



# EASTNET PACKET NETWORK

Business Meeting Minutes  
Date: September 9, 2021

**Officers:**

Brian Webster N2KGC  
Ted Jansen K1YON  
Don Gouin K1CMM

**Office:**

President (elected)  
Vice-President  
Secretary, Pro-Temp

**Attendance:**

\_\_\_X\_\_\_  
\_\_\_X\_\_\_  
\_\_\_X\_\_\_

**Attendees:**

Brian Webster N2KGC    Ted Jansen K1YON    Don Gouin K1CMM    Chris Lance WW2BSA  
Warren Whelan WB2ONA    Ed Wilson N2XDD    Ray Adkins N3HYM

**Visitor:** None

Meetings are held via the Zoom platform.

Our Last meeting was June 19th, 2021

Our next meeting: Dec 11th @0900

Meetings will be Quarterly: Sept 9@1900, Dec 11@0900, Mar 11@1900 2022, June 11@0900, 2022

Note: Please put the meeting dates on your calendar>

Our President, Brian Webster, N2KGC opened the meeting at 1900 with welcoming remarks.

**1. Introductions by Attendees.**

Brian Webster	N2KGC	Cooperstown, NY. 13326
Ted Jansen	K1YON	East Hartland, Ct. 06027
Don Gouin	K1CMM	Portland, Ct. 06480-1083
Warren Whelan	WB2ONA	East Brunswick, NJ. 08816-3828
Chris Lance	WW2BSA	Hackettstown, NJ. 07840
Ed Wilson	N2XDD	Shirley, NY. 11967-1954 (Suffolk County LI)
Ray Adkins	N3HYM	Frederick, MD 21702

**2. Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary's report was presented by Brian N2KGC.

Warren and Ted acknowledged receipt of the minutes.

Questions: None

Motion to accept report made by: Don, k1cmm      Seconded by: Ted, k1yon

Motion Carried

**3. Network Reports:**

**Connecticut:**

**Current Operations:**

Ted, K1YON Reported on operations at his QTH. His site is functioning ok.

Brian, N1URO, reports that W1EDH seems to have low audio on 2m and 220 and overmodulation on 440.

**Update:**

Ted, K1YON Reported his K1YON node is functioning ok.

The round-trip times between W1EDH to K1YON and W1EDH to N1URO are slow at times. Up to 2 or 300 then down to 28 or 29

Brian W; Brian, N1URO has switched over to X-net and control of the times could be more difficult

Ted and Brian W. ran a test between Stamford NY and k1yon in Ct on 220 and found it performed too poorly to be useful at this time.

**Action:**

Brian: Will visit the site for testing and repair by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

E-mail on June 30<sup>th</sup> says "N1URO tried to adjust the 220 TNC to get more gain out of the TNC"

**Update:**

Brian N1URO did the update which made the repair and on-site testing didn't expose a problem

The source of the digital repeater keying almost continuously on 438.61, interfering with the signal from K1YON has not been located as of this date.

**New York:**

**Current Operations**

Brian, N2KGC; Reported possible link from West Haven, CT to Huntington, LI (WA2PNU)

KC2FTD Needs trouble shooting.

W2RGI Update working ok

N2KGC Cooperstown working ok.

KP3FT Otsego County working ok.

KA2AON Oswego County working ok; KA2AON links need to be tested.

K2PUT Putnam County-status unknown, sysop (AC2GC) not present.

**Action:**

N2KGC; KC2FTD needs trouble shooting. Complete by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

K2PKB (Stanford, NY) radio replacement by July 31<sup>st</sup>. (220 link to k1yon or k2put) Yagi redirected.

K2DLL Saratoga interference, KE2PW (Rusty – coord) - fix by Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.

NC2C Cherry Valley test 220 to west by Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.

KA2AON testing by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

New Node, Bristol NY, new location with link west, complete by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>

K2PUT needs site visit-date unknown

**Action:**

Brian N2KGC

KC2FTD node needs trouble shooting. Complete by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

N2PKB - 220 radio antenna realignment by July 31<sup>st</sup>. (220 link to k1yon)

K2DLL - Saratoga interference, KE2PW Rusty working with Warren County group for relocation on new tower - fix by Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.

