Red Cross Ham Club Minutes

Written (by Gordon Gibby) from notes kindly provided by Jeff Capehart

January 11th 2017

1.   Reveiw of 2017 calendar of activities.

2.   Demo by Chris of his website for the Club -- chriscarr.wix.com/redcross

3.   Other updates --

- NF4RC / RedCross club station website http://chriscarr.wixsite.com/redcross
- Update on Club/Red Cross MOU   http://qsl.net/nf4rc/
- EOC/Shelter Antennas Project Update -- common expressin of joy that any level of progress was being made and that two shelters getting outfitted was a major accomplishment compared to prior years' history....
- Operation Santa Report/After-Action Review Chris showed video from the Santa event from Jim's drone. The report was 50 kids talked on the radio.
- March for Babies – APRIL 1, 2017 – NEED AN EVENT COORDINATOR 1/25 mtg   No one was interested in being coordinator for March for Babies. But there was great discussion about how the "rain or shine" turned out to be "we're canceling due to severe weather!" last year by the event organizers and only notifying us at 5am although we mentioned to them that severe weather was coming.
- Gordon's New EMCOMM Book https://www.amazon.com/dp/1541109341/ Jeff page-stepped through the new EMCOMM book PDF to give everyone a sense of what is in the book. Mentioned that a free copy was coming for our members. Of course everyone had specific questions of "is this in the book; is that in the book; does it tell you how to operate your node? etc."

4. Node Remote Access: Tom was unable to establish a reliable connection to his node for doing a demo. Instead we did a demo of TeamViewer remote control and how it works. Susan wondered why we would need that, -- in order to correct problems if need be. We also gave warnings to ONLY download TeamViewer from the official TeamViewer.com website. Don't just jump at the first result on a web search.

5. Link for NIFOG download.   Demo of the OEC website and how to find NIFOG /download.

6. Discussion of the simplex repeater --- good demo for next month.

7.	Best way to find Direwolf -- search "direwolf ham radio" Typically people use DIREWOLF on Raspberry Pi's under LINUX, and they use UZ7HO soundmodem.com under WINDOWS.....both are great programs, when proper audio volume, they work better than hardware KPC's!

8. The group discussed the Beaty Towers antenna project. We put up photos of Beaty, Google Maps satellite, and pictures of antennas. Many questions on parking. Rosemary wants to go, Cindy was interested, and Gus said he might be able to go, but had to check. Probably need to limit those on teh roof.   Need skill/careful

9. Discussion on SEDAN -- explained difference btween SEDAN and SARNET

10.   Gordon's educational emails --- Susan has trouble understanding, Cindy skimms them, Chris is unable to read them on his phone.

11.   Explanation of getting the two BELL 202 tones similar amplitude on an AX.25 Packet system for best response.   Analogy that it is like two singers in the choir, one singing high notes very loudly, and the other singing low notes at a very low volume. You can't hear them both unless the volume is the same. The loud one drowns out the quiet one. So the radio hears it the same way and doesn't work as efficiently. Cindy was impressed with the little circuit that fixes it on the TNC. (RC high pass filter)

Did not cover j-pole open-stub.
Did not discuss new UHF repeater.
Did not discuss Ocala HEC or support team.
Did not discuss go-boxes.
Did not do spreadsheet, although Chris is working on a registration system for members on the website. Rosemary seems very concerned about her personal information and does not want her name or info on the web page.

There were a lot of side-discussions, tangents, and distractions, as people like to talk about what they know and chip in their 2-cents to feel like they are contributing to the conversation.

We ran a little late and ended at 9pm.