



## **SARA General Meeting**

June 15, 2019

Shady Nook Hall, Red Deer County, Alberta

**Attendance:** Troy Michel VA6TNA Vice President, John Allen VA6SJA Secretary, Perry A. Afaganis VA6PTA Treasurer, Paul Wilson, VA6PW Director, Brian Crisall VE6BCA Director, Garry Jacobs VE6CIA , Director and Membership Coordinator, Doug Howard VE6CID Director, Iain Wilson VA6IW, Gern Sabourin VE6KG, Ernest Clintberg VE6EC, Shannon Borden, Ron Pettigrew VE6RWP, David Lawrence VE6DLC, Robert Septou VE6AIA, Andre St-Hilaire VA6ARJ, Dan Martin VE6GDM, Ed Pitts VA6EJP, Hubert Johnson VE6AMY, Richard Pillon VE6WCT, James Kult VEJHK

1. **Call to Order:** Vice President Troy called the meeting to order at approximately 13:15.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the last General Meeting were not available for approval. Paul VA6PW, who had served as brevet Secretary for that meeting at the Edmonton Flea Market on February 16, 2019, stated that that meeting was primarily to do with electing the current Board of Directors. Member auditors had also been chosen.

The following officers and directors had been elected:

- Vice President – Troy Michel VA6TNA
- Secretary – John Allen VA6SJA
- Treasurer – Perry Afaganis VA6PTA was reelected as treasurer

Post-meeting notes:

- President: Ray Semenoff VE6RHS
- Directors At Large: Doug Howard VE6CID, Bill VE6OLD, Garry Jacobs VE6CIA, Brian Crisall VE6BCA, and Paul Wilson VA6PW.

**Membership:** Membership Coordinator Garry VE6CIA reported that he has 57 active members on his list. We stand at ½ of our peak membership but we have twice the membership that we had at this time last year. He has sent out reminders for June renewals and has received 3 replies by this meeting. He will continue to monitor expiries and send notifications.

**SARA Repeaters:**

There had been a question about the Bonnyville SARA repeater. The SARA link to the Bonnyville SARA repeater VE6YHB (442.900 MHz) has been lost. When will it be restored? It may have had a link to Innisfree. This working repeater was on the SARA backbone but the link is no longer working.

Mark VE6IHS is willing to do some work but we may need more technical expertise.

Brian VE6BCA said that we don't know where to go to repair it. We think it was on the SARA backbone. Some may have been installed without good records.

We aren't sure that we know where all the SARA equipment is. We don't necessarily know where to go to fix the system.

Telus sites are no longer easy to get access to. We cannot just get a key. Telus now requires us to pay for a supervisory tech when we access its sites to work on SARA equipment.

Brian VE6BCA stated that further expansion of the repeater network will be tough. He suggested that we offer clubs partnerships where they sponsor the repeaters and we offer them linking. It may be necessary to link to SARA using IRLP nodes.

Garry VE6CIA stated that we need to pull this repeater out of the site, find a new home for it and reestablish the UHF links if possible, otherwise possibly use IRLP. We can probably arrange with the local Telus person to get access, which we need once to remove the equipment. Brian VE6BCA suggested leaving it where it is because access is unlikely.

We have an agreement stating that we are allowed on Telus sites documented.

Some full duplex repeaters and link radios were installed a few years ago. We may not be able to find their records.

This site was fed from VE6NHB near Edmonton through Innisfree. Innisfree served as a hub.

We lost the rights on the Innisfree water tower.

The system was reestablished at the Telus site at Innisfree while we had better access. We no longer have easy access. There was a link to Hardesty at one point, Innisfree had been used as a pass-through point. We don't know the exact location of the sites. If we can get the number of the site Doug VE6CID can tell where it is located. WE could try to get in and get a picture of our equipment at the site.

Brian VE6BCA assumes the problem is that the link at Innisfree probably no longer works.

Brian VE6BCA corrected his previous story of how Edmonton and Innisfree were linked. VE6RJK near Andrew had been used as pass-through site for the signals to make a reliable link between VE6NHB and Innisfree. The tower that VE6RJK used was taken down. There was a dispute with the owner of the land where the tower had been located and SARA lost its privileges. The VE6RJK repeater is no longer on the air. A new repeater, VA6RJK, is across the road from the old location on a 60-foot tower, but there is no SARA equipment in that location. There is also a "new" 170-foot tower on a hill close to there. We have 2 yagis at one of these sites. Someone has talked to Neil VE6TCK about the current status of VA6RJK the morning of this meeting. Neil has a new package that he intends to install there.

VE6NHB/VE6HM connect to the Limestone Mountain SARA hub through pass-through repeater VE6PLP. VE6PLP consists of back-to-back radios and a power supply in Caltech site which formerly was a Trans-Alta site (where VE6SS had originally been).

Perry VE6PTA reported that VE6PLP is working again. He helped with replacing the feedline and antenna at this site the week before this meeting. A 4-bay VHF antenna is now installed at 230 feet.

A trailer is needed to haul the removed antenna back. The removed antenna, which had no markings, must be tested to see if it is still good. The feedline was defective; the centre connector was not crimped, which allowed separation of the feedline path.

Doug VE6CID indicated that the Calgary MS Society had requested the use of the SARA network for their Bike Ride on the 22 and 23 of June. This is a formal event. Doug also plans on transferring the EOC to Olds, linking VE6OIL and VE6OLS repeater. There will be a letter from Chief Cody or Deputy Chief Waddel who will give us a letter. It is a formal event where Calgary Emergency Management will ask for the transfer of the EOC. The link will be used on VE6OIL and VE6OLS repeaters.