NC2C Cherry Valley - testing a new possible link on 220 to west (KA2AONB) by Oct 30<sup>th</sup>

No Call yet, Bristol NY, new location with link east and west with a user port, complete by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>

K2PUT needs site visit. Date for visit unknown at this time.

**Update:**

Brian / Ted: Brian, Lower NY; Everything nearly the same as in June.

Upper NY, K2PUT don't have a reliable link from lower NY to upper NY either thru Ct. or NY; 440 link turned off; 220 link into NJ equipment is turned off; Attempts being made to contact sysops; Rusty found problems with antenna a week ago. K2PUT is halfway up Hudson Valley;

Western NY: The Bristol and Oswego sites no update, looking for a hi pwr 220 radio. That will connect eastern and western locations.

### **LI, New York:**

#### **Current Operations**

Pat- WB2CMF, Jack- K2JX, Lew -N2RQ Reported on the Long Island links. WA2PNU is up and working. (No links yet). 440 and 220 at East Meadow site (W2KPQ) needs work.

#### **Action:**

440/220 will be tested in the next few weeks; plan to fix by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.  
John Wilson, KD2AKX, Massapequa Park, Ny 11762 needs access to Medical Center for W2KPQ site.

#### **Update:**

Brian W.; Nothing to report at this time at KPQ site and PNU is status quo. Pat is waiting for cooler weather.

### **New Jersey:**

#### **Current Operations:**

Warren, WB2ONA node working well.  
Currently no problems, occasionally we have one user, except for the national traffic messages passing through there is very little network traffic. Not much going on.

#### **Action:**

Warren/Pat; WB2ONA/WB2CMF; voice testing from N4GAA in Ct. to WA2PNU (Jerry) completed by end of August.  
Chris WW2BSA to N2QAE complete by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

Update: Warren: No new information. Attempted to contact Jerry (N4GAA) for permission to access his tower to setup testing with Pat. Chris, the antenna needs repair and the shelter bldg. needs work.  
Brian, Warren and Chris led a discussion on the status of W2LI, N2QAE, the 220.348 link in southern or central NJ, and the bell labs site on telegraph hill in Homedale and extensions into Pennsylvania.  
Chris:

### **Pennsylvania:**

#### **Current Operations:**

My apologies Glenn, I don't seem to have notes from your input on Pennsylvania operations.  
Per Ted, **we are looking for sysops and node sites.**

### **Florida:**

#### **Current Operations:**

Emil WA2UPK Reported on the Florida network. Need site visit at N4FLA, Clermont.

#### **Actions:**

Emil; Orlando (WA2UPK) to Clermont (N4FLA) link fixed by July 30<sup>th</sup>

#### **Update:**

Ted: Everything seems to be working ok. One subject requires attention is Claremont Florida which needs attention.  
The N4FLA site is at a hospital with limited access.  
Emile lives a distance from the site and is looking for some closer to visit it.

## **4. Network Expansion**

Chris; As a member of the WMARA (White Mountain Amateur Radio Club) where I donated a KPC-3+ to be installed on Mount Washington for APRS/Winlink operations, my goal as a member of their club is to eventually get an EastNet Packet Node up there as well.

Update: None

#### 5. EastNet concerns:

Chris; While I acknowledge the important contribution that Brian Rogers, N1URO, makes and how much the group relies on him, I am concerned about the web site, user group and filer server abruptly shutting down on October 30, 2020. I was wondering what we can do so that it won't happen in the future.

Update: None

#### 6. Suggestions:

Don; Suggested Chris retain the network system backup he has for EastNet. Following discussion Chris agreed to keep online and donate the [www.eastnetpacket.com](http://www.eastnetpacket.com) as well as the EastNetPacket [groups.io](http://groups.io) group as a backup and to make the appropriate edits to maintain it current.

Chris; I think if sysops can submit a brief written report ahead of a scheduled meeting to the Secretary, there would be less writing for you!

Don; Receiving reports would be very helpful in putting the minutes together and more importantly it would give us an agenda to follow that is current (not a month behind) and make the meeting very productive.

Update: None

#### 7. New Business

Brian led a discussion on the spreadsheet listing the network nodes and sysops which we have started to put together. We will be circulating the spreadsheet so that everyone can fill in the blanks with their information resulting in a complete document we can keep handy for reference. Please help us fill in the blanks even if it is old information. We can still build on it and update it as we go along. Old info is better than blanks. It will also have the coordinates and attached maps

Chris: question; What is the requirements for EastNet if we are going to build out the rf network; any restrictions, for example, the PA hams have many BPQ nodes. or are we looking for hams who are using the same nodes that EastNet is using or can we interface with different nodes. What is our policy?

