

OCRA Board Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2022

Board Meeting Attendees – Bruce (N1LN), Bill (N8BR), Dan (KR4UB), Karen (KD4YJZ), Dave (W4SAR), Wilson (W4BOH), John (KX4P), Dee (KU4GC), Jack (KM4MBG), Aurora (KN4VXB), Mike (KN4ZHP), and Laurie (N1YXU)

The minutes from the April 5 OCRA Board Meeting were approved.

The minutes from the April 11 OCRA Membership Meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- Equipment Loan Program
 - This topic has been kicked down the road at previous meetings.
 - Steve Jackson (KZ1X) has suggested that we move from an equipment loan program to an equipment sale program. A few years ago, we tried to get an equipment loan program started. A piece or two of equipment have been loaned; however, there has not been a lot of traction.
 - Bruce introduced the discussion for the board members to consider –
 - Many OCRA members have large and small pieces of equipment that they would love to sell. A portion of the proceeds could be donated to OCRA, if the seller desires.
 - If there is interest, we would need to determine the way to have a consolidated list available.
 - Throughout the discussion, several board members made suggestions and comments
 - John commented that the list would include a simple description of the item, the suggested price, contact information for the seller, condition of the piece, and other pertinent information. The item could also be listed at a suggested price or best offer. John also recommended that the items be limited to being radio related or shortwave listening radios.
 - As Treasurer, Dan was very supportive of the idea. Historically, hamfest type sales (e.g. RARSfest) have resulted in donations directly to OCRA. He also commented that we should be able to put this type of process on the OCRA website.
 - Jack indicated that DFMA has tried this approach with a classified section of their newsletter. If people keep the items until the items are sold, the process works well. If people give others the items for storage, the process doesn't work incredibly well.
 - Wilson recommended that we avoid complications in having a process that would require management. It would be preferred if people would be responsible for selling their own equipment and monitoring the process. He

also recommended that items are offered “as is” or people are invited to test the equipment before purchasing.

- Dee liked the idea that the buyer would directly communicate with the seller. As the lead of the Membership Committee, Dee believes that an idea that we could lend equipment to new hams would be a good option to keep. They could be instances where loaning equipment to new hams would be a good idea.
- Bruce commented that he believes the size of the items would likely be smaller and not loanable; however, the seller could work with the buyer and determine if the equipment would be sold or loaned.
- Bruce agreed to research options that are available and report back at the May Board Meeting.

New Business:

• Treasurer’s Report – Dan

- As a result of sales at RARSfest, Joe (K4SAR) donated \$242 to OCRA. Thank you, Joe!
- While our bank balance has fluctuated slightly over time, the overall balance has remained fairly consistent. This suggests that the amount of our expenses and our income are fairly equivalent.
- If the equipment sales program is adopted, there would be an opportunity to increase our financial balance with proceeds from sales.
- A lot of components that we have purchased for the repeaters are going out of production. A key designer is retiring. The SCOM controller is the component that generates the voice heard for announcements. We have one spare SCOM controller for all the repeaters.
- Further information about repeaters in our area will be part of the July OCRA Membership Meeting presentation.

• 2022 Field Day Planning

- Vaccination Requirement -
 - The Board agreed that folks, who attend the in-person Field Day activities, are required to have been vaccinated against COVID. Attendees will not be required to wear a mask.
 - An additional statement will be made to ensure that if someone want to wear a mast, that person should feel free to wear one.
- Open Action Items from the April 11 Membership Meeting –
 - Porta-potty – Dan will contact the supplier
 - Site insurance – Dee commented that both OCRA and DFMA clubs are insured. Wilson has an additional insurance rider, and the cost is refunded by both OCRA and DFMA. Each club refunds 50% of the cost.
 - Food for the Event – After a significant discussion regarding food planning, the decision was made to have a Zoom call with everyone who will support the food planning and preparation. A summary of the outcome of that

meeting will be provided at the May Board Meeting. Thanks to John (call sign), John's wife, Jean, Dan, Dee, others for your work in this area!

- An antenna party is scheduled for May 7 at Bruce and Laurie's home. There were eight folks who indicated they will be attending. The plan is to inventory, test, build, and tune antennas that will be used at Field Day. The antennas will be disassembled and taken to Field Day.
- Bruce tested the bandpass filters on an antenna analyzer into a dummy load. They are all together and ready to go. To ensure that they are all returned after Field Day, when the bandpass filters are handed out, a list of who receives which bandpass filter needs to be put together. This will also allow tracking and follow-up, if needed.
- Dave will do a training for N3FJP. He will provide an update on the planning for the training at the May Board Meeting.
- Steve (W3AHL) will be coming back to North Carolina in May. He will need to know what software should be loaded onto the laptops, owned by OCRA, that will be used at Field Day. That decision needs to be made at the May Board Meeting.
- Several questions came up about equipment needs for the planned stations at Field Day. The program at the June Membership Meeting will focus on band captain updates that will include details of equipment for their stations. The expectation is that, if there are open areas and equipment still needed, the needs will be highlighted at the meeting.
- Hand wipes should be available at all the stations, food areas, and general areas at Field Day.

○ **Upcoming Programs for Membership Meetings**

- May – SKYWarn Spotter Training will be the main program. Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, will present. Bruce indicated that he will send a meeting reminder to OCRA and DFMA members. This meeting will only be conducted on Zoom. Aurora volunteered to monitor the OCRA 442.150 repeater to help anyone needing help to get into the Zoom meeting. Thank you, Aurora!
- June – Final Field Day Planning will be the main program. Dave will kick off the discussion. Each band captain will provide an update regarding the status of the station. Bruce will send an email with the format for the presentations and will help the band captains with their presentations, if needed. Hopefully, this will be the first post-COVID face to face meeting at the Baha'i Center in Efland.
- July – Tri County Repeater Analysis will be the main program. Dan and Bruce will present the information. They are planning on getting together for lunch to work through the presentation.

○ **Membership Retention**

- Dee is the lead for this committee and presented two draft documents, one targeted to get information from lapsed members and the other to gain insight and suggestions on retaining members.
- Dan had input from Dan, Jack, and Lenore in preparing the drafts.
- For the document that targets understanding why people are leaving, there are three major reasons driving the structure of the document – Not satisfied with what OCRA does for them (likely can address), not satisfied with what ham radio does for them (may or may not be able to address), and outside reasons (not in our control).
- Since feedback for this survey would come from folks after they left the club, we may need to add an incentive for them to provide feedback.
- The suggestions for membership retention focus on actions that we can all participate in – greeting everyone who attends a meeting, wearing name tags at meetings, introduce new members/guests at the meeting, hold special meetings/events for new members.
- Dee will distribute the draft documents to those in attendance and ask for their feedback. An update on the feedback and next steps will be provided at an upcoming Board Meeting.

○ **OCRA HamPiE & NC Near Space Presentation**

- Special thanks to Aurora for coordinating and hosting the recent OCRA HamPiE and NC Near Space Presentation!
- The presentation has been posted on our OCRA YouTube Channel and has had over 70 views!