



WWARA

Western Washington Amateur Relay Association

WWARA General Meeting for December 2, 2023, 10:00 AM PT

Call to Order

The Chair declared quorum and called to order this regular general meeting of the WWARA Members at 10:01 AM PT on Saturday, December 2, 2023.

Attendees and Absentees

Officers in attendance:

- Grant Hopper, KB7WSD
- Scott Honaker, N7SS
- Kevin Bier, K7VI
- Doug Kingston, KD7DK
- Kenny Richards, KU7M
- Larry Watkinson, KC7CKO
- Josh Saran, N7WPM
- Peter Dahl, WA7FUS
- Dana KC7SDD

Members:

- Bob K6MBY (proxy for Chuck Story(?))
- Chuck KF7SCL
- Eugene AF7JM Chehalis Valley ARS
- Kirk N7UK, Shoreline District EC for King County
- Rob NR3O, 70cm/2m band chair
- Scott N7LOL
- Les W7UFI
- Others joined the Zoom call without obvious identification

Absences:

All officers and directors were present.

Meeting place: All attendees participated via this [Zoom](#) call. A recording of the meeting was created by Scott.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Opening

- A. **Introductions** – Roundtable of quick intros from all members, directors, and officers on the call. See: *Attendees and Absentees*, above.
- B. **Minutes from September 2023 General Meeting.** Dana KC7SDD moved and Doug KD7DK seconded that those minutes be accepted as on the wwara.org website. A majority of those present approved with no discussion or opposition.

Officer Reports

- A. Chairman Report (Grant) – Discussed progress over the year that included a successful search for Secretary.

Infrastructure initiatives:

- a. Banner: Built graphics for a portable banner to promote WWARA’s agenda and to identify our presence at various ham radio functions (e.g. SeaPac).
 - b. Whitepapers: Most recently, information about being a good repeater citizen on the air. Scott has produced several white papers on these topics.
MEMBERS: Please submit white paper ideas to Scott via email for other white papers we ought to produce.
- B. Vice Chair Report (Scott) –WWARA’s annual Election Day will happen later in today’s agenda.
 - C. Secretary’s Report (Scott/Kevin) – Scott and Kenny are helping Kevin come up to speed on filling the role of Secretary, whose responsibilities will include the full set handled historically, e.g. TDS intake, relevant database updates for applications, initial communication with applicants, handoff to the band chairs, etc. It is expected this transition will require some months to complete.
 - D. Treasurer’s Report – WWARA is fiscally sound with a balance of \$14,278.83, including all activity as of yesterday. No unusual expenditures over the past several months.

Current balance	2023-12-01
Checking	\$319.91
Share	\$5.18
Money Market	\$13,953.74
Paypal	
Current Assets	\$14,278.83

- E. Adjacent Administrative Areas:
 - a. IACC – none in attendance
 - b. BCARCC – none in attendance
 - c. ORRC – none in attendance

Committee Reports:

- A. 6M/10M Repeaters – Grant Hopper, KB7WSD – One renewal.
- B. 2M Repeaters – Rob Salsgiver, NR3O – Three applications 3 in process; 1 proposed, 2 testing, plus a couple new applications to be processed.
- C. 220MHz Repeaters – Peter Dahl, WA7FUS – One pending application (Cultus Mountain) already certified awaiting the end of winter weather to begin operations.
- D. 440MHz Repeaters – Rob Salsgiver, NR3O – 4 in testing, 1 holding for board vote, 1 for comments. Only moderate application activity compared to historical trends. Kevin and Rob to work together to improve application tracking and communication.
- E. 900MHz/1.2GHz Repeaters – Scott Honaker, N7SS – No new applications.

Updated 33cm band plan published: <https://www.wwara.org/documents/33cm-band-plan/>

Discussed **IARU 23cm reallocation**: IARU band changes likely in response to new European GPS satellites. No guidance yet from FCC. Assessment that it's likely US bandwidth will be reduced from 60MHz to 10MHz broken in two segments. Timing of new rules is not clear—could be years--but we should assume that a New Band Plan will be needed and that all current repeaters will be affected.

