

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

Present:

Ralph Cox W9PGE, President
Mike Trautman K9MLT, Vice President
Chris Anderson W9CMA, Secretary
Al Wolfe K9SI, Director
Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ, Director
Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ, Director

1. Chris distributed copies of the minutes of the Board meeting for January 2008. Wayne moved to accept it as printed, Jeremy seconded, motion carried unanimously.
2. In Milt's absence, the Treasurer's report was distributed as emailed along with printed comments by Milt. Al moved to accept as printed, Wayne seconded, motion carried after brief discussion on comparing with previous years' budgets.
3. Mike reported on the upcoming monthly membership meetings. For February, he will present various computer-based ham radio activities with live demonstrations of SSTV, PSK31, and other applications. Kermit W9XA is scheduled in March with a presentation on D-STAR. Ralph noted that TCARC ought to offer to buy dinner and give Kermit a suitable contribution toward his fuel expense. Ideas in the works for April included having Zack W9SZ talk about mobile/rover contesting, DX, or microwave operation. During the next three meetings, we probably will need to recruit members for help with the Auction in April. As weather is still iffy in March and April, it was decided to move the FM Clinic to May. Al noted that former member Joe Goggin received a prestigious award, and we should bring it up to the membership.
4. All local repeaters are again analog-only. In discussion, it was noted that there must be enough operators willing and able to invest in the equipment required to use a digital system. D-STAR and P25 both have similar aspects/functionality, but there is no purpose to having a system up and running if nobody can or will use it.
5. Auction committees: We may be able to get Steve or Ray to be auctioneers again this year. Al will talk to the church youth department to see if they are interested in providing the food. If not, his wife Lynda and Donna Curtin will again head up that committee. Video camera and other AV equipment is not as readily available to us as in past years. Jeremy thinks a PowerPoint presentation would be easy to prepare from digital photos of items as they are registered. He and Al will work on that. We discussed limits on the number of items per entry, reserve/minimum bid, and evenly spacing significant or desirable items throughout the auction. All Club members are to be considered assistants. We will need people to set up, monitor, check people in and out with items, tear down, and clean up, among other tasks. Milt will likely sell tickets, operate the talk-in station, and greet the attendees. Al noted that we should stress that this Club function is our major fundraiser and that members need to stick around and help with clean up and other necessary tasks.
6. Field Day: Ralph will talk to the Supervisor of Somer Township regarding our application for use of Ford-Harris Park again this year. Rental of a barbecue unit is around \$250, so we discussed alternatives. Al will look into borrowing one, although he has some 275 gallon containers he's willing to donate if someone wants to do the conversion work. He also suggested we might consider a hog roast or turkey deep fry, for something different. Number of stations depends on how many wish to participate. Ralph will inquire of ARES, as their participation last year was very welcome. Ralph's wife volunteered to help at the welcome/greet/sign-up/registration table. We need handouts, publicity (which gains us points), people to take photos, possibly tours, and maybe even a GOTA station for new operators.
7. Club-sponsored social activities: Ralph and Jeremy will get together to identify facility availability. Ralph has ideas on retention and growth of TCARC membership which we will discuss in a future meeting. Wayne suggested we leave old copies of QST, CQ, or other amateur radio-related publications in places such as dentist/doctor waiting rooms to target aging Boomers.

Addendum:

12 February 2008, Fire Service Institute Building, 7:00 pm, TCARC meeting, 23 attendees.
Mike Trautman K9MLT and Larry Mohr K9LMM gave a presentation and demonstration of various PC-based digital amateur radio modes, including SSTV and PSK31.