



Western Washington Repeater Association

PO BOX 1001

Silverdale, WA 98383-1001

WWRA Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 14, 2007

1. Eric, KE7EDW the vice president brought the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
 - a. Terry, N7YZX had received an email response from Drake, KD7GAR our current president that he would not be able to participate in our association due to travel plans and that it was time to look for new blood in the organization. Bill, KE7JRT volunteered to be on the board of directors until the January 2008 general membership meeting at which time all officer positions would be up for election.
 1. Present at this meeting were:
 - a) Eric, KE7EDW – Vice President
 - b) Terry, N7YZX – Secretary
 - c) Bill, N7YT – Treasurer
 - d) George, N7GME – Chief Operator
 - e) Bill, KE7JRT - Member
 - b. As a first order of business the board of directors unanimously voted as follows:
 1. Vice President Eric, KE7EDW to fill the president vacancy.
 2. Member Bill, KE7JRT to fill the vice president vacancy.
 - c. ELECTIONS: All officers volunteered to run together as one slate at the 2008 general meeting. At the general meeting we will ask for and give an opportunity for nominations for individuals or a slate to run also.
 - d. Eric, KE7EDW, WWRA President and Bill, KE7JRT, WWRA Vice president represented the WWRA at the North Kitsap Amateur Radio Club hamfest in October and made their report. They reported signing up about a half dozen renewals.
 - e. Eric, KE7EDW the president brought up the item of refreshments at the general meeting. Bill, N7YT and George, N7GME provided this service for a few years and then volunteers did it for a couple of years. Refreshments have been problematic for general meetings. Discussion followed by a vote to not have any at the January 2008 General Membership Meeting. Of course volunteers are more than welcome.
 2. SECRETARY:
 - a. Terry, N7YZX the secretary read minutes of previous Board meeting of December 22, 2006. Board approved as read.
 - b. Terry, N7YZX the secretary briefed the board and said that we saved about \$200 in 2006 by not mailing out a newsletter and now we can save about 72 man-hours by canceling it all together. These resources can be directed at the technical support of the repeaters. It appears from past experience that hardly anyone ever reads the newsletter. Information is available on the WWRA website. Board discussed and voted to discontinue the newsletter.
 - c. Terry, N7YZX the secretary briefed the board on the developed working regime for renewals and recruitment as follows.
 1. RENEWALS:
 - a) Starting with the hamfest in October we allow rollover sign-ups to include membership for rest of year and the new-year.
 - b) Commencing on 1 December we make daily announcements at prescribed and random times over the repeaters to renew by the due date of 1 January. Member will get three door prize tickets. All others get one ticket. This is something we started last year and it worked great.

- c) If an individual writes a check with a date in December and we don't get it until the middle of January then they get a nice try and only one ticket.
 - d) General meeting announcement via postcard around the second week in January so members won't lose them too quickly and remember the date.
 - a. The doors open at 11:30am with meeting commencing at 12:30pm.
 - e) Blue postcard reminders go out to membership right after the meeting in February for those who do not renew at the meeting.
- d. Terry, N7YZX the secretary reported that we have 173 supporting members for 2007 up from 144 in 2006. We already have over 44 for 2008. This has almost tripled since 2001 with a total membership of 62. We don't expect to keep ramping up but 125 members is a comfortable level. Because Terry logs all users with call sign and date time stamp we average well over 300 additional visitors annually who never join. With board approval Terry expects to continue on with the following membership program;
- 1. I plan on briefing a supporting membership chart displaying a sustainable approach to membership support.
 - a. Continuous monitoring and keeping logbook.
 - b. Setting a standard to recruit all users.
 - i. Immediately recruit all new calls, at this point in time it would be KE call signs.
 - ii. Listen to users and if it sounds like they are going to stay send a welcome letter and application.
 - iii. If they stick around send reminder postcard.
 - iv. If they are Canadian, visitors, etc. then they are more than welcome to use the repeaters for the duration of their stay.
 - c. Encourage all members to assist in requesting ALL users to support the WWRA.
 - 2. As usual, we do not want to recruit directly on the air. If non-members ask we can give them information but it is best to direct them to our website. If you send me their callsign I will follow-up with mailing information.
 - 3. Terry, N7YZX briefed that on rare occasions he will ask one of the control operators for assistance by asking a user if his or her correct address has been given to the FCC. Some users forget to report their change of address with the FCC and this is a technical violation since FCC requires reporting within 10 days. Terry uses a scanner to listen, as he cannot transmit from his position during the day and evening hours.

