



# NARS Board Meeting Minutes May 20, 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: 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: Brandon Rogers, K5BLR	✓	Webmaster: Bill Buoy, N5BIA
✓	Director: Rob Nixon, KD5BXZ	✓	Repeater Team Lead: Marty Fitzgerald, W5MF
✓	Director: Kirc Breden, N5XJB	X	ARRL/VEC Liaison: Sheree Horton, WM5N
		✓	Repeater Trustee: Paul Owen, N5NXS

## 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 @ 6:03PM
- II. President's Opening Statements
  - a. Ron opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees
- III. Secretary's Report
  - a. The minutes from the previous Board Meeting on March 18, 2022.
  - b. Question on the approval for the Trailer Renovations not being in the minutes. Paul reviewed with the Board on this. Not a formal vote. The cost so far has been under \$100 and a formal vote has not been required.
  - c. A clarification was requested on Bill Buoy approving the minutes for the last board meeting. This was a typo in the minutes.
    - i. **CLARIFICATION: Must be a voting member to initiate or second motions.**
    - ii. Board confirmed that the motion was brought forward by several board members.
    - iii. Kirc mentioned he had motioned (seconded by another board member) and that this was likely a typo in the minutes... will be corrected in the minutes.
  - d. After review, Paul motioned to approve the minutes.
    - i. Tom seconded the motion.
    - ii. The minutes were approved.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
  - a. The following financial reports were presented to the board:

[http://www.w5nc.club/doc\\_repos/financial/TreasurerReport\\_Mar2022.pdf](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/financial/TreasurerReport_Mar2022.pdf)  
[http://www.w5nc.club/doc\\_repos/financial/TreasurerReport\\_Apr2022.pdf](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/financial/TreasurerReport_Apr2022.pdf)

Due to the lack of meeting in April, two reports were furnished.

- b. Trailer Registration
  - i. A question about who should be in charge of the Trailer Registration was brought up.
  - ii. Motion to have Treasurer to steward the Trailer Registration by Kirc.
    - 1. Second by Paul.
    - 2. Treasurer to manage Trailer Registration approved.
- c. Brandon motioned to approve the Treasurer's report.
  - i. Kirc seconded the motion.
  - ii. Treasurer's report was approved.

V. Administrative Secretary Report

- a. The Administrative Secretary indicated that due renewal reminders had been sent to all members who were delinquent or coming up for renewal.
- b. The current membership report is:

ARRL members = 103

Non-members = 47

Total membership = 150 (152)

2 of NARS members are also ARRL members

2 Outstanding members that whose membership needs to be added.

- c. Neal sent postcards/QSL cards to new members in the area, but we did not receive a lot of responses. 84 postcards were sent without any responses

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

- a. Repeater Committee report – Marty W5MF (Lead Repeater Team Engineer)
  - i. The NARS Repeater system continues to provide the community with reliable communications, increasing to 3 hours of air time.
  - ii. A request from Sheree Horton WM5N to use the system on Thursday evening at 630 pm every week for a traffic net was approved.
    - 1. The new Traffic net has been very successful, with several pieces of traffic being past successfully.
  - iii. Unfortunately, the "New Mid-day" net has not materialized. Marty needs to advertise more to see if he can get a net control for this. Any volunteers should contact Marty.
  - iv. A meeting to get an install date for the new power supplies and receive preamp has been tabled. Want to install new firmware/software on ARCOM at the same time.
    - 1. A new version of firmware/software for the ARCOM controller has been released that may solve memory leak issues. Marty is reading through the manual to determine adjustments.
  - v. Testing has begun on the DMR to AllStar Bridge that will link the NARS DMR talk group with the analog NARS repeater system.

- b. **ARRL/VEC Liaison** – Sheree Horton WM5N – VE Session Results
  - i. Sheree was not in attendance to provide the testing results, but provided these results from the April VE Session:  
  
[http://www.w5nc.club/doc\\_repos/meeting\\_minutes/2022/VE%20Session%20Reports/VE%20Session%20Report\\_20220416.pdf](http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/meeting_minutes/2022/VE%20Session%20Reports/VE%20Session%20Report_20220416.pdf)
  
- c. **Field Day planning for June 2022** – Kirc Bredon N5XJB
  - i. A new antenna captain is needed
    - 1. The board indicated that there may an individual that is willing to help
    - 2. Kirc will try to contact the individual
    - 3. John is willing to help but needs to step back a little from this role.
  - ii. Limited supplies from the POTA event carried over to Field Day
  - iii. Crank up tower coming from Lee Glassman
  - iv. Set up days and times
    - 1. 24 hrs. before field day (noon Friday)
    - 2. We have the location reserved (Fire Station)
  - v. Looking for VIPs; please let Kirc know if you know any VIPs that could be invited
    - 1. ARRL visitors
    - 2. Government officials
    - 3. Reporters
    - 4. Etc.
  
