

# *Western Washington Amateur Relay Association*

## **General Membership Meeting Minutes December 6, 2003**

The December 6, 2003, General Membership meeting was held at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 in Mercer Island, WA. Chairman John Schurman-AA7UJ, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated. In attendance were: Mark McClain-N6OBY, Bob Lewis-W7AN, John Schurman-AA7UJ, Roger Hansen-W6TOZ, Herman Entz-K7PAG, Al Burlison-K7HW, Rob Lee-K7TGU, Jon Marcinko-WR7JM, Earl Garber-N3EG, Gene Colson-W7UVH, Peter Dahl-WA7FUS, Carter Powell-W7IAG, Marty Hadfield-WB7AFV, Rick Bearry-NU7Z, Steve Szombathy-W7UDI, Ed Bruette-N7NVP, Rufi Magbanua-AA7SS, Gerry Fernandez-KD7MJP, Mark McAlvey-N7WPY, Michael Hill-N7NFY, and Howard Wilhelm-K7UID.

### **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

*✍* A motion passed to approve the minutes of the October 2nd General Meeting.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

*✍* A Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss statement ending November were distributed for review. There were no questions and a motioned carried to accept the financial report. Roger-W6TOZ said he is exploring a way to show advance payments for Dues in our financial reporting software-QuickBooks- as prepaid for the year they are associated with. This should provide a better picture of income from Dues for the year they are applied to.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

*✍* A reminder was made by Mark-N6OBY that the newly revised Technical Data Sheet is available on the WWARA Website in PDF and MS-Word formats. The new form can be used now and will be required for all submissions starting January 2004.

*✍*

### **ADJACENT AREAS:**

**IACC:** Nothing reported.  
**B.C.:** Nothing reported.  
**ORRC:** Nothing reported.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Technical:** Nothing reported. John-AA7UJ said he received an email from Marty this morning with an apology for not attending most of the meetings this year. He promised to attend the December meeting and report on his 900 Band Plan assignment.

**6/10 Meters:** Board actions: Previous to the meeting, the Board approved the following coordination:

?? TR# 1001- 29.620\_AA7UJ\_Redmond\_1001\_10.01.03

The membership had no questions and supported the approval.

A Band Chair Report was provided and Ed gave an update on the status of his Pending items.

**2 Meters:** Board actions: Previous to the meeting, the Board approved the following coordinations:

?? TR# 3020 - 147.180\_KK7M\_Everett\_3020\_08.07.02

?? TR# 3045 - 147.140\_W7NTF\_Graham\_3045\_08.13.03

The membership had no questions and supported the approvals.

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Pete-K7PP was not able to attend, but provided an updated Band Chair Report with the status of Pending items.

**220 Band:** Board actions: Nothing reported.

No Band Chair Report was submitted.

**UHF Rptrs:** Board actions: Previous to the meeting, the Board approved the following coordinations:

?? TR# 5163 - 444.450\_KD7HTE\_Shelton\_5163\_10.02.03

?? TR# 5058 - 443.825\_N7WGR\_Tacoma\_5058\_08.08.02

?? TR# 5284 - 444.000\_K7SPG\_Seattle\_5284\_09.16.03

?? TR# 5329 - 443.125\_N7UMO\_Marysvil\_5329\_12.15.02

?? TR# 5336 - 440.925\_N7BAG\_MeglerMt\_5336\_08.06.03

A Band Chair Report was provided with a list of Pending items and status.

**UHF Links:** Board actions: There were no Board actions.

The Band Chair provided a partial list of the Pending items.

**900/1.2:** Board actions: Previous to the meeting, the Board approved the following coordinations:

?? TR# 6006 - 927.250\_W7UVH\_Shelton\_6006\_01.20.03

?? TR# 6016 - 927.275\_N7WPY\_Everett\_6016\_07.03.03

?? TR# 6017 - 927.925\_K7CH\_BawFaw\_6017\_10.02.03

?? TR# 6018 - 927.6875\_W7UMH\_LymanMtn\_6018\_10.08.03

It was decided that these applications do not conform with the current 900Meg Band Plan and that final approval should be held until after reviewing the proposed 900 Meg Band Plan. A Band Chair Report was provided with a list of Pending items.

