

OCRA Board Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2023

Board Meeting Attendees – Bruce (N1LN), Dan (KR4UB), John (KX4P), Aurora (KN4VXB), Chris (KY4OU), Bill (N8BR), Dave (W4SAR), Karen (KD4YJZ), Lenore (KF4PAB), Mike (KN4ZXP), and Laurie (N1YXU)

After requested updates, the minutes from the January 24 OCRA Board Meeting were approved.

After addition of the callsign for one attendee, the minutes from the February 13 OCRA Membership Meeting were approved.

Note: Discussion is underway to determine the best way to save important documents on the website.

Discussion Topics:

- Status of the donated TS-450SAT – Bruce
 - Bruce has contacted Steve (K1ZX) regarding the discussion at the last BOD meeting.
 - Steve is aware that he will be picking up the equipment and will made the donation to OCRA. Steve has been out of town and not able to get the equipment.
 - This item is closed pending Steve’s availability to get the radio.
- Upcoming program status – Bill/John
 - Mike will be the presenter at the upcoming February 13 OCRA membership meeting. The program will focus on WinLink communications.
 - K9LA, who gave a presentation focused on propagation a few months ago, has several other topics that he can address. One example is the current sun spot status especially related to HF. John has not heard back from him just yet in terms of availability.
 - Others have suggested YouTube videos that could be presented. As we experienced at a recent meeting, showing YouTube videos at the meeting can be challenging based on intermittent internet connectivity and bandwidth issues.
 - John has restored an XS88 radio and could present his work at an upcoming meeting. In a recent edition of QST in the classic radio section, there is an article featuring Holicrafter(?) radios.
 - In terms of Field Day planning, the initial preparation (e.g. who will volunteer to be band captains, number of radios) will be done via email exchanges. The May OCRA membership meeting will have some time dedicated to Field Day discussion. The June OCRA membership meeting will be focused on the final planning for Field Day since the event will take place at the end of June.
 - Dave would like to give a drone presentation. This would need to have better weather and sunlight. This might be a presentation in either July or August.
 - The April meeting could include a 3D program from Aurora as show and tell. Bruce will send a request to the membership to see if there are others who might be

interested in presenting their projects at the meeting. Another possibility for April is an introductory discussion about Field Day for this year. Last year, at this time, we talked about the number of radios that would be set-up for the Field Day operation and the planned focus on training. It might be good to have a check-in with the membership to make sure everyone is on the same page related to this year's event.

- John and Bill agreed to put a preliminary schedule together for upcoming meetings. The list will be circulated to the board members via email.
- Repeater coverage testing – Bruce
 - A while ago, Bruce sent out an email to the reflector suggesting that we need to get a good idea about the repeaters that we have in the area and how people are able to get into them. This topic was brought up at the last membership meeting also about having a list of repeaters with the primary, backup, and additional repeaters included. The result of understanding who can hit which repeaters will directly influence updating our repeater plan.
 - During the February 25 AUXCOMM training net, Mark (KR4FM) suggested that he take the email that Bruce sent and turn it into an exercise that could be completed as a group effort. On Saturday, March 11, before and after the AUXCOMM net, those who are on the Zoom call will test their capabilities of accessing the specific list of local repeaters and the quality of their signals into the repeaters. The results will be documented and used, in combination with the topographic maps that have been put together, as information to help create an updated repeater plan. The repeater test would be open to members of both OCRA and DFMA.
 - A similar test has just been completed in Chatham County.
- RARSFest table rental status –
 - Thanks to John who has coordinated the tables. There are four tables that have been reserved. There are seven folks signed up to share the expense of the tables and the work involved. One reserved table is for Wilson Lamb and Paul Robertson. The second table is for Dave Belt, Bill Bischoff, and John Green. The third table is for Dee Ramm, and the fourth table is for Charlie Durst.
- Updated COVID policy –
 - Again, thank you to everyone who replied to the initial request for input to the COVID policy discussion. As stated previously, our intention is to review our policy periodically and ensure it is aligned with local, state, and federal guidelines and addresses the current status of COVID.
 - Special thanks to Aurora for her detailed input, shared resources, and discussion with a local epidemiologist.
 - This is a very difficult topic to address to achieve a balanced, informed decision while excluding the emotion that surrounds this issue. The proposed update is based on the best information that we currently have.

