

OCRA Board Meeting Minutes – Nov 29, 2022

Board Meeting Attendees – Bruce (N1LN), Dan (KR4UB), John (KX4P), Dee (KU4GC), Aurora (KN4VXB), Jack (KM4MBG), and Laurie (N1YXU)

The minutes from the November 29 OCRA Board Meeting were approved.

There were no membership meeting minutes to be approved since the OCRA Christmas party was held on December 12.

Discussion Topics:

- Christmas Party Comments – All
 - The comments at the party and since the party were very positive.
 - It was a truly great team effort. Thank you to everyone who stayed after the party and helped clean-up!
 - The recipe collection will be sent to everyone as soon as possible. There were a few recipes that were just received before the board meeting.
 - Reimbursement for party expenses are also being finalized. Those who have requested reimbursement will be issued checks shortly.
 - Suggestions for next year's party include having a list of club accomplishments and programs that were presented to go through with the attendees. This would highlight some activities (Field Day, fox hunts) and show what the group has done.
- Update on Officers/Directors nominations – Dee
 - Everyone who is currently serving on the board is up for re-election. Note that this includes the board members who are serving their final year of a two-year term since they have agreed to serve an additional year.
 - Chris Ferrer (KY4OU) has agreed to be on the slate as a new director.
 - With Chris' nomination, that would give us a total of six directors, which is within the agreed number of directors.
 - The election will take place at the January meeting.
- January Show and Tell Program Update – John/Bill
 - Bruce will send an email to ask for additional presenters for the planned January Show and Tell program. At this point, Boyd Hudson (KO4GJO) has volunteered to present his "Birth of a Ham Station", and Mark (KR3AM) has indicated that he will present information about an LED digital clock that he built. Bruce and Dan have presentations in their back pockets that could be used if needed. It would be nice to have new folks present at the meeting.
 - Aurora also mentioned that she is working on a project that could be included in the program. If she gets it to work, she might volunteer.
 - Mike Thorn will present at the February membership meeting. The exact focus of his presentation needs to be clarified.
- Safe Deposit Box/P.O. Box Keys Discussion – Dan

- We should have two board members who have the ability to get to our safety deposit box and to our post office box. In the past, Dave (W4SAR) was one of the folks who had access to both. Unfortunately, the keys that Dave used have been misplaced and need to be replaced. There is a fee to replace them. The cost to replace the safety deposit key is \$25, and the cost to replace the P.O. box key is \$14. Dave has agreed to reimburse OCRA for these expenses. Dan will take the action to get the keys replaced.
- Separately, it would be good to have a second person (other than the Treasurer) to sign checks and be available, if needed, for a second signature on documentation. Based on the job descriptions of the club officers, it seems that the OCRA President would be the second person. The President is responsible for signing all important documents.
- The suggestion that the two folks who have signatory authority and the keys to the safety deposit box and P.O. box are the Treasurer and President. There would be an exception if the Treasurer and President were members residing in the same household. The process of identifying the two board members with these responsibilities will be part of the January election process.
- The suggestion, outlined above, was approved.
- Process to sell the donated TS-450SAT – Bruce
 - Steve (KZ1X) received for OCRA to sell a donated TS450SAT. A great price for the equipment would be \$450 since there have been similar pieces of equipment in poorer condition and without the optional filters that have sold for \$400. The power supply itself often sells for \$100. The equipment includes a TS-450SAT, microphone, manual, and Samlex SEC-1235M. It also has the phone and CW filters in both IF stages. Bruce has seen the radio which is somewhere in the neighborhood of 12 to 15 years old. It looks in good condition.
 - It would be great if the equipment could go to someone in either OCRA or DFMA. Bruce suggests that whoever picks up the equipment from Steve would have the equipment on the air and available for a demonstration for anyone who might be interested in purchasing it. If it doesn't sell to someone from OCRA or DFMA, Wilson has the ability to post items to the RARS swap list.
 - A note, including pictures, can be sent to the OCRA/DFMA reflector letting folks know that the equipment is available.
 - John volunteered to pick up the equipment from Steve, take pictures, and allow folks to come over to his house to test the equipment. He will send the pictures to Bruce to post on the OCRA/DFMA reflector. Bruce will follow-up with Steve to let him know the agreed plan.
- Officer Reports

- DFMA Representative – Jack
 - Currently, DFMA has a full board. In August, there will likely be a vacant position that will need to be backfilled.
 - Since a few months ago, a third party has been handling DFMA's US Post mail. The company opens mail, scans it, and follows through with any actions needed. Dues payment has been successfully managed by the company through forwarding payment to the bank for deposit.
 - Jack would be more than happy to provide any information about the benefits DFMA had when it changed banks. The change happened a while ago but might be helpful as Dan is considering changing banks for the OCRA account.
 - For many years, there has not been a true interest in using and maintaining the MCU. A board decision has been made to dispose the MCU after valuable equipment is taken out. The annual savings to DFMA will be over \$1,000. The anticipated time for the MCU disposal is not yet known. Bruce expressed OCRA's thanks to DFMA for the use of the MCU at Field Day operations and understands the benefits of the decision to dispose it. If there is a work party to get the MCU into a condition for disposition, we could ask for OCRA volunteers to help.
- Secretary – Laurie
 - The collection of recipes from the recent OCRA Christmas Party will be put together and distributed as soon as feasible.
- Director – Aurora
 - The next two meetings of the Ham Pi group will continue to go on shop tours. Then, the meetings will be regular meet-up sessions.
 - Aurora is considering a different type of fox hunt for the Spring. It might be an ongoing fox hunt that would last several weeks. One person would initially hide the "fox". Whoever finds the "fox" would then hide it. This pattern would continue for a series of weekends. The issue might be finding or making a relatively inexpensive transmitter that could stay outside for a long period of time and not get damaged by the weather or eaten by a critter.
 - Jack started a CW, meet-up club. Members will be doing a 10-30 challenge. Each member of the group keeps track of the number of days that he/she does 10 minutes of practicing CW. Updates are given to the entire team. When all members of the team reach 30 days of practicing, they get a reward like going out for ice cream. This idea came out of a conversation at Field Day. The end goal is for a mystery RPG (role-playing game) to be run somewhat in CW to understand the clues.
- President – Bruce

- Depending on the number of volunteers we get for the January Show and Tell presentations, we may have time to discuss goals for 2023. We could solicit input for ideas from the club members.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Meier, N1YXU
OCRA Secretary