



Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team  
P.O. Box 993  
Portage, MI 49081-0993

# Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** 01/12/2008  
**Call to Order Time:** 8:35 a.m.  
**Called to Order by:** Ron Schubot President  
**Attendance:** 17

## **Board Members Present:**

Ron Schubot, President	Hal Thomas, V.P./Secretary	John Mathieson, Treasurer
Charlie Burgstahler, Membership	Jim Drenthe, Net Control	John Tucker, Trustee
Don Van Tilburg, Mem. at Large		
Absent: Ray Clark		

## **Introductions by members-**

No new members no upgrades

## **Minutes-**

Minutes were distributed before the meeting for members to review. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. The membership passed the acceptance of the minutes.

## **Treasurer's report-**

The report was distributed and reviewed by attending members. It was reported that Southern Michigan Cellular will pay power bill and will refund us some money from past bills. There was a motion to accept the report and it was supported and passed.

## **Membership-**

Charlie reminded all that dues are coming due and need to be paid to be eligible to vote.

## **Trustee Report-**

John Reported that the repeater is legal to operate and that his is working on Repeater Coordination Documents. John reminded everyone that he will be teaching a Technician level class at the Red Cross on Tuesday nights starting January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Technical Committee-**

Ron Schubot gave an update on the tower project. Ron discussed monitoring of lights on the tower, including answering questions from the members about who was responsible for light monitoring (Everyone with equipment on the tower) and if there were redundant lights on the tower (not sure). Ron asked that if anyone sees a light out on the tower to report it immediately to the board to help prevent being fined by the FCC.

Ron reported we are getting very close on a signed agreement for the sharing of ground space. Questions were asked by the membership about grounds upkeep (Ron stated he believed we would not be responsible) and there was discussion about snow plowing and winter access.

Ron reported that the cans are not scheduled yet for tuning and will work to get that resolved in the near future.



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### ***Dayton Bus Trip-***

It was reported that we have 12 people who have placed down payments for the trip. There was discussion on how to better promote this event and members were asked to spread the word especially if attending any type of ham meetings or other club meetings.

### ***Nets-***

Jim reported that there as a 6M net on Tuesdays after the SMART net. The 6m net starts at 9pm on 50.3 MHz USB and moves to 50.4 MHz AM later in the net. There were flyers available for members at the meeting. This net is not a SMART sponsored net.

### ***New Business-***

Ron opened new business with a discussion of members needing to step and be active with the club and to consider running for elected positions. With this Ron opened the floor to nominations for all elected positions except for one Member at large and the club Trustee. Ron noted that the Trustee could be technically up for election if a Member insisted on it.

The following nominations were made by the membership:

Charlie Burgstahler for Membership  
John Tucker for Trustee  
Don VanTilburg for Vice President  
Dennis Boersema for President  
Ron Schubot for Member at large

There was a motion to close the nominations for this meeting session which was supported and passed by the members. Ron stated that more nominations could be made at the next meeting before the election.

### ***Hamfest Report-***

Hal reported that the Kal County Fair Grounds would be used as the venue for the Hamfest. Hal stated that the group was working on a proposal that the ARRL state convention be hosted by the two clubs as part of the Hamfest at the fairgrounds. There was discussion about the benefits of hosting the state convention including the possibility of attracting more commercial vendors to the Hamfest. It was suggested by members to consider a raffle for a HF Radio or other large door prize.

### ***Website Update-***

Hal reported that he move the website to new hosting due to major problems with the old host. He stated that the site was up but missing a couple of features that he would work on as time allowed.

### ***New Controller Discussion-***

Ron passed out paper work on a new digital controller he is recommending for the club to purchase a RLC-DSP404 by Link communications Inc. <http://www.link-comm.com>  
Ron discussed the many additional features this controller has and the improvements and benefits he believed this purchase would bring. Ron discussed pricing of the controller and the need to purchase the controller in the first 30 days of its release to avoid a large cost increase after the introduction special. Some items about the controller that were discussed:

\* Ability to use USB drives for storage



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- \* Repeater can play .mp3 or .wav files for voice messages, Newslines, Emergency Messages/notifications
- \* Controller can be accessed across the internet by FTP for file uploads making it more flexible to use and control.
- \* Controller supports embedded IRLP functions.

It was suggested by the membership that the board meet to review all upcoming expenses and the pros and cons of a new controller and make a formal recommendation to the members at the next meeting. Discussion continued on various aspects of the controller being proposed.

### ***50/50 Raffle-***

There were extra prizes and multiple winners for the 50/50 raffle. Prizes were new copies of Dr. Watt's Electrical reference books donated by Hal Thomas. Jack (KE8TJ) won the cash and donated it back to the club. Thank you Jack.

### ***Meeting Wrap Up-***

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded and passed by the membership. The meeting adjourned.

### ***Program-***

No Program

Respectfully Submitted:  
Hal Thomas