

Columbus Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2015

2015 officers are as follows:

President, Lew - KC9NKB
Vice-President, Matt - KC9BWO
Secretary, Jim - WA9TGO
Treasurer, Lois - KA9IOS
Director, Gary - KD9SB
Director, Kim - KC9PLT

Minutes: Jim (WA9TGO) read the May meeting minutes because they were published to the CARC79 list at the last minute. We still don't know where the binder of old Meeting Minutes, Bylaws and the Constitution is located. Cheryl (KC9UFL) or Kim (KC9PLT) may know where it is. Lois (KA9IOS) was going to ask them. Lois had proposed naming Sandy N9HKS) as an alternate signatory for checks the previous month, but we weren't sure of the rules. The constitution states "The Treasurer shall propose an alternate signatory for the bank accounts – pending approval by the Board." So we didn't have to vote on it. The minutes were approved as read.
Motion (WD9HTN), Second (KC9BWO)

Treasurer's Report: Lois (KA9IOS) presented the report. It was approved.
Motion (KF9IH), Second (WA9TGO)

Trustee Reports:

2 Meter Repeater: Marion (WD9HTN) had installed a new Polyphasor and sent the old one back to be tested. It tested good, has been returned, and we can use it as a spare.

440 Repeater: Joe (KA9OPL) reported he and others changed the PL tone to 103.5 Hz, per IRC's request, and installed a 12 volt backup battery. We may now be getting the same emergency power warning beep as the 2M repeater. The way the repeaters are connected to 12 volt power was discussed. They might be monitoring the secondary power instead of the primary input. Joe is ready to go out to the repeater again with Marion to reprogram the repeater option controls that remotely turn the PL tone on and off, etc., and will recheck the power monitoring setting. Echo Link is back up on the repeater. SCICSG completed the May mowing, and Joe thanked them. Ken (KX9U) reportedly has a custom gasoline blend that really made those gas line trimmers spin!

Hamfest: Matt (KC9BWO) reserved the normal building for April 9th for next year's hamfest. As previously reported, costs have increased. The reservation deposit was \$350. Rental will be \$800 for Saturday and Friday setup. If we wait to 6 pm Friday to start setup, they will reduce it to \$575. That's how he set it up. We will also provide a \$650 cleanup deposit check which they will return if we clean up and we don't damage the building. Since the hamfest is later next year, we will have to renew the liability insurance before the hamfest. Incidentally, the insurance contract we provided this year listed us as the Columbus Amateur Radio Club ... of Columbus Georgia! Matt will look into using the Conservation Club building for VE testing as we have in the past. We got bumped out of there at the last minute this year, but Matt made space available for testing at the north end of the building and it turned out ok.

Field Day: Joe (KA9OPL) will setup in the gazebo in his complex using commercial power. He invited others to join him there. SCICSG may setup at Cereland or a church at Taylor and Rocky Ford road.

Old Business: Nothing else.

New Business: Gary (KD9SB) will be giving a talk about his QRP transmitter and simple inverted V antenna up at Mid States on June 20th at the Johnson County Emergency Management center. This was the one from his August 2012 CQ article “QRP in the South Pacific” which is on our website CARCNET.net. OCEAN NAVIGATOR published his story on it and his sked in 2014 with his friend in the Bahamas and then came up with their Low Power Radio Challenge. They published his schematic and parts list on their website as a backup radio construction project for navigators who are hams. Gary has an update for it. Email him if you want a copy.

Kevin Walker, Director of Technical Strategy and Innovation at Cummins COB is working with Economic Development folks, Chamber of Commerce, IVTECH, and IU School of Engineering to develop, by the end of the year, a Makers Space or Fab Lab where students could build projects and receive assistance. For more information contact Qualityguru@hotmail.com.

Mike Tensley passed his Technician license test and almost passed his General license test.

Joe (KA9OPL) is interested in learning about the Raspberry Pi computer.

Meeting adjourned: Motion (KF9IH), Second (WA9TGO)

Submitted by: Jim (WA9TGO), Secretary

gave the Hamfest report and there was considerable discussion about possible changes. Since the Hamfest ended earlier this year, not as much lunch food was sold, but we ran out of biscuits and gravy early. Next year, more gravy and fewer hotdogs. Pie and even cookies didn't sell too well either! Matt thanked everyone who helped out. Jim (WA9TGO) won the HT main door prize. Thank you! We had about 385 attendees and made about \$1200. But: New management at the fairgrounds are changing the way they rent out the buildings.

We were paying \$475 for Saturday and Friday night setup plus a \$50 refundable reservation deposit and a \$100 security deposit which was returned as long as we cleaned up and there was no damage to the building. For next year, they want a \$350 reservation deposit, \$400 for Saturday plus \$400 for Friday night setup, and a \$650 security deposit, (as well as a copy of our liability insurance contract). The deposits will probably be refunded after the Hamfest, but we will still end up paying \$325 more than in the past because of the Friday night 3 hour setup. Several alternate ideas were discussed: Trying to rent for 24 hours 2PM Friday to 2PM Saturday. Appealing to the Fairgrounds Board that we are a nonprofit organization. Trying to find another suitable location. Etc. But, the Fairgrounds is a good, suitable, well known location with a kitchen, rest rooms, and chairs and tables that we don't have to rent and haul back and forth. Table rental alone would probably cost at least \$600 plus pickup and delivery – or we would have to haul them back and forth.

We also usually pay \$50 to use the Ag building for license testing, but we got bumped out of there, and another group tried to bump us out of the main building for their car show – but our reservation prevailed. Since a few tables hadn't been sold, Matt made room for the testing session at the north end of the building. That seemed to work out ok. It was finally decided that Matt should go ahead and reserve the regular building for next year, and we could be looking for a possible alternative for 2017. Josh (KC9YUA) made a motion which was discussed and modified: Lois should provide Matt a check for \$350 so he could rent the building for next year (around April 2 or 9, but not Easter weekend) and make the deposit to secure it. Jim (WA9TGO) seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: None.

New Business: A few months ago, we voted to send a check for \$25 to their charity of choice when a member's close relative dies. (W9SML) Steve's father and (N9CJT) Noel's mother died and Lois wanted clarification before she sent the checks. This brought to attention the fact we don't have the book of old minutes at the meeting. Hopefully Kim (KC9PLT) or Ken (KX9U) has it. ??? Lois will investigate.

Joe (KA9OPL) put last year's minutes up on the new website: CARCnet.net

Lew relayed that Jim (N9KVX) reported the new HF dipole antenna is up at the EOC and that they used up all their funds in doing so. Jim is planning to have a table at Cummins CTC Safety Fair on National Safety Day, June 2, to explain how RACES helps in times of emergency and try to raise some money. He asked for assistance. Jim (WA9TGO) works at CTC and plans to assist. Also, the EchoLink on the 440 repeater is still down.

Joe asked if there were any Field day plans. If nothing else, he will probably set up in the gazebo at his place at Stonecrest on battery or commercial power. At the time of the Hamfest, SCICSG apparently hadn't decided what they were going to do.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by: Jim (WA9TGO), Secretary