



NARS Board Meeting Minutes February 17, 2022

Northwest Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 11483
Spring, TX 77391

Board Attendance

✓ - In Attendance, X - Absent

Board Voting Privileged Officers		Board Non-Voting Associate Members	
✓	President: Ron Matussek, WA6TQH	✓	Admin. Secretary (Interim): Neal Naumann, N5EN
✓	Vice President: Paul Kent, KI5FJS	✓	Social Media Liaison: Sam Labarbera, N6HB
✓	Treasurer: Tom Hoherd, KK5YU	X	Public Information Liaison: John Parmalee, K5VGM
✓	Secretary (Interim): Brandon Rogers, K5BLR	✓	Webmaster: Bill Buoy, N5BIA
✓	Director: Rob Nixon, KD5BXZ	✓	Repeater Team Lead: Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF
✓	Director: Sam Labarbera, N6HB	✓	ARRL/VEC Liaison: Sheree Horton, WM5N
✓	Director: Kirc Breden, N5XJB	✓	Repeater Trustee: Paul Owen, N5NXS
✓	Director: Sheree Horton, WM5N		

Meeting Logistics

Meeting was held as an online session using special break-out room in ZOOM. Login info: 2815436502
PC: 123456 Thank you to Walter Holmes for allowing us to use his account.

Minutes

- I. Ron Matussek, President, WA6TQH called the meeting to order @ 7:02PM
- II. President's Opening Statements
 - a. Ron opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees
 - b. General Meeting this month "Awards Banquet"
 - i. Valley Ranch Facility @ 6pm – 9pm
 - ii. Programs are all printed and ready to go
 - c. There will be a Door Prize
 - d. The March General Meeting will be in-person at Station #3
 - e. In-process of signing agreement for Station #3 training room usage along with dates for this year's field day event
- III. Secretary's Report
 - a. Minutes from the January Special Board Meeting were reviewed.
 - b. Motion by Kirc Breden to accept minutes. Seconded by Tom Hoherd
- IV. Treasurer's Report
 - a. The Treasurer's report is included here:
http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/financial/TreasurerReport_Jan2022.pdf
 - b. Bank Account Statement is available from the Treasurer.
 - c. Notable line items
 - i. Our club's ARRL check cleared the bank on the 1st week of Feb

- ii. Ron Matusek asked if there were any outstanding invoices?
 - 1. One for the PO Box that is due by the end of the month for about \$198
 - 2. GoDaddy payment for Website
 - a. Tom and Bill Discussed the website payment and Bill sent/will re-send the invoice
 - 3. Some refunds for the Banquet have been requested for about \$300
 - a. Tom will get cash from the bank to cover
 - 4. Small amount (~\$50-\$100) for cables related to the repeater install

V. Administrative Secretary's Report

- a. Neal gave the Administrative Secretary's Report as follows:

ARRL members = 107

Non-members = 58

Total membership = 165

65 % of NARS members are also ARRL members

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

- a. Repeater Committee – Marty Fitzgerald

- i. The repeater is working well, however a couple of minor problems have cropped up

- 1. Repeater lost time for the first time in memory.

- a. Support forums indicate this is due to power problems or due to RF issues
- b. Marty proposes that we buy 2 additional 20A power supplies and use them to boost the power to the repeater. The repeater team will also check the grounding when installing the power supplies.
- c. The power supplies will cost about \$250.
 - i. Brandon Rogers motions to approve the payment
 - ii. Rob Nixon seconds the motion.
 - iii. Power supply purchase is approved.

- iv. **ACTION: Repeater Team to purchase and install power supplies**

- ii. There are a few receipts for cables that need to be reimbursed. Marty indicates that he will turn in the receipts and are around \$50-\$100.
- iii. Repeater registration needed to be worked out with the Texas VHF-FM Society Frequency Coordinators. Marty is working with the Zone Coordinator to get the paperwork finalized and will send a copy of the paperwork to the board members.

