

Have you ever been to a club auction?

I was a member of the Warminster Amateur Radio Club when I lived up in Pennsylvania. Every year, one of the most attended and fun meetings was the "club auction." It was an auction of gear that was brought in to the club meeting by local hams - both club members and non-members.

All this hardware would be laid out on tables for everyone to check out before the meeting. If it needed power, people could plug it in and test it. This meeting was special in that all these items were donated to the club to auction to raise money for the club. I, myself, purchased old handheld radios, meters, and more at these auctions. You never knew what might appear.

Because of the "donation to the club" limitation, it was mostly limited to small or older things. No good, modern radios showed up, and understandably so. So we're going to change this and bring the Club Auction to PARK's July meeting. Remember that, PARK's general club meeting, and this auction, is open to everyone, club member or not. So spread the word to other ham organizations, maker groups, science clubs, etc. The more the merrier.

THE AUCTION:

Anyone- club member or not - can bring ham radio-related gear to the club meeting to be auctioned off. The auction is the "program" for the July meeting. A few key differences- we are adding a "free" table, for items like wire, or batteries, QST magazines, or ARRL books, etc. Items that you just want someone have. Secondly- we are allowing hams to auction things for themselves. So you can sell that 100w radio you haven't touched in forever.

It's a win-win-win situation in that you sell Ham Radio gear you no longer want or need; you buy Ham Radio gear you want or need; and the event raises money for the club.

The RULES:

Meeting attendees bring ham radio-related gear to the club meeting. (NO non-radio-related things allowed)

Each item must be PRE-labeled with your call sign on it - because you will take it home if it doesn't sell. Participation in the auction means you understand and agree to the rules.

With each item, you can do either:

- 1) Put your item(s) on a FREE TABLE and the first person who wants it, can take it.
- 2) DONATE your item(s) to PARK. The club will auction them off and keep the proceeds.
- 3) SELL your item(s): You set the starting price. We auction it off and you agree to give PARK 10% of the final sale price as a donation.

All items that don't sell or taken from the FREE table, the owner takes back home. NO Exceptions. At the end of the event all items leave with the original owners, or new owners. Nothing gets left behind.

THE PROCESS

All the owner-labeled items will be laid out on tables for review before the meeting and during the break.

When we get to the program portion of the meeting we start the auction and the FREE table is opened.

We suggest transactions be conducted with cash, but final payment method and timing is between the seller and the buyer. We are not responsible for transactions between individuals. Regardless of the payment arrangements, the seller is responsible for paying the club it's 10% donation at the time of sale. Participation in the auction means you understand and agree to the rules. For auction items that may cost a few bucks, really, bring some cash. It makes it a lot easier and the club thanks you.

This should be a very interesting and fun night for everyone involved, and also a great way to get a couple new (to you) things for the shack, or get rid of things you haven't touched in years. I have already started to pile up things in my garage that will go on the Free and the Donation tables. We look forward to having a fun event and seeing what kinds of artifacts pop up at PARK's first club auction.

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