

Minutes, TCARC Board Meeting, 8 November 2007  
7:00 PM, Fire Services Institute Building, Champaign IL

Present:

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

Absent:

Mike Trautman K9MLT, Vice President  
Al Wolfe K9SI, Director

1. Milt distributed copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report for October 2007. They were perused by the Board and brief comments regarding the satisfactory and positive balances were made. Wayne moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Jeremy seconded, motion carried unanimously.

2. Minutes of the October Board meeting were distributed. Milt moved to accept them as presented, Wayne seconded, carried unanimously. It was suggested that future minutes be emailed to Board members about 1-2 weeks prior to Board meetings, so as to give enough time to prepare for discussion. It is also intended that the minutes be placed on the Club web site as soon as is practical.

3. In the absence of the Vice President, Ralph noted that our November meeting program would be on satellite communications, with guest NH7WN presenting. Mark, KC9DUU, and Jeremy will both try to have video equipment ready to record the session for those who are unable to attend. We expect to tour the radio station and repeater facilities on Bradley Avenue, with a program on lightning protection, for our December meeting.

4. Ralph read a statement from Al to the effect that nothing has changed with the 444.100 repeater since the Board's last discussion.

5. Ralph reminded us that we would be presenting the membership with our nominations of Al Wolfe, K9SI, and Mark Garrett, KA9SZX, for Life Membership in TCARC. He also read a very complimentary note from Al nominating Milt Forsberg, K9QZI, for Life Membership in TCARC. Ralph accepted this as a motion by Al, Wayne seconded, and the motion to present the additional nomination was unanimously passed. All three nominations will be brought to the membership at the November 13 meeting.

6. A date for the TCARC Annual Auction has not been set. Steve KR4S has yet to determine when he is able to participate, given that many hamfest dates for the coming year are not yet set.

7. The need for a policy to determine when and how to honor deceased members/spouses or prominent hams in the community was discussed. It was felt that, as the membership ages, there may be a great financial burden if the Club spends \$25-50 on flowers for any ham regardless of affiliation. The determining criterion should be club membership--non-members or lapsed members cannot be honored simply because of a ham license. On the other hand, someone (or their spouse) who may have been an active member in years past but who may not have been able to remain a member of late should still be open for consideration. A policy which clearly states who the Club should honor and how (e.g., donation to charity of family's choice, flowers, potted plant) which also allows the Board to identify special cases needs to be prepared. Chris and Ralph will work on a draft. The policy need not be incorporated into the Club Bylaws or Constitution.

8. Jeremy suggested that the Club sponsor activities throughout the month in addition to regular membership meetings, in order to generate interest in active participation in the hobby, allow

families/wives to participate, and possibly also attract new people to Amateur Radio. Ideas discussed included foxhunts, mini-Field Day, operating a Special Event station, monthly Friday evening dinner, a bus trip to large hamfest such as Dayton or Huntsville (possibly a day trip or even overnight with other attractions involved), Christmas (or other holiday) party/potluck, off-meeting workshops (D-Star, scanning, PSK & other HF digital modes, ham license classes), a camping overnight trip, special event at Monticello Railway Museum (who have offered the use of facilities), visit to OshKosh Air Show, and others. It is best to keep it fun and informal. Milt is willing to help on a Committee, Jeremy willing to chair an individual event.

9. Ralph noted that ARRL has published a revised edition of the FCC Part 97 rules, both in print for a fee and downloadable in text or pdf files. He may get a copy printed to pass around. Chris inquired as to the possibility that ARRL would provide a Club or bulk discount for those who prefer to read printed books over electronic documents.

10. Milt and Wayne attended a D-Star forum in Milwaukee and brought back some interesting information about the new digital system. They had a good time and learned a lot about its capabilities. One of the advantages is that there is a little more range over analog systems, due to the narrower bandwidth required. There are many features of this new system that may interest young people and encourage them to get involved in ham radio.

Addendum to November 2007 TCARC Board Minutes:

The TCARC November membership meeting was held at the Fire Services Institute Building on November 13, with 19 present, including NH7WN, Bob, who presented his experiences with satellite operation using an HT and various antennas from his home and elsewhere in Hawaii. Prior to his presentation, Ralph brought the three nominations for life membership to the TCARC Membership as present, Dave W9DML moved to accept the nominations, Larry, N9XDH, seconded. Majority voted in favor with show of hands and motion passed, granting TCARC Life Membership status to Mark Garrett KA9SZX, Al Wolfe K9SI, and Milt Forsberg K9QZI.