- Prior to this board meeting, Bruce sent the proposed update to the full board membership. The proposed update would allow both vaccinated and unvaccinated members to attend the meeting. There are many additional points made in the email and actions that we can take at our meetings. Several folks replied indicating they agreed with the update and did not see a need for any changes.
 - The updated policy includes some actions that can be easily implemented and/or continued to be followed –
 - The chairs for the meeting can be setup to allow for better social distancing.
 - We need to continue to respect anyone who chooses to wear a mask at the meeting.
 - Members need to continue to respect each other's health. If a person has been exposed to COVID, he/she should not attend a meeting until COVID testing is negative. If a person tests positive for COVID, he/she should not attend a meeting until testing negative and having followed health officials guidelines for self-isolating. Additionally, if a person feels ill, he/she should not attend a meeting.
 - The meetings will continue to be held face-to-face and also available on Zoom.
 - One recommendation that was brought up by experts who were consulted relates to having an air filter in our meeting room. The topic was brought up to drive a discussion about whether the filters should be considered and purchased by OCRA. The filters would be floor mounted and would be plugged in to run. Given the size of the room, we would likely need two units. Conservatively, the cost could be between \$250 and \$500. Additional research will be needed to make the decision. Consideration would need to be taken regarding whether the units make noise. Potential timing for the change would likely be for the April meeting.
 - There are some DIY (do it yourself) filters that are shown on YouTube. They may not be able to handle the volume of air that we would be dealing with; however, these homemade filters and fans are not noisy. Aurora will follow-up with a link and will do further research to understand the size of the room these filters will service.
 - It was agreed that the spacing of the chairs would begin at the March meeting.
 - The board approved the updated policy as discussed to be effective beginning with the April OCRA Membership meeting.
 - Bruce will send the updated policy to the OCRA/DFMA reflector indicating that the new policy will go into effect for the April meeting. The intention is that the membership will have the opportunity to read and understand the updated policy. It will also allow the membership time to determine whether they will attend future meetings in-person or via Zoom. The policy will not be included on the agenda for the April meeting; however, if there are questions about the change, they will be addressed.
- Treasurer's Report – Dan

- Bruce and Dan went to the Truist Bank where the club has a savings and a checking account. While they were there, Bruce was added as an authorized signer on the accounts. Both Dan and Bruce are now control entities and signatory entities with Truist Bank.
- It is important to recognize that our club's board officers are truly managing a corporation.
- Local credit unions are tied more closely to the housing market where interest rates have been increasing. One of these institutions is the Coastal Federal Credit Union. The club can open an account as a 51C organization.
- We have had money in a Truist savings account with an appallingly low interest rate. Funds from the Truist savings account (original balance of \$9,102.74) were transferred to the Truist checking account (\$2,076.74) to ensure access to funds if needed; to open an 18-month CD at the Coastal Federal Credit Union (\$7,000) at a 4.3% interest rate; and to open a savings account at the Coastal Federal Credit Union (\$25.00). A total of \$1.00 was left in the Truist savings account to simply keep it open.
- If we needed to close the CD prior to the maturity date, there would be an impact of having to pay the greater of \$25.00 or up to \$180.00 in interest. Essentially, the club would get its money back.
- The credit union will only allow one person to be a control entity since being able to have accounts at the credit union is based on personal membership. This is a different relationship from that at a bank. Dan is the control entity at the credit union.
- In order to open the credit union account for the club, there were several documents that had to be presented. These included the Articles of Incorporation; the Bylaws which identify the responsibilities of the club's officers; the 501C3 letter; and a copy of the January meeting minutes that highlighted the newly elected Board of Director members. Bruce and Dan had to provide their personal identification information as well.
- Repeater Update – Dan
 - Several folks have expressed the desire to get hands-on experience with repeaters. Paul Roberston, Mike Thorn, Ed Neely, and Jim Davis are among those who have voice interest. The experience would include building the spare repeater and spreading knowledge of overall repeater build and maintenance. Ideally, it would be good to make progress in this area during the month of March.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Meier, N1YXU
OCRA Secretary