

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes June 2, 2005

The June 2, 2005, General Membership meeting was held at the Mercer Island City Hall- Caucus Room. Chairman John Schurman-AA7UJ called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated. In attendance were: Mark McClain-N6OBY, John Schurman-AA7UJ, William Condon-WD6BFY, Bill Balzarini-KL7BB, Peter Dahl-WA7FUS, Steve Szombathy-W7UDI, Jon Marcinko-WR7JM, Al Burleson-K7HW, Herman Entz-K7PAG, Ed Bruette-N7NVP, Carter Powell-W7IAG, Bryon Gunnerson-WB0CZA, Jim Etwiler-KD7BAT, and Roger Hansen-W6TOZ.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion carried to approve the April 2, 2005, General Meeting minutes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mark-N6OBY advised that the complimentary copies of the ARRL Repeater Directories arrived and one would be provided to Board members, Band Chairs, and committee leads.

ADJACENT AREAS:

Nothing was reported.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Technical: Nothing reported.

6/10 Meters: Ed-N7NVP covered his Band Chair report.

2 Meters: Pete-K7PP submitted a Band Chair prior to the meeting, but was not able to attend. Mark-N6OBY reviewed the items for the group.

220 Band: Peter-WA7FUS reviewed the items on his Band Chair report. He will have a couple of recommendations to the Board in the next few weeks.

UHF Rptrs: Steve-W7UDI reviewed his Band Chair Report. Steve has eight applications that are in Test phase, four in Construction phase, and 6 in Pending status.

UHF Links: Jon-WR7JM submitted and reviewed his Band Chair Report. John-AA7UJ asked about the status of the application for the wideband packet system. Peter-WA7FUS said he heard the equipment is no longer in Seattle. Jon will follow up.

900/1.2: Mark-N7WPY provided a Band Chair report, but could not attend the meeting. There is nothing requiring Board action at this time.

NFCC: John-AA7UJ reported that the NFCC is coming out of the woodwork. Most of the Director positions have either expired, or are about to. They are discussing the focus of the NFCC and are talking about being an organization that is just a legitimizing group for coordination groups. It was discussed that the NFCC completely ignored two separate requests from the WWARA to assist with national issues, and it was suggested that the WWARA initiate correspondence to point this fact out while discussions to revive the NFCC are taking place. Ed-N7NVP commented that he fails to see any return on investment with the NFCC. Mark-N6OBY pointed out that the ARRL has ties to the NFCC and provides support to them by providing them with web space.

Bill-KL7BB asked if the Financial Review had taken place yet. John-AA7UJ commented that we are way out of compliance with the bylaws and need to find a way to get this accomplished. Bryon-WB0CZA offered to fulfill the "member at large" position requirement, and Bill said that Daniel

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KL7WM is still willing to participate. Bill will check with Daniel and get a date set with the Review committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statements were reviewed and approved as submitted. Mark-N6OBY commented that the receipt of the check from the ARRL for our data submission to their repeater directory pushed our net income to the positive side in this last period.

OLD BUSINESS:

1.2GHz Wideband Digital: John-AA7UJ had a discussion with Ray Novak with Icom and discussed the coordination issue with the spectrum that their D-STAR system uses is outside of the repeater sub-band and not something coordination groups would generally deal with. He did suggest that the WWARA could act as a "clearing house" by tracking the use of the frequencies as we are starting to do with repeater and link receivers, but not doing anything in the way of coordination. It was questioned about how many users would actually adopt Icom's system and if there would even be a need to consider how WWARA might be involved. John will keep us informed on further developments.

Financial Review: John-AA7UJ commented that from the previous discussion, it appears the review will be scheduled in the next week or two.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Discussion: Jon-WR7JM asked about the notification of our users (trustees) that a new application will be operating at or near the same site. The group felt that the Band Chair would have to do some research to see what other systems existence. Ed-N7NVP asked if there was any support in the database exists to search out nearby info. Mark-N6OBY said the Location field could be used, but there have been varying standards used thru the years that could make it difficult and suggested using Lat/Long coordinates. Peter-WA7FUS said the applicant has no reference to know what exists where. It was commented that the WWARA supplies current data to the ARRL Repeater Directory, and we still have a plan for an automated process to list our coordination info on the web. In the interim the Band Chairs and Board have real-time access to the database via the Admin Server to assist. Steve-W7UDI said he uses the tools available to help an applicant identify possible frequencies.

Other: Al-K7HW said he spent months monitoring 2-meter repeater outputs for activity. He identified one frequency that had no activity for over four months and the coordination had been expired for over a year. He was a little surprised to hear the repeater come back on the air after he submitted an application for use of the frequency, but intends to pursue coordination and has requested a co-channel letter from the Oregon user.

John-AA7UJ said our next meeting should be held on the South end. Al-K7HW said he would ask the Radio Club of Tacoma if the Clubhouse is available.

A motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM.

The next meeting will be held on August 6th, 2005 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Mark McClain-N6OBY, Secretary.