

Minutes, TCARC Board Meeting, 4 October 2007
7:00 PM, Fire Services Institute Building, Champaign IL

Present:

Ralph Cox W9PGE, President
Mike Trautman K9MLT, Vice President
Chris Anderson W9CMA, Secretary
Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Treasurer
Al Wolfe K9SI, Director
Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ, Director
Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ, Director

1. Milt distributed copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report for June through September 2007. Brief explanations were given for the benefit of those new to the Board.
2. Ralph gave a quick report on Field Day 2007, noting that it was significantly more successful than in recent years due to a number of factors, including a more secure location. Milt moved that TCARC provide Somer Township a \$100 honorarium for the use of the park, Chris seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. Milt and Ralph will draft a letter of thanks to accompany the check. Other Field Day issues discussed: A check-in procedure would help to coordinate activity, keep records, etc. An information leaflet would not only be helpful, but would also provide additional points from ARRL. We should continue to encourage new hams to participate in Field Day. ARES' participation was a welcome part of this year's event, and we hope that they will continue to be an active part of future Field Days. We need to re-create the Field Day Handbook that has become misplaced. Dave Leininger, W9DML, who has provided a power source from his RV, will not be available for 2008 Field Day, so we will need to identify a different source of power. Also, we need to reimburse him for his 2007 expenses. Milt will get that done.
3. Al presently has the club's generator, which has previously been identified as an item the club no longer needs. He offered \$200 for it. Milt moved to accept the offer, Mike seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously (Al recusing himself). Cash was paid. Milt will make sure Al gets a receipt.
4. Mike proposed a number of ideas for future club programs, including: Build-a-widget, packet night, homebrew night, digital modes (PSK, logging and other software, DX spotting, etc.), trackers/foxhunts, RC protocols/tech info, CW night, surveillance hardware, satellite operation, lightning protection. Discussion of these and related ideas resulted in tentative meeting ideas for November: FM clinic (check radios for power output, deviation, etc.) or a field trip to see lightning protection and the repeater site; December: satellite operation or a presentation on digital systems (D-Star/P25); January: possible homebrew, if enough interest.
5. Auction committee: The idea to hold the Auction in February (as the usual, April, is close to the hamfest season) was discussed. It was felt that the weather was probably too much of a factor, and that March would be less risky, especially for those travelling from outside the immediate area. Al will look into availability of the facility, and Milt will check with Steve Zahos, KR4S, as his sponsorship is very important for the Auction's success.
6. Camp Drake, near Oakwood, IL, will be hosting a Boy Scout event, using WB9SA as callsign, on Saturday October 6, 8AM-5PM. This is a space exploration-themed event, and the goal is to get about 100 boys on the air using local repeaters, both in Danville (146.820) and Champaign (146.760 and 444.100). We should try to be available and ask questions ("how old are you, what school do you attend, what hobbies do you enjoy?", etc.) to encourage them to talk.
7. Milt requested that the club develop a policy on how to handle memorials for area hams who have passed away. Should we send flowers, cards, how much to spend, club members only, etc.

8. Ralph noted that Darren KF9Z and John W9WHE would like to give a short presentation on APCO/P25 digital system (which is currently available on the 444.525 repeater) at the end of the October meeting.

9. Al asked for assistance with the Repeater Committee. Milt, Jeremy, and Wayne indicated they would be willing to participate.

10. Al noted that since 1978, he has borne most of the expense of the 444.100 repeater, which he believes has become an important asset to the community. Wishing to see it continue operating, he proposed that TCARC take over its responsibility. Recently, a local individual has provided a state-of-the-art, digital-capable repeater, which was put into operation last week. According to Al, the original repeater works fine, but is not current technology. The new Quantar is priced well, at \$2700 for a unit which, new, would cost \$13,000 or more. Al proposed that TCARC purchase this unit from the private individual and assume responsibility for the repeater. The cost of the repeater would clearly be a major investment in light of the club's current financial position, and additional recurring expenses would likely also result from this change. Due to the lateness of the evening and the need to further discuss this issue, Ralph proposed that the meeting be adjourned until 7PM, October 17. And so it was.