

Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Service Meeting minutes, 14 September 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1044 by the Vice President

Minutes from the previous meeting were not read since they are available on the website for all to see.

Chief Engineer's Report:

- The barge for painting the hull above the waterline is in place.
- Dave and Ski worked a full day on the ammunition hoist in turret 2 and it is working perfectly after reconstruction of the control circuit and troubleshooting on the wiring. Ryan is very pleased.
- Dave spent a day troubleshooting the 1/2/5 MC system. After moving some amps around, changing some fuses and doing a little rewiring, the system is now 100% functional.
- We need someone to repair 1MC microphones. We are critically short of spares and new ones are very expensive. Bill Bacon said he would take a few. Ron D said the telephone repair shop is available for the work.
- The drawer on the torn tape station did not come with the ship when we got it. Dave has the dimensions and is looking into getting one fabricated.

Museum Ships Weekend:

- In spite of the challenging conditions of operating above deck in drydock, our crew made 173 contacts in 27 states, and 7 countries
- Margaret received 95 certificate requests and 20 QSO requests.
- The best operator had 55 ships

QSL report:

- 18 contacts in March
- 173 contacts in June (MSW)
- 123 contacts in July
- 113 contacts in August
- Contacts since last meeting was 427
- Total since club formation: 51,436
- Received \$90.00 in QSL requests
- Received \$47.00 in donations
- Total in QSL account \$173.00

Treasurer's Report:

- We currently have \$1889.59 in the treasury

- Our first \$1000.00 donation check for the dry docking was never deposited so Lou issued another. The accounting firm balked because the address on the check was the same as the Home Port Alliance. Lou explained that the address is also ours on our license, so it was finally accepted.
- Ron D requested reimbursement for one of the two VHF/UHF antennae he purchased for the ship (the other is to be a donation). \$99.95 was approved for the expenditure.

Restoration Work WWII Radio:

- Reception of commercial broadcast are working on one receiver providing background ambience
- Some receivers are in bad shape and need work, particularly on switches that don't make solid contact and can change reception
- Help is needed to pull cables
- We need maintenance to remove the old electrical panel so we can reconfigure the room with the new benches Rich built
- Two typewriters are in good workable condition
- One upper case only (for recording code transmissions) has been donated and is in good working condition
- Two clerical typewriters need cleaning

Other restoration work:

- Ron D reported that the telephone repair shop is open
- He has 5-6 spares of each type of telephone
- CEC is looking good for tours
- SPA-25 navigation display on the bridge needs a new computer to generate displays. Dave noted that the Iowa has updated all displays on the bridge to respond to control inputs. Our systems are in too bad shape to consider that.
- Jeff chased cables in the transmitter room so he can do repairs if they are required.
- The lights on the transmitter panels need work. They have been wired for 12V but Jeff can find no replacements either incandescent or LED conversion.
- TTY machines are working, but Jeff could not get on the air because of a converter problem
- Jeff will next work on getting the paper tape reader and the torn tape machine working. They are a hit on the tours.

Old Business:

- Ron S reviewed the changes to the constitution and bylaws that had been distributed to all by e-mail. The changes were approved by unanimous vote.
- Jeff reported that Rich is stepping down as president. Jerry B has been nominated to fill that role, thus leaving the Vice President position open. No nominations have been forwarded for that position. Ron S. agreed to stay on as Secretary if elected, and Lou P. is willing to stay on as

Treasurer. There are also two Director positions up for re-election. Jeff will report back at the December meeting.

- Lou recalled that we had elected a life member at a previous meeting and were going to look into changing the life member rules. Ron S. will review that issue and report back at the December meeting.

New Business:

- Ron D purchased two new Diamond X50 antennas for VHF/UHF. They have been painted flat black with non-metallic paint so they will not be obvious when mounted. We need two aluminum or stainless steel 1.5 – 2 inch pipes about 15 to 24 inches long to mount them

The meeting was adjourned at 1102 .

Total members present: 15

Respectfully submitted: Ron Schaffer W2RES