**NFCC:** John-AA7UJ reported that elections were held for two new board members. He thinks the NFCC is still working on the ORRC/BMUG situation in Oregon. John expressed disappointment with the NFCC lately. They have failed to respond to several emails pertaining to two separate issues

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Review of UHF Links and Band Plans :** John-AA7UJ said nothing formally has been done on this, but he has referred several applicants who requested link frequencies or pairs in the repeater sub-band to Jon-WR7JM. Jon-WR7JM said any new requests for links have to go in the link sub-band as we are nearly out of repeater pairs.

**Band Plans - 900 Mhz:** Gene-W7UVH and Marty-WB7AFV presented their versions of revised 900 Meg Band Plans. Discussion took place regarding simplex channels, provisions for 12.5 and 25 KHz channel spacing, and the amount and type of equipment showing up on the surplus market. There were also comments regarding the process to get approval, or at least a form of acknowledgment, from our adjacent area coordination groups. It was agreed that past discussions with BC and Oregon that took place 1-2 years ago need to be refreshed and formal correspondence take place between the organizations, as well as courtesy copies of our final plan be sent to the ARRL and NFCC. Marty commented that our provisions for SNP allocations are tied to AMSL and this may not be applicable to other areas of the country where HAAT could be more appropriate. Al-K7HW motioned to accept the proposed plan and send it to the membership and adjacent areas for approval. Steve-W7UDI seconded and the motion carried. Rick-NU7Z asked if he could publish the proposed plan to the Weak Signal community, and John-AA7UJ approved as long as it was clear that it was still in a proposed format. The four coordinations that were held for final approval will be tabled until the next General Meeting in February.

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Gene-W7UVH asked if we are supposed to receive notice when ORRC makes changes in their Band Plans. John-AA7UJ said they are tasked to communicate any changes but don't always do so. Gene-W7UVH asked where Deer Island is and there is a 2-meter repeater causing interference to Herman-K7PAG's operation. John-AA7UJ suggested that the problem be documented with our 2-meter Band Chair.

**Review of Band Plans:** John-AA7UJ asked Mark-N6OBY if any updates or corrections have been made known. Mark-N6OBY said that he has not received any at this time.

**Coordination Policies:** Steve-W7UDI reported that he was asked to look at the way Assignments of Coordinations are handled, and that it has been suggested by Jon-WR7JM that they should not require the Board to vote and membership approval. Mark-N6OBY stated his concern of transferring a coordination that is associated with a Group, and not being familiar enough with the group and able to validate the current Chief Office. He pointed out that this process was discussed in detail during the "Retooling" meeting that took place in 2000 and advised that we stand by it. Roger-W6TOZ suggested that we stay out of the middle of possible politics that go on within a club or group. Mark-N6OBY gave a recent example of several Assignments that were received by the Radio Club of Tacoma. Mark was not familiar with the name and signature and did some research to validate the fact that the individual was the current club president, and hoped that we would not run into a situation where someone would use falsified an application to request an Assignment. Ed-N7NVP disagreed and gave an example of a club who recently let their corporation status expire and a "splinter" group went to Olympia and said, "we are this group" and filed new incorporation paperwork. Herman-K7PAG said Ed's info was not completely accurate and that some of the people involved were current members and officers of this group and filed the paperwork after the club president changed the club call with the FCC. It was recognized that this is not related to what the WWARA does, but that we could get caught in the middle of a dispute. Mark-N6OBY said it would take less time and effort to do a simple change and avoid a Board vote and membership approval when the Secretary can verify the parties involved in an Assignment. Steve-W7UDI will draft some proposed language changes to the Coordination Policies to accommodate this. Steve-W7UDI also suggested that we consider a change to the coordination process so the Band Chairs validate the operational status of an applicant's operational prior to a recommendation for approval. John-AA7UJ said consideration should also be given for a process to identify a "dark" repeater and start a verification process to cancel the coordination of a non-working system if it is found appropriate to do so.

