



NARS Board Meeting Minutes July 8, 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
✓	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	X	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 in person at Klein Fire Station #3 starting at 6pm on June 15th, 2022.

Minutes

- I. Ron Matusek, President, WA6TQH called the meeting to order @ 6:05PM
 - a. Official Welcome

- II. Secretary's Report
 - a. The minutes were reviewed from the previous Board Meeting on June 15, 2022.
 - b. After review, Paul motioned to approve the minutes.
 - i. Tom seconded the motion.
 - ii. The minutes were approved.

- III. Treasurer's Report
 - a. The following financial reports were presented to the board:

http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/financial/TreasurerReport_June2022.pdf
 - b. Tom donated to the groups.io group to ensure that this month's payment was made. Still need to pay for the year (\$220).
 - c. Some questions and discussion were brought forward on how to use PayPal to pay the fees.
 - d. The ability to pay for our ARRL insurance electronically was asked of the ARRL. The answer came back that they don't have the ability to take electronic payments. Will need to continue sending a check.
 - e. Ron motioned to approve the Treasurer's report.
 - i. Brandon seconded the motion.
 - ii. Treasurer's report was approved.

- IV. 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 = 47
Total membership = 154

- c. Neal asked about exploring the possibility of kickback from ARRL for renewing ARRL memberships with our club members.
 - i. May not be worth the effort as a fair bit of documentation / paperwork would be required.
 - ii. **DECISION:** Exploring this is probably not worth the effort

V. Silent Keys

- a. Mike Lavender AE5MZ
 - i. Memorial services for Mike have been scheduled for Saturday, July 16 at the Tomball VFW at 11am with full military honors.
 - ii. Flowers: \$150 Brandon Moves; Paul Seconds; Approves
 - iii. Paul Owen, as well as several other club members, intend to go to the memorial service
 - iv. **ACTIONS:**
 - 1. Paul Kent: Purchase a card and bring to general board meeting for signatures
 - 2. Paul Kent: Order flowers for memorial
- b. Greg Erlenbusch, W5IDX
 - i. No information has been received yet about a memorial service or funeral.
 - ii. Will send a card/flowers if that information is made available

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

- a. Repeater Committee report – Marty W5MF (Lead Repeater Team Engineer)
 - i. Repeater Usage: 2-3 hours per week
 - ii. A lot of traffic being passed via nets, especially since Field Day Some issues have been reported with the repeater and Marty has been troubleshooting:
 - 1. Appears that they may be keying up too quickly. Killed link between 444 and downtown repeater during traffic nets to see if this helps. Marty is watching this.
 - iii. Proposal for another tower location in Tomball
 - 1. Mike Pate is looking at it
 - 2. 2-3 hours of usage means it may not be worth it
 - 3. **DECISION:** With the amount of usage on our current repeater system, combined with our current range, acquiring more locations for repeaters is not something we want to pursue right now.
 - iv. Team is scheduling the time; pre-amp may help
 - 1. Neal expressed caution putting a pre-amp on the repeater as it can capture a lot of noise

- b. **ARRL/VEC Liaison** – Sheree Horton WM5N – VE Session Results
 - i. Sheree 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. **Weekly VHF Net Update** – Neal N5EN
 - i. The Net is going well and attendance continues to be good.
 - ii. Fewer check-ins than normal; about 14-15 check-ins during the last couple
 - iii. Discussion: Ron initiated a discussion about using scripts for conducting our nets and that it seems that scripts are not being used sometimes on our nets.
 - 1. Other members agreed that we should act professionally on our repeaters and during our nets
 - 2. Kirc reminded the board that, as some of the net controls, are new some of the deviation from the script may not be intentional but due to nerves or inexperience
 - 3. Paul suggested that we could do some training (i.e., reading the script with the net controls) to help practice.
- d. **Weekly DMR Net Update** – Sam N6HB
 - i. Not here – not covered

VII. Old Business

- a. Trailer Project – Need to get into contact with mechanic to see what can be done to start moving on the wrap
- b. ARRL Foundation Grant – Will take weeks to know the result. They are not commenting on the status of individual applications and we must wait until the final decision is made
- c. Update on Repeater Policies and Procedures
 - i. Paul Owen: Updates were made to more effectively manage the call and repeater. The draft version is included below and will be left for comments until the next board meeting.

http://www.w5nc.club/doc_repos/meeting_minutes/2022/Other%20Files/W5NC%20-%20Request%20to%20use%20callsign_DRAFT_202207.pdf

- 1. Reminder that the Trustee of W5NC is the board

- d. Post-mortem on Field Day Activities
 - i. Takedown needs more participation
 - 1. Suggestion that formal signups be used for Setup and Takedown
 - 2. Further suggestion that sign-ups can be made for operating time slots as well
 - ii. The General Meeting to prep for Field Day (July meeting) was missed because it was canceled. This served as an essential time for planning, signing up volunteers, and organizing the event.
 - iii. Kirc asked if it were possible to get a grill for the club or from someone else.
 - 1. General feeling in the room that the grill would not be used with enough frequency to warrant a purchase by the club, but sharing the responsibilities of cooking and providing the grill is welcome

- iv. QUESTION: Next year, should we stay at the Fire Station or go back out in the park?
 - 1. DECISION: We should stay at the Fire Station
- v. Other than those improvements, everything went well. Learnings from last year were applied, resulting in a much better setup

VIII. New Business

- a. Need a "Public Information Liaison" volunteer. John Parmalee K5VGM appears to have stepped aside.
 - i. DECISION: A new Public Information Liaison should be appointed.
 - ii. Suggest a replacement; Sheree interim replacement
 - iii. Request for volunteers to be made at the General Board, if needed

IX. General Meeting

- a. Next meeting – Material for next meeting
 - i. Solar powered station and information
 - ii. Quick recap of Field Day

X. **MOVE TO CLOSE & DISMISS**

- a. Kirc moved to close the meeting.
- b. Seconded by Rob.
- c. Meeting adjourned