



NARS Board Meeting Minutes June 15, 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 Matusek, WA6TQH	✓	Admin. Secretary: Neal Naumann, N5EN
X	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
X	Director: Kirc Breden, N5XJB	X	ARRL/VEC Liaison: Sheree Horton, WM5N
		✓	Repeater Trustee: Paul Owen, N5NXS

Meeting Logistics

Meeting was in person at El Rincon Mexican Restaurant starting at 6pm on June 15th, 2022.

Minutes

- I. Ron Matusek, President, WA6TQH called the meeting to order @ 6:05PM
- II. President's Opening Statements
 - a. Ron opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees
 - b. Going forward all Board Meetings will be independent from the General Meetings. Time and meeting place to be set at board meeting.
 - c. Ron recognized Paul Kent, KI5FJS, and Paul Owen, N5NXS, for their contribution in establishing the NARS Club repeater policies and procedures, included below:
http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/meeting_minutes/2022/Other%20Files/Steps%20to%20request%20to%20use%20the%20W5NC%20Repeater_DRAFT_202205.pdf
 - d. Lee Glassman is looking for anyone interested in supporting the "Greens Bayou Regatta". Please let Lee know if there is any interest in the club supporting this event.
 - i. This event will be held on Oct 8th (first Sat in Oct)
- III. Secretary's Report
 - a. The minutes from the previous Board Meeting on May 20, 2022.
 - b. After review, Rob motioned to approve the minutes.
 - i. Kirc 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_May2022.pdf
 - b. Some discussion was held about the PayPal's processing fees. A reminder to encourage board members to send the fees "as a friend" to reduce payment fees.

- c. Ron motioned to approve the Treasurer's report.
 - i. Brandon 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 = 107
Non-members = 48
Total membership = 155

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

- a. Repeater Committee report – Marty W5MF (Lead Repeater Team Engineer)
 - i. A Repeater Team meeting was held
 - 1. All team members were present
 - 2. Marty gave an overview of all the repeaters
 - 3. All team members now understand the total repeater system
 - ii. The team recommended and requests an email account for the Repeater team. This was provided by Bill.
 - iii. Marty is working with the repeater team to provide a 5-point plan for future Repeater Team meetings, including planning for the next 3-5 years.
 - iv. Future repeater team meetings will be scheduled (Tuesday or Thursday @ 4pm, preferred)
 - v. DECISIONS
 - 1. Repeater team does not recommend linking DMR to analog on the repeater system, full time.
 - vi. Status of Repeaters
 - 1. The repeaters continue to perform well with excellent coverage to the community.
 - 2. A complete rebuild and rewrite of the entire Echolink/Allstar/dvswitch software is almost complete. This was a major project that took Marty many weeks and hours to configure. The end result is a much more reliable and usable link.
 - 3. The on-air time for the repeater system is approximately 2.5-3 hours per week.
 - 4. Attempted to start a new morning net, but Marty has been unable to get any net controls or related interest. Dropped for now.
 - 5. Marty has reviewed the new firmware update to the controller and recommends that we do not upgrade at this time. Marty and the repeater team will go forward with scheduled maintenance as time permits.
 - vii. BOARD REQUESTS
 - 1. The repeater team requests approval of purchasing two power supplies (238.12) and preamp (90).
- 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 June VE Session:

http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/meeting_minutes/2022/VE%20Session%20Reports/VE%20Session%20Report_20220625.pdf

- c. **Field Day planning for June 2022** – Kirc Bredon N5XJB
 - i. Ready to go. Preparations for Field Day were discussed on the DMR net
- d. **Weekly VHF Net Update** – Neal N5EN
 - i. The Net is going well and attendance continues to be good.
 - ii. Average of 20 weekly 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. Net controls doing well and have a full rotation
- f. **Update on implementation of “groups.io”**
 - i. Cost of updated subscription is \$220 / year
 - 1. Discussed with the board on if we should collect donations or pay outright the fee for the upgraded subscription
 - 2. Payment would need to be configured through PayPal... ideally using the club PayPal account.
 - 3. Tom would be set up with “billing” privileges to configure billing with PayPal
 - 4. After discussion, Brandon motioned that the club pay the upgraded subscription fees.
 - a. Motion was seconded by Tom
 - b. Motion passed. Club will pay fees for upgraded groups.io subscription
 - ii. Bill has created several subgroups for several important sub-populations
 - 1. Officers (Voting members)
 - 2. Officers and Associate Members
 - 3. Field Day
 - 4. Repeater Committee
 - 5. VEC
 - iii. Bill created a set of rules to govern the groups.io reflector and posted them on the website: [W5NC Reflector Guidelines - Northwest Amateur Radio Society](#)
 - iv. Bill is working on getting calendar syncing with the google calendar. Will report back to the board with further progress updates as they develop.
 - v. Bill led discussion on several other points of operation, including, but not limited to, use of stick postings and subscription/membership management.
- g. **Update on Social sites** – Sam N6HB
 - i. There are currently 116 Facebook members
 - ii. Several posts have been made on Twitter and several interactions / engagements have been received from those posts.

VII. Old Business

- a. Trailer Project – No update
- b. ARRL Foundation Grant – No update
- c. Inventory Sale
 - i. A total of \$174 was made in the auction

- ii. Other equipment not sold will be thrown away or surplus
 - d. Update on Repeater Policies and Procedures
 - i. See previous topic
 - ii. Business can now be closed
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Groups.io reflector and fees for maintaining upgraded subscription – see previous discussion
- IX. **MOVE TO CLOSE & DISMISS**
 - a. Brandon moved to close the meeting.
 - b. Seconded by Rob.
 - c. Meeting adjourned