**Leadership Appreciation Dinner:** Mark-N6OBY made an apology for not getting this organized. He suggested that someone else should take the lead to organize this if the group decides they want to do it next year and to start earlier in the year. In lieu of working on this, time was spent testing different software programs to produce a repeater directory. Mark passed around two sample outputs from two different programs.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Elections for 2004 Board Members:** Membership Chair, Bob Lewis-W7AN, began the annual election process for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board Representatives #2 and #4.

- Nominations were opened for the position of Chair. Roger Hansen-W6TOZ nominated John Schurman-AA7UJ and Al Burlison-K7HW seconded. There were no other nominations. Ed Bruette-N7NVP moved to close nominations, seconded by Herman Entz-K7PAG. The vote was unanimous.

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- Nominations were opened for the position of Vice-Chair. Jon Marcinko- WR7JM nominated Bob Lewis -W7AN and Steve Szombathy-W7UDI seconded. There were no other nominations. Steve Szombathy-W7UDI moved to close nominations and Ed Bruette-N7NVP seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- Nominations were opened for the position of Secretary. Steve Szombathy-W7UDI nominated Mark McClain- N6OBY and Al Bureson- K7HW seconded. There were no other nominations. Jon Marcinko- WR7JM moved to close nominations, seconded by Ed Bruette-N7NVP. The vote was unanimous.
- Nominations were opened for the position of Treasurer. Roger Hansen- W6TOZ was nominated by Jon Marcinko- WR7JM and seconded by Bob Lewis -W7AN. There were no other nominations. Al Bureson- K7HW moved to close the nominations, seconded by Jon Marcinko- WR7JM. The vote was unanimous.
- Nominations were opened for the position of Representative #2. Steve Szombathy-W7UDI, was nominated by Al Bureson- K7HW and seconded by Rob Lee-K7TGU. There were no other nominations and Al Bureson- K7HW moved to close nominations, seconded by Steve Szombathy. The vote was unanimous.
- Nominations were opened for the position of Representative #4. John Schurman-AA7UJ nominated Earl Garber-N3EG and Al Bureson- K7HW seconded. There were no other nominations and Gene Colson-W7UVH moved to close nominations and seconded by Al Bureson- K7HW.

John-AA7UJ reminded that committee positions, including Band Chairs, are appointed and voted on by the Board via the remailer. John accepted offers to volunteer for these positions from the membership and Bob-W7AN has already surveyed the current volunteers. A discussion was held regarding the Financial Review Committee Chair position. Bob-W7AN would like to have someone take this over, ideally someone with a finance background who could not only oversee the annual review process, but also assist with suggestions for possible improvements to our general process and accounting structure.

Ed Bruette-N7NVP was given the floor to make several announcements. First, Ed said that today is National Skywarn Recognition Day, and Pete Policani-K7PP is hosting a check-in net today on his repeater system. Next, Ed mentioned that he wanted to take a picture at the close of the meeting of the new Board members. Third, Ed said that he and Marty-WB7AFV have been working on coverage plots within our Region 2 Homeland Security area. They will be providing the plots to our Regional Homeland Security Coordinator. Lastly, Ed provided an update on Broadband over Power Lines(BPL). Anyone working HF or 6-meters will be affected by BPL. Ed told how the office of the WA State Senate had contacted him to do a 15-minute presentation to the Senate Committee for Technology and Communications. BPL will use transmission lines to carry signals in the range of 1.8 Mhz up to 80Mhz. Field reports show the signal strength will be S9 @ 30 meters. Also presenting were industry representatives, followed by the PUD's. At the time of the meeting, it was thought that a PUD would do a trial system in Mason County.

The next meeting will be held on December 6, 2003 at 10:00 AM.

A motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 PM.

*Minutes prepared by Mark McClain-N6OBY, Secretary.*