The VE6PLP repeater is 147.090 MHz. This frequency originally had been used at the University of Alberta Campus.

Doug VE6CID is the contact for the South.

Jim Camp VA6JC was mentioned as a possible contact for the North. He was not immediately available to the meeting. Garry VE6CIA or Doug VE6CID will call him.

We need a technical person in that capacity. Someone that knows how to repair any troubles.

Perry VE6PTA mentioned that Jim VA6JC had been approached to replace Ray. He does not want to hold a position, but he is more than willing to help.

Doug VE6CID is the contact for the South and he is occupied enough with that that he does not wish to take on more.

Doug VE6CID reported that VE6OIL is working well. It has generator backup with a 20 ms transfer which is tested whenever Doug gets to the site.

CBC owns the property and the building. Prairie Mobile leases the building. Prairie Mobile owns the contents and they provide 4 coaxes coming in. We multi-couple to one of the ports coming in. We have 2 UHF devices on there. It's our dual band antenna. We are using a circulator. There is a commercial system multi-coupled into our antenna.

The signal is good now. Doug has adjusted the audio level.

Garry VE6CIA or Doug VE6CID will call him.

The SARA inventory is now stored in a trailer at the NARC site in Edmonton. NARC has the key. We should get an inventory count. John VA6SJA has the SARA Secretary's binder which may contain records of the SARA equipment. We should clean out some of the locations, the VE6OIL Prairie Mobile site among others. Could we store surplus in containers?

We probably cannot take on the expense of purchased storage because of our limited membership and income. We have lost a lot of income since we quit sponsoring flea markets 2 years ago.

### **Flea Market:**

The Calgary East Side Church is available at no cost because Doug VE6CID takes care of it. Last year's fall flea market was a multi-club affair as a place-holder event and Doug believes that each participating club involved in setup and clean up took home \$177. The CCC club did the accounting and they also received \$177. A deposit of \$500 is required.

SARA had partnered with NARC to hold the spring flea market. The spring flea market was at the Dutch Canadian Club, NARC was using casino money. Under the rules of spending lottery money, they can sponsor this as a "teaching" event. Ray was able to get a discounted rate because of his relationship with the Club. The current price for renting the Dutch Canadian Club is reported to be \$1200 which would make the required admission about \$25 for attendees which is impractical.

Doug VE6CID recommended reinstating the sponsoring of Flea Markets. He advocates including activities that will bring new hams out, such as seminars in how to use repeaters and how to use the SARA system. We also need volunteers – he suggests asking the Mumbai group to help and to share some of the proceeds with them.

Typically, the long weekend in October presents problems, last year the flea market took place the weekend after the long weekend. Earlier in SARA's history, particularly around 1993, the flea market was held in November to be close to the financial year-end, but the weather in November is unpredictable and often terrible. The weekend before Halloween has been found to usually have better weather. If we are to hold a function in the East Side Church we will have to check on and confirm the date.

### **Motion**

Garry VE6CIA moved that SARA sponsor a fall flea market in Calgary again. Gern VE6KG seconded.

Garry stated that this would be a sign that SARA is a vibrant organization that is doing things and would serve as a kind of advertising. Doug VE6CID stated that we will need a \$500 deposit and that we will have to decide if we want to handle the kitchen or sub it out to somebody.

Carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Audited reports need to be approved by a general meeting to submit to keep our registration under the societies act. The audits have been done and are signed by the auditors. Gwen Sather and Edward Fiske did the audits. As of November 30, 2017 SARA, had assets of \$53819.93 total liabilities.

### **Motion**

Gern VE6KG moved, that we approve the audited reports for 2017 and 2018. Iain Wilson Seconded, Carried.

Treasurer Perry VE6PTA reported that Year-to-Date total income from the beginning of our current financial year December 1, 2018 from memberships and interest has been \$1652.78 with expenses of \$204.75 for postage and mailing and \$330 for liability insurance through RAC. This leaves a net income of \$1118.03.

Current checking balance is \$2314.66.

Current savings balance is \$43,882.57. This includes a recently matured GIC.

Best GIC investment is a 2-year GIC.

### **Motion**

Garry moved that \$35000 be invested in a GIC. Iain VA6IW seconded.

Brian mentioned that in some prior years the invested money had been split into portions and invested in GICs maturing in subsequent years. Perry pointed out that the term did not lead to different returns.

Garry VE6CIA moved to change the previous motion so that the just mentioned \$3500 be invested in 4 GICs. Ron VE6RWP seconded. Carried.

Treasurer Perry proposed keeping roughly \$15000 between savings and checking out of the total \$46197.23 to deal with any current problems, the \$35000 will be split into 4 GICs.

### **New Business**

#### **Motion**

Garry VE6CIA moved that Troy VA6TNA be President. Paul VA6PW Second. Carried.

The next General Meeting will be at the SARA Fall Flea Market.

An executive phone conference call will be called by the President in September.

Brian VE6BCA asked about who is signing the checks right now. Perry reported that Ray VE6RHS, Garry VE6CIA and he himself are the current signing authorities. We can roll over signing authorities when executive next changes. Our bylaws prevent signing check for yourself. Perry and Garry have some outstanding expenses. It may be possible to pay these through PayPal as a PayPal expense.

Before Troy can sign cheques he needs to take a copy of a motion authorizing him as a signing authority to our bank. Each bank has its own rules on club accounts.

### **Adjournment**

President Troy VA6TNA adjourned the meeting at 14:20