

Minutes, TCARC Board Meeting, 3 April 2008
7:00 PM, Fire Service Institute Building, Champaign IL

Present:

Ralph Cox W9PGE, President
Mike Trautman K9MLT, Vice President
Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Treasurer
Chris Anderson W9CMA, Secretary
Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ, Director
Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ, Director

1. Chris distributed copies of the minutes of the March 2008 Board meeting. Milt moved to accept it as printed, Jeremy seconded, motion carried with no objection. The K9CU laptop which has been provided to recent TCARC Secretaries was discussed, and it was felt that, due to its age and limitations, this might be a good time to try to sell it, perhaps at the upcoming Auction. Chris indicated that he knew someone who was interested in purchasing it. It was decided that he should discuss the issue with Ben K9BF. (Chris talked with Ben subsequently, and the laptop and accompanying accessories will be placed in the Auction on April 12, to allow the market to determine the price and thus gain as much as possible for K9CU from the sale.)
2. Milt distributed the Treasurer's Report for March 2008 and clarified a question regarding dues budget figures. For our information, he also provided, courtesy of Ben K9BF, the K9CU contest group's November 2007 account statement. Mike moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Wayne seconded, motion carried with no objection.
3. Zack was unable to commit to our April meeting, but he plans to present a program on DX Clusters in May. At the April meeting, we will work on finalizing plans, committees, etc. for the Auction, as well as discuss the current plans for Field Day. At June's meeting, we will focus on election of officers for next year.
4. Ralph presented email from Al regarding the status of the repeater site. Al has installed a "new old stock" lightning arrestor on the 146.760 feedline and checked out air conditioning and other systems. We have several needs at the site, including cleaning, mopping, weeding, and installing ground straps. Wayne will look into a source of tie-downs. Milt updated us on the status of D-STAR digital equipment, due to arrive next week. He and Al recently visited the Synton site, where the D-STAR units will be temporarily installed, and Debbie N9DN has details lined up for Internet Gateway use when the free software arrives. It is hoped to eventually have the audio repeated on an FM analog frequency, to allow those without D-STAR-capable radios to listen in.
5. Auction planning continues. We reviewed who had committed to doing what: Milt will do talk-in and cashier operations, as well as provide lots of stationery supplies and door prizes; Jeremy and Al will deal with video using PowerPoint; Drew is in charge of inventory control; Food preparation will be donated by Mrs. Wolfe, Curtin, et al.; Auctioneers will be Steve W9HC and Ray K9RNS. Due to an unfortunate incident last year, we need to make sure that purchased items leave with those who paid for them by improving our security logistics.
6. Ralph drafted a letter of thanks to Somer Township for the use of Ford-Harris park during last year's Field Day. Milt will make a few changes and get back to him with letterhead. Ralph will check on the status of the BBQ. Mike KF8ZN suggested that various agencies such as Rantoul PD and County Sheriff be invited to visit and see what Field Day is and what we're doing. ARES is excited to be a part of it again this year. Dave W9DML will not be available this year, so we need alternate sources of power. Several have generators and can bring them. We need to try to get some commitments for band operation and equipment at the April meeting.
7. Thursday evening seems to be the best time for the TCARC Board meetings, especially as the 2m Net is a natural limiter. If necessary, we can always supplement with an additional meeting.

Addendum:

8 April 2008, Fire Service Institute Building, 7:00 pm, TCARC meeting, 16 attendees. Discussion of the upcoming Auction, Field Day, and plans for temporary installation of a 70cm D-STAR repeater at the Synton Radio Club site on the UIUC Campus.