

Minutes, TCARC Board Meeting, 9 October 2008
7:00 PM, Fire Service Institute, Champaign IL

Present:

Mike Trautman K9MLT, President
Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Treasurer
Al Wolfe K9SI, Director
Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ, Director

Larry Mohr K9LMM, Vice President
Chris Anderson W9CMA, Secretary
Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ, Director
Ralph Cox W9PGE, Past President

1. Chris distributed the minutes of the July 2008 Board meeting. Larry moved to accept it as printed, Wayne seconded, motion carried with no objection.
2. Milt distributed the Treasurer's Reports for July through September 2008. Wayne moved to accept them as printed, Jeremy seconded, motion carried with no objection.
3. Larry reported on upcoming meeting topics. Nick W9MH has a presentation on making printed circuit boards for October. Plans are in the works for November. We discussed various ideas for possible programs.
4. Analog repeaters are operating as usual, with a bit of downtime for 444.525/K9BF recently resolved. The D-STAR repeater, now coordinated at 443.48125/W9YR, has been moved to the club repeater site and shares the 444.100 antennas, using a "circulator", thanks to Al K9SI. We are experiencing some interference to the repeater, possibly a paging system. The ultimate intent for this repeater, which has been purchased with private funds, is to donate it to TCARC. We currently have 16 local D-STAR radio owners, with five more newly added in the Mattoon-Sullivan area (where a D-STAR repeater is in the planning stage). The Gateway software is up and running, although we do not have an Internet connection yet. Local users can be registered to use the Gateway with a DV Dongle or on repeaters which are connected; see Milt K9QZI or Deb N9DN. We may begin a D-STAR net, possibly 9pm local on Wednesdays. The possibility of starting a D-STAR users group (similar to K9CU) was raised.
5. June's Field Day picnic was discussed. Dave Moore KB9NJW has donated the meat, bread, and charcoal. Milt suggested we keep him current as TCARC member in appreciation. Al moved we waive his dues through this year. Milt seconded, motion passed without objection. Chris will send a letter of thanks indicating this. Field Day 2009 will be June 28/29. We discussed other social events, such as a foxhunt in early November and holiday events. It was agreed we should postpone further discussion on these ideas.
6. Ralph talked to Somer Township board, which is interested in our idea of setting up a permanent facility for emergency operations. He subsequently met with Al and Larry to tour Ford Harris Park. They found that there is plenty of room for equipment, cables, etc. for a possible emergency operations setup. Funds may be available to the Township for a backup generator system through a Homeland Security grant. Milt recommended that Ralph present ideas to Steve N9XDC and ARES; they should be involved in any such project, as they have the infrastructure in place. Wayne reminded us that 147.060 still exists.
7. Ralph informed us that he has requested FSI space for our regular Board and social meeting dates. He is also willing to move forward with bringing TCARC and ARES together in a more cohesive association. It was noted that ARES should be carefully approached with this idea (as well as that of an emergency HQ at Ford Harris Park). Ralph will continue to work on Field Day 2009 negotiations with Somer Township. A letter to Somer Township will be drafted requesting the use of the park for Field Day 2009. The question was raised whether the club should make a donation to the Township in appreciation for use of the park for September's Picnic. Milt suggested that our annual Field Day contribution should be adequate.
8. Our Annual Auction is coming up and we need to start thinking about it. Milt will talk to Steve KR4S and check on the hamfest schedule. Al will coordinate with the church's calendar for the facility.
9. Milt suggested that distribution of the newsletter could be changed to part email/posting in order to save money. An article in November's issue will request that members select electronic-only if possible, explaining the options and cost savings.

Addendum:

14 October 2008, Fire Service Institute Building, 7:00 pm, TCARC meeting, 20 attendees.
Nick Popa W9MH presented a program on designing and fabricating printed circuit boards.