

November 30, 2015

## Kansas City DX Club Meeting Minutes



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

The November 30, 2015 meeting of the Kansas City DX Club was called to order by President Jeff Blaine, AC0C, at 6:37 pm (0037 December 1, 2015 UTC).

A card and collection envelope were passed around for those who wish to recognize "Nancy" at Denny's for her service to the group after our meetings.

### Agenda -

- Introductions/Greeting
- Christmas Party
- DX and Contesting News
- Nomination of officers
- Presentation – Better HF Propagation Prediction – Drew Vonada Smith K3PA

### Introductions -

As customary, we all introduced ourselves to the group.

Guests introduced were Jay – KE0GRC, Chuck – KB0TOT, Harry – K8IRB, Steve – KC0VYS, Mike – W0TMW, John – KE0BEX, Charlie – K0HVR, and Tom – N0FY.

### News -

**Christmas party** - The Christmas party is scheduled for December 12 at Jeff's place beginning at 5pm and expect to eat dinner about 6:30. At your option, bring a favorite snack or side dish and BYOB. RSVP to Jeff/.

DXpeditions – VK9WA Willis Island was discussed. DXing was explained for the benefit for some of the brand new licensees in the audience. Heard Island and Palmyra are two of the biggies coming up in the next couple of months.

Contests of note were the ARRL 160 meter, 10 meter RTTY, ARRL 10 meter and the World Wide Iron Ham. The Iron Ham consists of 8 hours of CW, 8 hours of SSB and 8 hours of digital obviously encouraging multi-mode operation.

**Presentation** – Better HF Propagation Prediction – Drew Vonada Smith K3PA

Drew began with a little background on propagation. Some factors about propagation that make it a difficult subject is that we can't always measure all the variables. We don't make good use of data available from space. Sunspots are widely variable.

He said if you want a prediction of what the current sunspot number is go back 27 days which is the rotation rate of the sun and you may have a fair approximation of the current sunspot number.

Antenna models are generally poor and location and terrain makes a big difference. One-half wavelength antennas aren't bad for general use. If you have a one-and-one-half wavelength antenna, multiple antennas are best because of multi hops.

So a program called HFTA (High Frequency Terrain Assessment – available with the ARRL Antenna Manual) comes to the rescue. [www.k6tu.net](http://www.k6tu.net) offers several free services regarding propagation. Some of these work in association with this program. With this program you input your antenna information and accurate antenna location. Then it calculates the propagation information for a given azimuth angle. One of the services provided by k6tu.net will provide a sweep calculation working with HFTA which is much more useful.

Basic k6tu.net services are free but enhanced services are \$30/yr. Signup is required for all services.

Another very useful propagation program is HAMCAP (now at version 1.9) by VE3NEA that Drew mentioned.

#### **Other -**

- Jeff appealed for presenters and newsletter material.
- At the close of the meeting Jeff announced that nominations for club officers were now closed with the current officers being nominated. **Lee, K0LW moved that the current officers be re-elected as a group. The motion was seconded and carried. Therefore the 2016 officers are unchanged – President Jeff AC0C, Vice President Bill K0VBU, Treasurer Mike AB0X and Secretary Charlie K0THN.**
- Jeff suggested looking at K5UI's page on QRZ.com for some great shack photos. We did that and they are indeed beautiful.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Thirty-eight members and guests signed the attendance sheet.

The January 2016 club meeting will be **January 28, 2016 at 6:30 pm CST.**

**Charles Hett, K0THN, KCDX Club Secretary**