If there is anyone that really is wanting to participate as a group call and we'll try to pull something together.

**Brenson Abbott, KF5VZ closed the meeting**

**Members**

**Guests**

WB5MCT Harvey	W5ITZ Bill	KA5JRF Royce	KI5FOX Catherine
KC5MLV Jay	WTB0 Gary	KI5FOT Steve	
KD5PMU Noel	K5DO David	KI5GAP Darrell	
KE5HAM John	N5HV Terry	KI5LKM Erin	
NV5C Dave	W5DOT Dot	KI5PG Bob	KF5VZ Brenson
KF5HHC John	KI5LKN Gavin	KB5SAF David	