

Minutes, TCARC Board Meeting, 6 March 2008
7:00 PM, Fire Service Institute Building, Champaign IL

Present:

Ralph Cox W9PGE, President
Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Treasurer
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 February 2008. Al moved to accept it as printed, Jeremy seconded, motion carried with no objection.
2. Milt distributed the Treasurer's Report for February 2008, noting that expenses appeared to be up because our insurance premium came due. Chris moved to accept as printed, Jeremy seconded, motion carried with no objection. Al expressed his thanks and appreciation for Milt's work as Club Treasurer as well as his efforts to have First Day Cancellation of the new stamp honoring John Bardeen on our March newsletter.
3. In Mike's absence, help is needed to get April's meeting coordinated. Wayne will look into having Zack discuss DX clusters. Al noted we should not forget to include a short plug for the upcoming Auction at both March and April meetings.
4. Repeater status: Use is up, especially on 146.760. The Board voted that Ben K9BF be asked to reinstate a courtesy tone on the 146.760 repeater, in order to encourage better operating procedure and reduce the amount of doubling. Al said that he and Deb Fligor recently did some work and testing on the UI's Synton Club repeater in hopes that it can be revived. Milt noted that he has found a good price on a new D-STAR repeater (including free software valued at \$300-400) and that several members have committed some funds toward its purchase. The intention is that it will be loaned to Synton and set up temporarily at their site, with a wireless link to the 444.100 site a future goal. The Board discussed whether TCARC should make a contribution to the purchase. Jeremy felt \$500 might be an appropriate limit for any such contribution. If there is a need for such a contribution, the Board should discuss it as the need arises, with the intention of bringing the issue to the membership for a vote. Milt indicated that for the time being, he will absorb the cost beyond what donors have committed, purchasing the unit in his name in order to obtain insurance coverage through ARRL. Al suggested that the VHF repeater system should have some lightning suppression installed, the cost of which is in the \$50-100 range. We unanimously recommended that Al go ahead and do what needs to be done in that regard. He would also like to schedule a Work Day after the Auction to do some work at the repeater site, including general clean-up, installation of grounding, straps, anchors, structural reinforcement, etc.
5. April 12, Auction set up is 9:00 AM, doors open at 11:00, Auction at 1:00pm. Ralph suggested spending \$100 on door prizes. Milt will look around for appropriate items to add to the ones he has already personally set aside to donate. Charles Kline KF9FF has some equipment he intends to donate. Steve Brown W9HC has agreed to be auctioneer, others may be available to provide breaks. Al has discussed food preparation with the church's youth minister, and a missions group is interested. If they don't agree to it, Al's wife and Donna Curtin have volunteered. As discussed last month, all TCARC members are expected to help out as assistants. Al and Jeremy will coordinate the video presentation.
6. Ralph and Wayne will co-chair Field Day this year. ARES is planning to participate again. Milt recommended that they be given priority of band choice. Ralph is working on a letter to Somer Township for use of the park. Al thinks he can get the barbecue unit as used last year. We should consider ways the Club might be able to contribute to the Township that would be mutually beneficial. Milt suggested we form a committee to present ideas to the Township. Al suggested ways to add points (GOTA station, satellite operation, demo station, etc.).
7. Milt reminded us that Kermit W9XA will be joining us for dinner on Tuesday prior to the meeting. As Monical's was unable to provide appropriate space, he thinks that the Atlanta Bread Co. on Neil St. will be a good alternative. He also noted that minutes and newsletters are up to date on www.w9seh.org.

Addendum:

11 March 2008, Fire Service Institute Building, 7:00 pm, TCARC meeting, 34 attendees.
Kermit Carlson, W9XA, gave a detailed and interesting presentation on the rapidly growing D-STAR system, an exciting new method of communication using digital voice and data via HT, mobile radio, repeater, and Internet gateway.