- 1. **ACTION: Marty to complete registration paperwork and forward to Ron, Paul, Brandon.**

- iv. Marty can work on connecting the repeaters to Allstar / DMR and we can configure it to be aligned with a talkgroup (3146211)
 - v. Paul Kent: How many hours has the repeater been on?
 - 1. About 3% utilization
 - 2. Paul has been listening the last couple of days and it has been dead quiet
 - 3. How do we boost usage on the repeater?
 - a. Sam Labarbera suggests rag chew net; He can post on all social media, if the board would like to proceed
 - b. When would be a good time? Start it at 11am – noon
 - c. Board agrees to start a rag chew net on the repeaters around 11am... name to be determined
 - d. **ACTION: Sam to start mid-day ragchew net on the new repeater**
- b. ARRL / VEC Liaison - Sheree has put out the results of the last VE session
 - i. Sunday, February 13, 2022, VE Test Session Results at 16140 Kuykendahl, Ste 118, Houston Texas
 - 1. We had 16 candidates taking 19 tests.
 - a. Element 2 tests given: 18; passed 1; Failed 15
 - b. Element 3 tests given: 1; passed 0; Failed 1
 - c. Element 4 tests given: 0; passed 0; Failed 0
 - 2. New or Upgrade Licenses: Technician 3 General 0 Extra 0
 - 3. Congratulations to:
 - a. Walter D Coney – New Technician
 - b. Louis B Odums, Jr – New Technician
 - c. Detric R Evans – New Technician
 - 4. Thanks to the Exam VE's in attendance:
 - a. Stephen G Protz KA5AUD
 - b. Marvin J Wilken KT4W
 - c. Field Day planning for June 2022
 - i. Request for Kirc Breden to continue to be the Field Day Lead/Coordinator
 - ii. Kirc agrees and recognizes that we need to start planning for Field Day
 - iii. Ron will reach out to the Fire Station and reserve the time at the station
 - d. VHF Net – Neal Naumann
 - i. Neal started script revision yesterday and report to the board when complete
 - ii. Attendance at the VHF net is about 20 on average
 - e. Weekly DMR Repeater Update – Sam Labarbera
 - i. Attendance is about 12-15 every week
 - ii. We are *begging* for individuals to help as Net Control Operators, but aren't getting any volunteers
 - iii. The board discussed handling of individuals that check in/out of the nets. Sam mentioned that he still calls on individuals that checkin/out.
 - iv. Broad agreement that our Nets need to be professional and engaging. There is no point in not participating in the Net, if you have checked in.

VII. Old Business

- a. Special meeting held to approve the use of the VHF 146.66 repeater for the Buffalo Regatta event & other special events.
- b. Equipment Park sale. Need to plan a park outing for get together to sell off excess equipment and of course social family time – great food! Also, a good time to set up some “Park communications stations”. This also requires an inventory of equipment currently stored in the mobile trailer. Need to assign a coordinator for this activity.
 - i. We need active/regular participation in setting club activities and overall direction. This park sale needs volunteers to help run it.
 - ii. There are two things we need to do to get ready:
 - 1. To help sell the equipment, we need to get an inventory of equipment
 - 2. We need someone to lead this up:
 - a. **ACTION: John Parmalee (tentatively) to coordinate the event. John needs additional volunteers to help**

VIII. New Business

- a. Presentations & Activities:
 - i. March, April Need person to take lead on these two meetings.
 - 1. March – **ACTION: Kirc Breden volunteered to get someone from ARES to talk to the club in March**
 - 2. April – Walter Holmes will present in April
- b. NARS Trailer
 - i. John Parmalee has proposal to update the trailer and use for advertising NARS. He also proposes park social time with breakfast and portable station operations.
 - 1. **ACTION: John will take lead on the advertising and coordinating these efforts**
 - ii. Process to transfer ownership/registration of trailer to NARS – Need person to take lead.
 - 1. Kirc Breden sent in the registration invoice for the trailer to Tom Hoherd.
 - 2. **ACTION: Paul Kent will take ownership of this item** as there may be some limitations on the club owning/registering the trailer based on how NARS is currently incorporated/legally organized

IX. Other Business

- a. Rob Nixon mentioned that while there was a suggestion of starting a Winter Field day, this already exists during the last full weekend of January.
 - i. Kirc Breden confirmed that we will be targeting participation in the Winter Field Day at the end of January 2023.
- b. Marty Fitzgerald indicated that he has a number of digital media files that could / should be transferred to club’s online storage and/or posted online.
 - i. **ACTION: Marty will get the media organized and sent to Brandon/Bill**
- c. Sam Labarbera recognizes that the CW Class listed on the website needs to come down and make sure that it isn’t listed in the newsletter.
 - i. **ACTION: Bill to remove the CW class from the website**

ii. **ACTION:** Brandon to remove the CW class from the newsletter

X. Meeting Closure

a. 7:58PM Meeting Closed