



Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held January 15, 2012 via teleconference

Members present: Vice President: Brian Crisall VE6BCA, Treasurer Ken Oelke VE6AFO, Secretary: Rita Haugh VE6RIT, Directors: Ray Semenoff VE6RHS, Cindy Knipelberg VE6NPL, Sandra Tustian VA6SJT, Graham Walker VE6GW, Tony Toews VE6MVP, and Linking Liaison Kiernan Burr VA6IP.

Guests: Curtis Bidulock VE6AEW

Call to Order: Vice-President Brian Crisall VE6BCA called the meeting to order at 13:35 hours.

Minutes of the November 20, 2011 meeting were distributed via e-mail. **Moved by Rita VE6RIT, seconded by Ray VE6RHS that the minutes be adopted as distributed. Carried.**

REPORTS

President: Garry Jacobs VE6CIA was absent.

Vice-President: Brian VE6BCA reported that, since the last meeting, a number of issues have arisen related to the SARA system.

Innisfree: Ray VE6RHS retrieved the repeater package from Innisfree, tested the equipment and then handed it over to Curtis VE6AEW so it is now back on another tower and tied into VE6NHB

VE6PLP Pigeon Lake: the old building is being abandoned by the repeater site owner, Kelly Klassen, Keltech Communications. He has moved a temporary shack onto the site and requested that SARA move its equipment to the temporary shack. In spring upgrading will be done to the site (including a new building); at that time SARA will move the radios from the temporary shack to the new building. The pass through at VE6PLP is now working. However there remains a problem with a squelch tail which has been solved temporarily.

VE6BOX now has a pass-through radio at that location. Work to get Fort McMurray linked to the system is proceeding.

Treasurer: Ken VE6AFO reported that The Pay Pal account has \$1,382.40, and as of December 1, 2011 the chequing account stands at \$15,538.81. The books are ready for auditing and Ken VE6AFO will be contacting two members to do the audit.

Membership: Tony VE6MVP reported that we have 86 members of which 9 are family.

OLD BUSINESS

SARA East New Telus Sites: Curtis VE6AEW notes that the site at Innisfree may have a bad antenna connector. As well there is a spurious transmission from a radio at the Kingman site (not SARA's) that appears on VE6NHB 444.95 so the pass-through radio has been moved to Chipman, a temporary home until it can be moved, perhaps to Vegreville. Tony VE6MVP inquired as to what could be done about the spurious signal at Kingman. Moving it to Innisfree might solve the problem.

Spare Radios: Ray VE6RHS purchased ten Motorola GM-300 mobile radios from eBay at about \$86.00 each to be used as spares. **Moved by Sandra VA6SJT, seconded by Tony VE6MVP that SARA reimburse Ray VE6RHS \$877.15 for the radios. Carried.**

Pay Pal Charges: Brian VE6BCA had a question re: Pay Pal charges. Ken VE6AFO noted that each transaction costs SARA 2% of the amount of the transaction.

NEW BUSINESS:

SARA Maintenance Expenses: A number of our members have been making trips to maintain and repair SARA equipment. A discussion was held as to whether we should reimburse them for fuel costs. It was agreed that if a member submits proper documentation, fuel costs should be reimbursed.

Radio Sale to Eagle Hill Amateur Radio Society of Alberta: Ray VE6RHS mentioned that the EHARS has a new repeater site and has requested a link to the SARA system. SARA does not supply radios to clubs who want to link into the SARA system, **Moved by Ray VE6RHS, seconded by Brian VE6BCA that SARA sell one Motorola GM-300 UHF radio to Eagle Hill Amateur Radio Society of Alberta for \$100.00. Carried.**

Edmonton Flea Market:

- It will be held at the Yellowhead Inn on February 4, 2012.
- Ray VE6RHS booked the location early in January. This past Thursday, Ray VE6RHS received word that the hall we normally use is being demolished and we are being moved to another, smaller venue within the building. Because of this tables will be limited to 25. There are kitchen facilities in the room assigned to us.
- The elevator entrance will still be available.

Other projects in progress: Ray VE6RHS is doing some work to get VE6MTR back on-line. He is also building another hub repeater so SARA will have as a spare on hand or to use for range testing.

ATB Savings: Tony VE6MVP stated ATB has a savings account with an interest rate of 1.2%. He suggested that SARA could transfer some of the money from the chequing account into a savings account in order to earn some interest.

EHARS: Tony VE6MVP informed us that the Eagle Hill Amateur Radio Society is putting its repeater on a site at Two Hills. It will be on the SARA system full-time.

Controllers: Tony VE6MVP was wondering if adding controllers at all the sites would make trouble-shooting easier. Ray VE6RHS said it would make trouble-shooting easier. However, cost is a factor.

VE6HM: Ray VE6RHS mentioned that VE6HM is now connected to the SARA system. The codes are 662* & 663*. (To bring up the SARA system from VE6HM the code is 662*D.)

Medicine Hat: Currently SARA has no link to Medicine Hat. Curtis VE6AEW will check with his contacts to see if a site can be selected and a link established. (Iddlesleigh is currently not operational and has no equipment.) Kiernan VA6IP will check out the sites the next time he travels that direction. Ken VE6AFO has been in communication with the Mt. Royal Repeater Association at Sweetgrass, Montana re: once again linking into the SARA system. A suitable site will mean the SARA system would cover all of southern Alberta.

NEXT MEETING: February 4, 2012 at the Yellowhead Inn after the Flea Market.

The meeting adjourned at 15:24 hours.