

Minutes, TCARC Board Meeting, 2 April 2014  
Culver's on Neil, Champaign, Illinois

Present:

Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ, President  
Paul Toth N9XDN, Vice President  
Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Treasurer  
Chris Anderson W9CMA, Secretary  
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE, Director  
Jim Crisman N9AJV, Director  
Al Wolfe K9SI  
Patrick Twigg N9OQT

March 2014 Minutes approved as submitted.

March 2014 Treasurer's report approved as distributed.

Auction: Milt distributed a summary of Auction results covering 2011-2014. We discussed how well it went (especially with the new software) and things we might change about the Auction in future. Al suggested an honorarium to express our gratitude to Jon Crisman W0JEC, who wrote the excellent software we used for the first time this year. We decided that Life Membership in TCARC as well as something unique he otherwise would not buy for himself, in the \$50-100 range, would be appropriate. We will revisit this and decide later.

Repeaters: Al informed us that a cable (TV) connection has been installed at the radio station and that we have an opportunity to get access for EchoLink/D-STAR, though probably at a higher rate than we currently pay AT&T for DSL. He will keep us informed. Milt noted that Yaesu is willing to provide a repeater and two radios to any club interested in beta-testing their new digital equipment. This free equipment is contingent on regular feedback to Yaesu. TCARC is not going to participate, but Kevin planned to look into it for his CU Digital Radio Club.

Field Day: We will have a listing in the News-Gazette's Calendar/Fun Guide. Patrick (N9OQT) inquired as to how ARES can help: they have antennas, a generator, and other equipment. Mary (W9MAP) has offered to make Sunday breakfast for those participating. Our Saturday potluck will be as usual, with meat by the club and side dishes to be brought by attendees. Al suggested 3A, with a GOTA station during the day, switching over at night.

Repeater Use Policy: Milt has put together a new document he would like considered as policy for the use of Club-owned repeaters. Repeater Conduct Guidelines is based on a similar policy created by the Fox River Radio League (Batavia, IL). Jim suggested we present the concept to the membership at the next meeting, posting the text at our web site for written/email feedback. Once a designated period is over, we will discuss and approve the final document as Club Policy.

Membership renewals are still coming in and Milt wanted some feedback by the Board as to how to treat those who have not renewed in over a year. There are some who have not paid since 2012 or earlier. Specific concerns include when to stop mailing printed and electronic Newsletters and whether to assess past dues for years missed. Discussion included length of grace period (six months/through the following June was proposed), whether dues for those who prefer mailed copies of the Newsletter should be higher (e.g., \$30 vs. the current \$20), and what kind of added value we can provide which is accessible only to current members. Because of time constraints, we decided to revisit the topic later.

---

Regular monthly meeting, 8 April 2014, 133 Fire Services Institute Building, 22 attendees.

"Ladder Line: Facts and Myths", a presentation on ladder line created by Jon Crisman, W0JEC, was given by Al K9SI and Jim N9AJV. Paul N9XDN began obtaining signups for band operations in advance of this year's Field Day. Our new Repeater Conduct Guidelines document was introduced for comment by the membership.