3. TREASURER REPORT

- a. Bill, N7YT the treasurer recommended we move the 2009 general meeting to the Poulsbo Kitsap Regional Library because it will be about one-third the costs. Currently it costs \$80 for the current location and only \$30 for the Poulsbo location. Board voted unanimously yes.
- b. Bill, N7YT the treasurer requested discussion and a vote on the following;
 - 1. VHF handheld for the **DOOR** prize. Reminder of our routine policy. Everyone who pays by the due date gets three chances and those who pay later get one ticket at the meeting.
 - 2. The board discussed having a cutting edge radio like the Kenwood TM D-710 mobile to be **RAFFLED** at \$2 per ticket and 6 tickets for \$10 as was done last year and it worked fine. George, N7GME said he would look into getting a price and get back to the rest of the board for a vote via email.
NOTE: The raffled item should be drawn first.
 - 3. **SALE of Uninterrupted Power Supply:** Our old UPS bought in 1988 for around \$1100 dollars has been retired. The old UPS had a new large capacity wet battery installed in September 2006 with a 5 year predicted life span. The

electronic circuit would sometimes not switch back to line power due to the incompatibility with the hill generator. We should sell it at silent auction starting at around \$100. Board voted unanimously to sell via silent auction at the general meeting. Someone is going to get an excellent power supply.

- c. Bill, N7YT briefed the board on running Echolink for the past 3-½ years and has recently turned it over to Chas, W4HFZ. Once Chas can no longer provide this service sometime in June 2008 I do not plan on providing this service again. We need a volunteer.
 - a) George pointed out that our current Echolink operation like most of our additions to the repeater system are originally brought onboard and funded by volunteers who absorb most or all of the costs. After it looks like members will use it then the repeater purchases it. In the case of Echolink it has not gotten the use that justifies the resources dedicated to it.
 - b) George talked to Kim, AC7YY who runs the Baw Faw Repeater and he encourage us to keep it up and running. If Kim attends our general meeting he may add his perspective.
 - c) We should encourage other members to volunteer to operate it.

4. CHIEF of OPERATIONS REPORT.

- a. George, N7GME the chief operator briefed the board on the following:
 - 1. George said he would continue to accept and train new operations members but will not actively recruit and spend much of his time creating agendas and putting a lot of effort into integrating them into the repeater work. Providing personal training programs has taken time away from technical work on the repeaters. George said they are going to have to expend some of their own energy and take an interest.
 - 2. George, N7GME with Bill, N7YT's assistance gave an overview of a project they have been working on for some time. The company who distributes the equipment has let the WWRA have it to test on a loan to buy program. Bill said it is very sophisticated capability and will give the WWRA to fingerprint all transmitters being used on WWRA repeaters. This expanded fingerprinting capability will be briefed at the general meeting. Fingerprinting transmitters will be useful in identifying illegal transmitters, reduce and eliminate illegal kerchunking, etc. Bill said that we have already passed some of the crucial testing and that the agreement with the supplying company was that we would use it and test it and if we could get it to work we could either return it or buy it. This was put to a vote to the board. The board approved unanimously the \$1100 price tag to be paid to the supplier next year that should coincide with the completion of installation. Some features are already in operation.
 - 3. Our new repeater 12VDC electrical distribution. This is an ongoing project and replaces all the automotive 12-volt electrical knots within the cabinet. This electrical distribution has been a nagging problem causing extra work. Once completed trouble-shooting will be much faster.
 - 4. We installed a new UPS that likes generators. This new state of the art UPS replaces a 19-year-old UPS that will be offered up to the general membership at the general meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS. None.

6. NEW BUSINESS. None.

7. Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

President _____ Secretary _____

Signature

Signature

Date: _____ Date: _____