



Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held March 11, 2012 via teleconference

**Members present:** President: Garry Jacobs VE6CIA, Vice President: Brian Crisall VE6BCA, Treasurer: Ken Oelke VE6AFO, Secretary: Rita Haugh VE6RIT, Directors: Cindy Knipelberg VE6NP, Sandra Tustian VA6SJT, Tony Toews VE6MVP, Bill Guthrie VE6OLD and Linking Liaison Kiernan Burr VA6IP.

**Call to Order:** President Garry Jacobs VE6CIA called the meeting to order at 13:33 hours.

**Minutes** of the February 4, 2012 meeting were distributed via e-mail. **Moved by Rita VE6RIT, seconded by Brian VE6BCA that the minutes be adopted as distributed. Carried.**

## REPORTS

**President:** Garry VE6CIA reported that there is a Telus conference bridge available if we lose this one.

**Vice-President:** Brian VE6BCA reported on Ray VE6RHS's e-mail: Ray VE6RHS has received the Repeater Controller board from CAT (it's a CAT-200B) and has it on a test repeater running in his garage. So far it seems to be doing a good job. He hopes to install this "Test Repeater" at the Telus Communications Smoky Lake site on March 25 (give or take a week).

The repeater is on 446.9750 MHz (-5) and requires 114.8Hz CTCSS. The call sign of the machine is VE6SSM and it will link back to VE6NHB in Sherwood Park. The link on/off codes for the machine are 698\*/699\*. The auto-disconnect on the machine has been disabled, so once it's linked to VE6NHB, it will stay linked until the "link off" code is sent.

Ray VE6RHS would like to see the repeater stay at Smoky Lake for a month or two for a good test/break-in. Once we're happy with it (or not), we may move it around, or simply leave it in place.

Brian VE6BCA commented that the repeater and link radio will be running on the same band so it will be interesting to see how it works out. Kiernan VA6IP wonders if the auto-disconnect is programmable by tones. Brian VE6BCA thought it was unlikely.

**Treasurer:** Ken VE6AFO reported that there is \$15 067.99 in the chequing account and \$262.31 in the Pay Pal account. The books have been audited by Guy Farebrother VE6GWF and Rob Wilson VE6CCL who recommended only minor changes to procedures. Ken VE6AFO has sent the required information to Alberta Corporate Registry office and the appropriate thank you letters to the auditors.

**Membership:** Tony VE6MVP reported that there were 94 members, 9 of which are family. This is an increase of 8 since the last meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS

**SARA Expansion Proposal:** Kiernan VA6IP would like to see SARA expand from four backbone repeaters to having repeaters that cover the major highways. Glentel's positive attitude to amateur radio has been reinforced and they, as well as Telus, welcome our equipment on their sites. Kiernan VA6IP has made contact with some members from Medicine Hat who are eager to have VE6HAT back on the system. Kiernan VA6IP and Curtis VE6AEW are looking at one site there and one just north of Lethbridge. Cold Lake is also interested in coming back on line and would link in to the SARA system if we bring the network to them.

The top price per site would be \$1000.00 and 4 or 5 sites could be completed in one year. Kiernan VA6IP and Curtis VE6AEW would like to start with Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, and then move on to Wildwood.

To the west, Peace River would like to create an independent link to the SARA system instead of linking through the Yellowhead system.

Tony VE6MVP commented that we should also consider cities, not just the highways. He enquired about Camrose being linked to the SARA system.

**Moved by Tony VE6MVP seconded by Bill VE6OLD that SARA to proceed with the rebuilding and expansion plan proposed by Curtis VE6AEW and KiernanVA6IP at the February 4, 2012 executive meeting. Carried.**

**VE6MTR Link:** is back on-line temporarily and is linked to the system full time.

**RAC Convention 2012 Contribution:** By-laws prohibit SARA from making a donation to the convention, but perhaps we could purchase equipment or sponsor a project for the convention. Rita VE6RIT will talk to J T Mitchell VE6JTM to check out options.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Signing Authority:** At the present time the president, treasurer and two members of the executive have signing authority. No changes to signing authority will be made until after the AGM.

**New Website, News Link:** Thanks to Ray VE6RHS for redesigning the SARA web site. Members of the executive have passwords that allow them to make changes to the information on the site, post news items, etc. Tony VE6MVP will send an e-mail to all members to let them know that news and minutes are available on the web site.

**SARA Backbone Squelch Tail Problem:** There is still a problem with the squelch tail going to the Red Deer hub. Brian VE6BCA was wondering if the problem originates with the Balzac repeater. Ken VE6AFO will check it out.

**Annual General Meeting:** The AGM will be held at the Red Deer picnic in June 2012. SARA will provide the SARA dogs.

**Fall Flea Market:** Ken VE6AFO was able to reserve the Eastside Community Church in Calgary on October 13, 2012 for the Calgary Flea Market. The rental price remains unchanged.

**Clive site:** Garry VE6CIA and Bill VE6OLD expressed interest in putting a repeater back at the Clive site (the VE6GAS site formerly owned by silent key VE6TE). It filled in the blank spots between Wetaskiwin and Red Deer and worked farther east than the Red Deer repeater does. Glentel has given permission to put the repeater on one of their towers. Ken VE6AFO will contact the current holder of the repeater to see if the frequencies are currently being used.

**NEXT MEETING:** April 15, 2012 13:30 via teleconference.

The meeting adjourned at 15:00 hours.