Warren; We are trying to build an RF network; when there are URO nodes, they have a NetRom side and a Flexnet side. We prefer to be linked to other nodes on point-to-point dedicated frequencies, we can make a Flexnet node talk to a non-Flexnet node. What the Flexnet can't handle is long node lists and earlier configuration versions at the 1200 baud link rate and the 300 baud HF link rate, when you try to bring in the list the FlexNet node times out; also, the quality of the setting comes into question and because 90% of the nodes are unreachable because the BPQ J-nos settings are not compatible. Charles, N2NOB, and I are talking to the BPQ and J-LIST SysOp's concerning this issue. If this can be resolved it will be a way we could expand our network however we are trying to build an RF network not an internet network. W2DUC in Rochester links to N2NSB BPQ node using filtering of the excessive node lists and it doesn't show on our node lists so you need to opt thru manually. We don't want to do it on 145.01 where everybody is using it for back boning and user ports. We need dedicated backbone links. The links can be on HF, 2m,6m, 220 or 440, whatever has a good path as long as it is not a user to multi user port. Our first choice is a FlexNode or URL node. However, we are experimenting with the X-Net also because that talks the FlexNet photocall but it is an abandon product but it will run on Linux. The node should have one user port, one backbone port and one output port at a minimum. If we want and RF network and more connectivity and more possible users, we need to have open ideas about it as we look at the future.

Don; A network worth expansion and continued operation if the internet and cell phone is out of service. A network that functions under all conditions support by people who provide the service under all conditions.

Brian; Another system to look at is TARPIN. Tad, KE2EW (W1ZF) a friend whom I've talked with is promoting the TARPIN network where every link is point-to-point, there are no user ports and all communications is keybd to keybd which is somewhat limiting.

#### Florida / Rhode Island

Ted: We have had Wayne KA1VRF as the SysOp for Virobeach and Fort Perice who has moved back to RI. The new SysOp is Jerry, K4WOF who lives near Virobeach. Wayne wants to continue in packet and is looking to setup a node at a new site in North Smithfield, RI. K4WOF has a WinLink node.

Meeting Schedule

Ted, Vice President led a discussion concerning the scheduling of future meetings. Following the discussion, the members decided to meet once every calendar quarter alternating Fridays at 1900 hrs. and Saturdays at 0900 hrs.

P.S. It has been suggested we change the Friday zoom meetings to Thursdays at 1900 hrs.

**PLEASE let Brian W., Ted, and Don know if this acceptable, ASAP so we can adjust the dates.**

Update: Our last meeting was held on Thursday and our next meeting will be held on Saturday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 0900.

Observation: Our attendance was very low at this meeting. Question: is it because it was held on an evening.

Please let us know.

8. General Information:

Chris asked a question on the hardware. etc.

Brian gave a short description and answered questions from Ted, Chris, Ed and Ray.

Ted asked about the use of a site with a node on the MARS network, 143.95 running X2J4 packet and MFJ TNC, that is going to be available for EastNet

With an antenna at 190ft. Brian will take a look at the location.

Chris; now that we have a working wireless packet network, now what do we do with it.

Brian, we need to get younger people interested and we need to train users on such as, BBS msg, Chat system, outpost, ARRL Messaging, weather reporting, paging, e-mail distribution, mini-FTP server capability, highspeed video, etc.

Don; Do we have a handbook to teach the new users. Yes, Brian and Chris have started one which needs to be completed and made available on the internet to reach the greatest number of possible users.

Chris and Brian discussed the network diagram and URO node diagram and they plan to rejuvenate the project.

Chris welcomed Ed, N2XDD to EastNet, Ed is located near Southshore 60 mi east of NYC, was licensed in 93.

On behalf of all of us, welcome aboard Ed.

9. **Next Meeting:** Refer to MEETING SCHEDULE above.

10. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by K1YON, 2049 hrs.

Note: As the above tasks get completed, please send a report of the results to the Secretary so the information can be updated and sent to the other members of EastNet.

Respectfully Submitted

Don Gouin, k1cmm

Secretary, Pro-Temp

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