



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 14, 2014, at Shady Nook Hall, Red Deer County, Alberta.**

**The meeting was called to order at 13:25 hours by President Jeff Low VA6JL.**

**Members of the board of directors present:** President, Jeff low VA6JL, Vice-President Ray Semenoff VE6RHS, Treasurer and Past President, Garry Jacobs VE6CIA, Secretary, Graham Walker VE6GW, Directors: Ian Burgess VA6EMS, Bill Guthrie VE6OLD (14 members and estimated 5 guests – unfortunately guests did not sign in)

All those present introduced themselves.

**Minutes** of the June 15, 2013 meeting had been posted on Website and copies were circulated. **Moved by Ian Burgess VA6EMS and seconded by Bill Guthrie VE6OLD that the minutes be adopted as circulated subject to any amendments or corrections. Carried**

### **REPORTS**

**President's Report:** Jeff Low VA6JL reported that since last AGM, most of effort has been spent in maintaining the system and planning for the future. To give an update on some of the repeaters:

The Olds group (VE6OLS) have linked in with their own repeater. Three Hills is also linked in and the VE6YXR is very close pending some technical issues with the controller. Limestone hub repeater VE6MTR is built, tested and ready to install once we have access at the site. The next one planned is the Brazeau Hub.

**Vice-President's Report:** Ray Semenoff VE6RHS added that VE6MTR (both VHF and UHF) is currently in his garage and has been operating without problem over the winter. It will be installed once snow clears about mid July with 4 bay UHF and VHF antennas. The Brazeau repeater is also built and ready to go. It was clarified that this is not in Brazeau Dam area but a high point at Brazeau Lookout.

Ray also mentioned that one of his tasks has been dealing with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency. AMEA has an emergency broadcasting system that feeds into most of the radio and TV stations in the province that is used in the event of emergencies such as floods, etc. It is intended that the audio feed will also go out over the SARA system to the relevant region. Process is that the appropriate links will be brought up by DTMF, the announcement will be made, and then the links will be brought down by DTMF. Obviously anyone listening to the backbone will hear the broadcast no matter where. The RCMP has also requested that the same process be made available for broadcasting Amber Alerts. Ray on behalf of SARA agreed. Testing will occur on Monday. As this is done by computer and is a broadcast, AMEA has a dispensation from Industry Canada to allow this. Ray has copies of the correspondence.

Regarding VE6OIL, Ray mentioned the issue with RCMP intermod, due to the RCMP repeater being less than 100m away. According to Ian, mixing seems to occur in heavy atmosphere conditions. RCMP added some pass cans and that seemed to work until a few weeks ago. One of Ray's plans is to go to the site and do a proper RF inventory of the OIL repeater.

**Treasurer's Report:** Garry Jacobs VE6CIA reported that during the year there had been some problems as the treasurer elected at the 2013 AGM failed to perform his duties and there were some concerns as payments for insurance, etc. were due. However that was resolved and the treasurers books were passed onto Garry who had offered to step in as treasurer. Garry transferred the details to Quickbooks and everything is in order.

Balance as of May14 (latest) was: PayPal account - \$2772.14; Chequing Account (30 April) - \$11,082.24; GIC's - \$35,577. At year-end (November 30, 2013), balance was: PayPal was \$21.18; Chequing Account \$12,621; GIC was \$35,000.

**Moved by Ian Burgess VA6EMS and seconded by Howard Hepburn VE6GT that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Carried.**

There was some discussion re appointment of auditors as the ones appointed last year were not available and two had to be selected at last moment. **Moved by Rita Haugh VE6RIT and seconded by Ray Semenoff VE6RHS that the executive be given authority to appoint auditors to review the books for next year.**

#### **Special Reports:**

Garry VE6CIA and Jeff VA6JL had volunteered to look onto acquiring a 310C4 (4 bay UHF) for VE6MTR. Garry reported they approached Bruce at Comgroup who determined cost of a new one was \$1095, but indicated that there might be a used one available at ½ price. One in good condition was found and price agreed to was \$400 plus GST.

Some of the Glentel sites were bought out by Signum Wireless and a site information sheet was requested from them. Garry reported that these have been filled out and passed onto Signum with the SARA mailbox given as contact address. He also mentioned that Comgroup has taken over some other Glentel sites.

Garry mentioned that a 210C4 antenna has been found to replace the 210A4 at Limestone.

#### **Other Business:**

Graham VE6GW asked if SARA will be doing something regarding Tony Toews VE6MVP stepping down from membership. Ian VA6EMS had volunteered to handle membership, and reported that he has the database; however there were some issues regarding access to the e-mail server that will be resolved. That was one reason that the AGM notice was not sent out.

Ray VE6RHS gave a short overview of the reasons why Tony had to step down and members expressed appreciation for Tony's long time contribution to SARA.

**Moved by Ian Burgess VA6EMS and seconded by Howard Hepburn VE6GT that SARA send a formal thank you to Tony and that the executive spend up to \$100 (as amended) for a suitable way of recognizing for his valued work in handling the SARA membership. Carried.** (It was noted that the executive was changing, the new executive would have to ratify the motion passed at the AGM.)

#### **Election of Officers:**

**President:** Jeff Low VA6JL offered to stand again for the position of President. With no other nominations, **Jeff Low VA6JL was elected as President by acclamation.**

**Vice President:** Ray Semenoff VE6RHS offered to stand again. With no other nominations, **Ray Semenoff VE6RHS was elected as Vice President by acclamation.**

**Secretary:** Graham Walker VE6GW offered to stand again. With no other nominations **Graham Walker VE6GW elected for the position of Secretary by acclamation.**

**Treasurer:** Garry Jacobs VE6CIA offered to stand again. With no other nominations **Garry Jacobs VE6CIA was elected as Treasurer by acclamation.**

#### **Directors:**

The following were proposed as Directors:

Kiernan Burr VA6IP (absent, but Jeff indicated Kiernan would allow his name to stand)

Ian Burgess VA6EMS allowed his name to stand

Gern Sabourin VE6KG (absent and apparently out of contact)

Ken Oelke VE6AFO (absent, but Jeff indicated Ken would allow his name to stand)

Bill Guthrie VE6OLD (declined)

Brian Crisal VE6BCA (declined)

Andrew Stott VA6AWS nominated from floor

**The following Directors were declared elected by acclamation.**

**Kiernan Burr VA6IP**

**Ian Burgess VA6EMS**

**Ken Oelke VE6AFO**

**Andrew Stott VA6AWS**

As the executive has the power to fill any unfilled position, it was suggested that Gern Sabourin VE6KG be asked if he is interested in filling a Director position.

**The meeting was adjourned at 14:08 hours.**