



Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held 13 April, 2014 by teleconference.

**Members present:** Vice president: Ray Semenoff VE6RHS (as chair); Treasurer and Past president: Garry Jacobs VE6CIA; Secretary: Graham Walker VE6GW; Directors: Gern Sabourin VE6KG and Ken Oelke VE6AFO; and Membership: Tony Toews VE6MVP

**Meeting called to Order by** Ray VE6RHS at 13:46 hours.

**Minutes of 1 February, 2014** had been sent via e-mail. **Moved by Garry VE6CIA and seconded by Gern VE6KG that the minutes be adopted as distributed. Carried.**

#### **EXECUTIVE AND MEMBERSHIP REPORTS:**

**President:** President Jeff Low VA6JL had been called away so Ray chaired the meeting.

**Treasurer:** Garry VE6CIA reported as of end of Feb, 2013, Chequing account had \$11,123.63, but he had not been able to access the PayPal account. Ray will forward PayPal account details again. Remainder of financial information is unchanged from last minutes.

**Vice President:** Ray had made a presentation on the SARA system at the Calgary CARA flea-market/Ham University session that was well received. It was about 1 hour long and he went into technical details including types of radios and some of the issues we have run into. He will also be making same presentation to NARC at upcoming meeting. He also has a meeting with Kevin of AEMA on coming Tuesday morning to discuss possibility of broadcasting emergency alerts over SARA network. According to Garry, Kevin is from BC and new to Alberta and is the appropriate person to meet with. Ray will e-mail result of the meeting to members of the SARA executive. Tony asked about the process for initiating alerts. Ray will give AEMA an overview of how the system works to help figure the best way of interacting. AEMA apparently already asked Industry Canada about issue of broadcasting such alerts and has received approval.

**Membership:** Tony reported membership as 82 including 9 family.

**Others:** Little or nothing to report.

#### **REPORTS ON REPEATER STATUS:**

Ray reported that he installed a UHF repeater operating on 442.900MHz at VE6OIL in Calgary. It is hot wired to the backbone at all times with the usual VHF drop that can be connected as required, in a similar manner to VE6NHB in Edmonton. Also at OIL, the bad antenna was pulled off the tower and Ian VA6EMS has looked at it. He figures that the only problem is that the connector got torn off the end of the cable. Ian will replace connector and have it on site in readiness for riggers when they go up in May. Ian is not sure if there might be an additional cost for doing this work, but will probably be not that much.

Ray reported that the VE6AAP UHF repeater in the Buffalo Hills (what we call Vulcan) is still in a bad state of repair. It is slated for rework/ replacement /maintenance later this summer once the snow disappears. For the time being, the OIL repeater, instead of going through AAP, has its link radio tied back to Carstairs and North, so that anyone listening to AAP will not hear OIL stations (and vice versa). Garry reported that the Vulcan site has been sold by Glentel to Signum Wireless and they call it Arrowwood AB1001. They have Garry's information and the SARA PO Box as contact. Ken filled out the form on Garry's behalf.

Graham asked about an update on VE6MTR. Ray reported it is working at the 23Ave location and will require a UHF antenna once the package is ready for installation in June when it is accessible. Garry has no news on possibility of acquiring (scrounging) a 4Bay antenna, so we may have to buy one, and suggested we might wish to make a motion to approve a purchase if necessary. Tony mentioned that there is an 8 Bay UHF antenna at

Vermilion (actually at Don Henry's) and was asked to forward the information. It is 16-20 ft long and Garry considered it might be too much for the tower and we should stick to a 4Bay. **Garry VE6CIA moved, Seconded by Graham VE6GW, that we obtain a Sinclair 310C4 at a cost not more than \$3000. Carried.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Graham brought forward the recommendations he made regarding process for handling inquiries to SARA: See minutes of 1 Feb, 2014:

**“It is suggested that inquiries be separated as; 1. SARA Repeater related and; 2. Non-repeater related. In the first case they would be forwarded to a specific member of the executive (default being the President) and be copied to the rest in cases where there is some uncertainty. For instance - someone in/or around Edmonton would be designated for inquiries North of Red Deer; someone in Central Alberta would handle those originating there; and a Calgary area exec member those south of Red Deer. Messages that are not repeater related would receive a short reply indicating that they are generally outside SARA focus and suggest contacting local Ham club, etc. and provide contact if possible. Responses should be made within a week.”**

There was agreement that the process suggested seems feasible.

Ray also mentioned the other recommendation from the minutes:

**“It is recommended that the SARA executive should definitely hold a meeting in the month prior to major SARA events such as fleamarkets and AGM to assign any outstanding responsibilities”.**

The next event is the AGM and we will need a meeting prior in May (see below).

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Tony mentioned a concern from a person at last Red Deer picnic that the scheduled ARES meeting was delayed by the long SARA AGM. Garry mentioned that the President of RAC will be speaking at 11am and that it should be possible to do the SARA meeting in the allotted time. As Garry will be arranging the event, Ray asked him to allocate the time accordingly.

Garry mentioned that having a nominating committee would speed up AGM and from bylaws; Ray mentioned that the committee should be struck two months prior to AGM. It was suggested that Jeff be asked to appoint members of the committee.

**NEXT MEETING:** Since 17 May is long weekend, suggested date for next meeting is Sunday, 11 May, 2014 at 13:30.

The meeting adjourned at 14.20 hours.