

Minutes, TCARC Board Meeting, 3 December 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
Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ, Director
Al Wolfe K9SI, Director

November 2014 Minutes approved as submitted.

October and November 2014 Treasurer's reports approved as distributed.

Repeaters: Ben K9BF has informed the Club that his repeater is being transferred to the Synton Amateur Radio Club of the University of Illinois. He is also closer to getting the compressor/limiter for the 146.760 repeater installed. He would like to work on it but needs spare equipment in place to keep the repeater operating. He is also considering the use of a preamp to reduce some of the interference we are currently experiencing. Al suggested we put a second receive site on the campus Tower to add coverage for those with HTs in the high density campus area. The computers at the repeater site are functioning well, but there is some concern that we should consider replacing them and invest in backup hard drives or save data to flash drives. Advice from IT persons might be useful.

Digital: Paul is considering setting up a new D-STAR system and asked about the use of Synton's frequency now that they have retired their ailing repeater equipment. Al noted that there is another digital mode, "AllStar", which we could also consider.

Wayne noted that local EMA personnel looked at the trailer but we have had no subsequent feedback.

Program ideas were discussed: field trips, videos, etc. Paul will ask for input at the membership meeting. Ben has offered to talk about technical specs and how to interpret them (e.g., QST reviews) for our December meeting.

The Windsor Road church is nearing the end of their building project and renovated space should be available for our Spring Auction. Al will check on available dates there, with March 28 and April 11 in mind. A suggestion was raised that we ought to have a procedural manual in place for the Auction, similar to what we once had for Field Day (which seems to have disappeared).

Milt noted that Jerry N9RBQ has suggested that TCARC join with the MARK (Moultrie) and CENOIS (Decatur) clubs to co-host a hamfest, possibly Fall 2015/Spring 2016. We will discuss this at a future meeting.

A short discussion was held regarding the Club's web sites and Yahoo Group email reflectors. It was suggested that we integrate the K9CU site (Twin City Contesters) into the W9SEH (TCARC) site and combine both email lists.

Milt asked if the Club would share the cost of spaces, as we did last year, at the 2015 Dayton Hamvention. This will provide a place for TCARC members to rest, visit, and sell items. Al moved we table the discussion, bring it up at the membership meeting for more input, and make a decision in January. Wayne seconded. Motion passed.

Milt also relayed a message from Jim KA6A, who has moved to Texas and suggests that someone local should take over trusteeship of the W9SEH callsign. Ben K9BF, trustee for K9CU, has offered to take over that responsibility. Milt will look into getting the proper form to file to accomplish this.

Wayne has approached the Urbana Free (and will also get in touch with Champaign Public) Library about their acquiring current Ham Radio License manuals and was told that they are willing to purchase a copy of the Technician manual. They will not allow us to provide copies of the books, but if we make a reimbursing donation, we can have bookplates with contact information affixed to each book that the library purchases. ARRL offers two Technician books and Gordon West has one. Milt moved that Wayne decide on the titles and figure out the logistics to get some current introductory licensing books into each library and the Club will reimburse him (or make donations) for the cost of the books. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Regular monthly meeting, December 9, 133 Fire Service Institute. 18 in attendance. Ben K9BF: "A Discussion of Receiver Performance and Specifications".