

February 29, 2016

Kansas City DX Club Meeting Minutes

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



The February 29, 2016 meeting of the Kansas City DX Club was called to order by President **Jeff Blaine, AC0C**, at 6:35 pm (0035 March 1, 2016 UTC).

Agenda -

- Introductions/Greeting
- Club contests results
- DX and Contesting News
- Ham history – **Jeff Blaine, AC0C**,
- Short Features:
 - **Don, K0IFO**, 40 meter Mobile Shootout Key Points
- Presentation – **Bill, K0VBU**, FT5ZM Amsterdam Island DXpedition video

Introductions -

As customary, we all introduced ourselves to the group.

Guest **Charlie Clark, K0HVR** was introduced. Welcome Charlie. Glad you are back to ham radio after 40 years away.

News –

- **Jeff, AC0C**, reported that so far there are 64 paid members so far.
- Club dues for 2016 of \$20 are now due. Pay to **Mike, AB0X**. You can also pay via PAYPAL at the KCDX Club website.
- **Jeff, AC0C**, showed the N0SS and W0AR contest results. The numbers are available on the KCDX club website (probably right here where you are reading this). Medallions were handed out to the participants.
- March contesting – ARRL SSB DX, BARTG HF RTTY, CQ WPX and others
- DXing – The big one is VK0EK Heard Island. Others of special note are S9BK Sao Tome, C92CC Mozambique, 3C8GIA Equatorial Guinea, VK9CK Cocos-Keeling, 4S7GWG Sri Lanka, FH/F4ET Mayotte, and FT4JA, Juan de Nova.

Ham History

Jeff Blaine, AC0C presented his ham history. He began like many of us at age nine or ten by receiving an electronic kit as a gift. Experience as a Boy Scout gave him further interest in shortwave radio. He became a ham in 1974 and he showed an article from the Hutchinson News about his early involvement in ham radio. He received his Advanced class license in 1976 and upped his equipment to an Hallicrafters S20R and HT32 station. His next receiver was an Hammarlund SP600. The next step was Extra Class in 1977-78. He showed his college shack in 1981. Then he went off the air due to job and family until 2008. He showed other shack iterations until the one he has today. This year Jeff won first place Kansas in the CQ world Wide RTTY contest and received #5 in the world. Great job, Jeff!

Don, K0IFO, presented a supplement of Key Points to the 40 Meter Mobile Antenna Shootout presented last month.

1. Top loading and a top hat is the best combination
2. Modest coil Q improves bandwidth
3. Space the top loading coils and top hat a few inches
4. Coil Q is marginal with 1:1 or 2:1 diameter/length and turn spacing is a factor
5. Use largest practical top hat
6. A larger diameter and circular form top hat is better
7. None stated
8. Any top hat design will look mostly solid
9. Pick unobstructed location
10. A screwdriver antenna is convenient

A top loaded mobile antenna is more efficient

A 102 inch tall 40 meter antenna compares favorably with a top loaded antenna with top hat as a baseline

The secretary offers his apologies if the above is unclear or incomplete or just flat wrong. He was trying to listen and write at the same time. Contact Don for clarification.

Bill, K0VBU, presented a video of the FT5ZM dxpedition in 2014 to Amsterdam Island.

Jeff, AC0C, showed us a photo of **K5AM** totally home brew shack. Wow!. You can see it too at <http://www.zianet.com/k5am/>.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15pm.

The March 2016 club meeting will be **March 28, 2016 at 6:30 pm CDT.**

Charles Hett, K0THN, KCDX Club Secretary