- d. **Weekly VHF Net Update** – Neal N5EN
  - i. The Net is going well and attendance continues to be good.
  - ii. Record broken 26 participants
  
- e. **Weekly DMR Net Update** – Sam N6HB
  - i. The DMR Net is continuing to go well
  - ii. 12-16 check-ins on average
  - iii. Added a new individual to serve as net control
  - iv. Some folks have reached out for help with configuring a hotspot
    - 1. Some help on the website (videos for NARS members)
    - 2. Elmers available and listed on the website
  
- f. **Update on Social sites** – Sam N6HB
  - i. There are currently 113 Facebook members
  - ii. Several posts have been made on Twitter and several interactions / engagements have been received from those posts.
  - iii. Sam asked if it was appropriate to announce Club meetings, VE sessions, and activities on social media.
    - 1. Board responded that it was good to so
    - 2. Sam will announce club meetings and VE sessions

## VII. Old Business

### a. Park Event

- i. Need a written report for the newsletter
  1. Suggestion that John Parmalee could write a summary for the newsletter
  2. **ACTION: Brandon to reach out to John for a summary**
- ii. Expenses for this activity should be <= \$100
  1. Kirc has about \$70 in receipts for food
  2. John has turned in receipts for \$46.51 for other expenses
  3. Reminder that expenses over \$100 require *prior* Board approval
- iii. Kirc expressed some frustration with being voluntold to cook
  1. Did not get time on his radios or to engage with the attendees because he was on the grill
  2. Suggested that activities such as this should not be managed this way
  3. Will not be able to cook in the future for events like this

### b. Trailer Project Update

- i. Snag: mechanical /electrical inspection, but unfortunately due to the election of the fire station, this has been delayed (until next week)
- ii. Expenses
  1. Mechanic has volunteered to buy what he needs, but small amount
  2. About 11 years since service
- iii. A motion was raised to fund/support the trailer project and the application for the ARRL Foundation Grant by Tom
  1. Second from Brandon
  2. Motion approved

### c. ARRL Foundation Grant

- i. Submitted May 13 for about \$20.5k
- ii. Paul expressed his sincere thanks to all the comments from the board and help from Ron to organize, proofread, and provide suggestions
- iii. If we do not receive the grant, it will be okay. We will go back to phased approach to trailer renovation

### d. Inventory Sale

- i. The Silent Auction went well
- ii. All equipment is ready and staged for pickup tonight
- iii. About \$140 of sales will go directly to the club

### e. Description of Club Expenses

- i. Will help members know where their dues are going
- ii. Available in the Newsletter

## VIII. New Business

### a. Presentations & Activities:

- i. May – Walter Holmes – Digital Voice
- ii. June – Field Day
- iii. July – Ron will be covering off-grid power options

## IX. Special Topics

### a. Recognition of Silent Keys

- i. Proposed for the club to provide recognition of SKs through the sending of flowers or other tokens of appreciation to funerals.
  1. Brandon moved for approval

2. Ron seconded the motion
      - ii. ACTION: Discussion on cost limits will be discussed at a later meeting after some research on appropriate cost levels has been completed.
    - b. NARS Email Reflector
      - i. A lot of complaints on reflector especially with attachments, rich text, and images.
      - ii. A proposal was made to begin using Groups.io to host the Club Reflector and move away from the mailman reflector
        1. ACTION: Bill Buoy was asked to do some research / initial investigation of Groups.io for use as a replacement reflector
        2. Vote on adopting Groups.io will be had at a later time.
    - c. Special Activities using the Repeater / Call Sign
      - i. Ron had asked repeater committee to work the policies and process for requesting use of the Club call sign (W5NC) as well as the use of the repeater system.
      - ii. Marty objected and referenced bylaws that VP should work issue, with repeater committee and trustee, and come up with a proposal
      - iii. Ron called for a motion to move forward with the VP leading the discussion around the repeater committee policies and procedures
        1. Kirc motioned
        2. Rob seconded
        3. Motion Approved
        4. ACTION: VP (Paul) will take action to work with committees and Trustee to create rules for using 1) the club call sign and 2) the repeaters.
- X. **MOVE TO CLOSE & DISMISS**
  - a. The Board meeting was closed at 7:12pm