FOR MEMBERS: If you have an interest in helping with this, reach out to Scott.

- F. Database Enhancement Committee – Kenny Richards, KU7M – Postgres migration under way. Process documented. Plan to migrate to new AWS-hosted container over the holidays.
- G. Narrow-band Committee – KU7M (chair), N7SS, N9VW, K7SLB – All channels are laid out and band plans have been updated. We're ready to move forward to facilitate narrow-band applications as Trustees apply. It was proposed that the pace of change from 20kHz channel-sized repeaters be driven by Trustees and stated that we expect this transition to take many (five to ten) years.

The Committee should survey the Members to gauge interest in narrow-band and evaluate how quickly Trustees might want to make those changes and, particularly, to gather feedback about the transition that might be negative so we can learn about and better understand issues. The Committee is tasked with developing and conducting this (these) survey(s).

- H. Coordination Rules Sub-Committee – KD7DK, KC7CKO, NR3O – The Committee restated their purpose: To assess process and procedural improvements to drive efficiencies in making coordination changes. Such changes might include completeness of current application forms, what sort of changes trigger a re-coordination, updates to Policies, and improvements to communications with Trustees. Otherwise, nothing yet to report.

Old Business:

- A. Band chair recruitment (Grant) – We still have a couple band chair spots that want candidates. ACTION for everyone: Reach out to your communities, including folks who are thinking about putting up a repeater. Help us recruit! Send your ideas/candidates to Grant,

KB7WSD.

- B. Publishing the 900MHz band plan (Scott/Kenny) –It’s done. Intend to publish today to our website. The new format in Excel is MUCH easier to read and use. Kudos to Steve and Scott for that work.

In related news, an updated 2m plan is also being published soon by Rob/Scott.

- C. Band planning for 13cm, 5cm, 3cm – Kenny. The 5cm, including weak signal, is published. If there’s interest in 13cm and 3cm, we could readily leverage the 5cm work then vote on approval of those plans. That should be driven by interest from the Members.

New Business:

- A. WWARA Elections are conducted once a year in a General Membership meeting. Board Officers are elected annually while Directors hold their position for 2 calendar years where Directors 1 and 3 begin service on odd years while Directors, 2 and 4 begin on even years.

Nominations: Received a nomination for Director 2. No other nominations. Nominations were solicited from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

It was moved (Larry, KC7CKO) and seconded (Rob KR3O) to accept the following slate of Officers:

- Chairman – Grant Hopper, KB7WSD
- Vice Chairman – Scott Honaker, N7SS
- Treasurer – Doug Kingston, KD7DK
- Secretary – Kevin Bier, K7VI

There was no discussion. The majority voted to accept the slate. The slate of Officers is elected.

Being an even-numbered year, elections were held for Directors 2 and 4. Regarding qualifications, Director 2 should reside in the “metro” area, i.e. Snohomish, King, or Pierce counties. Director 4 is “rural”, i.e. anyone residing outside the “metro” area.

Director 2 candidates:

- Josh cannot run as he is term-limited.
- Nomination from the floor: Stan Nelson (Pierce).
- Nomination from the floor: Kenny Richards KU7M (King).

○ Vote:

Stan: In favor – 2

Kenny: In favor – 11

Kenny elected as Director 2 to serve a two-year term beginning 2024 (now).

Director 4 candidates:

- Larry is willing to serve again if there are no other nominees.
- No other nominations were presented.
- Vote:

Larry: In favor – 12

Larry is reelected as Director 4 to serve a two-year term beginning 2024 (now).

- B. The Schedule of 2024 Meetings was developed. All meetings will be held via Zoom starting at 10AM PT.
- Saturday, 02/24
 - Saturday, 05/04
 - Saturday, 09/28
 - Saturday, 12/07
 - ACTION: WWARA Meeting Calendar will be updated with Zoom link and Agenda link.

Adjourn

- A. The chair adjourned at 11:05 AM PT.