

February 23, 2015

Kansas City DX Club Meeting Minutes



Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate - Kansas City - Overland Park, KS

The February 23, 2015 meeting of the Kansas City DX Club was called to order by President Jeff Blaine, AC0C, at 6:35 pm (0035 February 24, 2015 UTC).

Agenda

- Introductions
- Announcements
- Club member introduction – Russ Woirhaye, K0VXU
- Presentation – Software Defined Radio Eddy Paul KY0F

Introductions

As customary, we all introduced ourselves to the group. Visitors were:

- Don Reed, K0IFO
- Clark Ashworth, KB0EL
- Billy Burns, NN5EE
- Greg Best, N9GB
- Rob Ritter, AE5BR

Welcome all.

Announcements

Jeff went through the following announcements:

- The member introduction feature for March will be Johnny Marshall, W0JM SK presented by Lee Ward, K0LW. Don't miss it.
- The Navassa, K1N, dxpedition has just completed with 139,702 QSO's in the log. Upcoming contests and dxpeditions were noted.

Member Introduction Russ Woirhaye, K0VXU

Russ said that he has been a ham for fifty-five years and counting. He showed a picture of the first regenerative radio he built from the ARRL publication How to Become a Radio Amateur. He was first licensed in August, 1959 as KN0VXU as a novice and upgraded to general class and K0VXU in March of 1960.

He attended college at the Missouri School of Mines at Rolla, MO studying Electrical Engineering.

Russ served in the Air Force and was stationed on Okinawa from 1967 to 1971 in the Security Service. His ham radio operation was conducted under the callsign KR6VX. A highlight of that time was the opportunity to attend the World's Fair in Osaka, Japan in 1970 where he met some lifelong JA friends.

He retired in 2010.

Russ is the proud owner of a new K3. His DXCC total is 344/331 current.

Presentation Eddy Paul, KY0F - Software Defined Radio

Eddy built the Softrock Ensemble II receiver. He connected it to his Yaesu transceiver to provide a panadaptor/second receiver function. He used a Clifton labs buffer amplifier to isolate the SDR to minimize digital noise from the SDR back into the Yaesu. He finds this panadaptor function very helpful in monitoring activity on the bands.

During construction of the receiver he had difficulty counting turns on the very small toroid cores so he scanned them on the flat bed scanner so that he could use a magnified image to aid the count.

Some of the parts are surface mount. Eddy used solder paste and a hot air soldering gun to melt the solder at 525° F. He purchased the solder from KD5SSJ.

He showed another project he is working on, the Fox Delta 50MHz antenna analyzer which can be used to plot the entire coverage range of an antenna. Some unexpected results have been uncovered whereby antenna faults were detected.

Links:

- Softrock Ensemble II SDR <http://fivedash.com/>
- Clifton Laboratories <http://www.cliftonlaboratories.com/>
- Solder Paste <http://kd5ssj.com/>
- Fox Delta <http://foxdelta.com/>

Another brief presentation

Jeff, AC0C, described the control head he has developed for his huge amplifiers he has built. He used the FTDI-VM800 with integrated touch module and MikroElektronika Visual TFT software. <http://www.mikroe.com/>.

Additional presenters and program ideas are needed. Contact Jeff. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The next meeting will be **March 30, 2015 at 6:30 pm CDT.**

Charles Hett, K0THN, KCDX Club Secretary