

Minutes of December 4th 2008 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Charles Frost called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:15 PM on December 4th, 2008 at Fudrucker's, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were: Charles Frost, K5LBU; (Pres.); Arnold Knoche, K5ADA (At-Large Dir.); Sid Sherwood, N5ZXD (Treas./Cor. Sec.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Bill Stone, WS5H (At-Large Dir.); Rick Hiller, W5RH (At-Large Dir.); Mike Hardwick, N5VCX (Past Pres.); Norma Stone, KE5NDN; Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO; Randy Pollard, AK5G; Ross Lawler, K5HFY; David Barber, K5NDB; Dwayne Jones (KB5YTA); Angle Abbott-Jones (KC5KRV), Billy Jones (N5EVD), and Ed Benya Jr. (N5UKS).

- 1) Minutes for the November 2008 meeting were approved as they appear in the November 2008 newsletter.
- 2) Treasurer's Report was presented to and approved by the Board.
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) General Membership Meeting Date:
 - i) Frost summarized the results of the "straw vote" from the November General Membership Meeting.
 - (1) 20 voted to change to the 3rd Thursday.
 - (2) 4 voted to change to the 1st Thursday.
 - (3) 10 voted to keep the meeting on the 2nd Thursday.
 - ii) A lively discussion took place with the following views presented.
 - (1) Any change on the General Membership Meeting date should only take place if the membership wants that change to take place.
 - (2) Changing the meeting date runs the risk that there will be a reduction in membership. It was observed that the last time BVARC changed meeting dates (some years ago), there was an immediate loss of members. There was some discussion on this matter.
 - (3) If the reason for moving the BVARC meeting date is a conflict with TDXS (Texas DX Society), then why not let TDXS move their meeting night. If TDXS has many members, then it is not unreasonable for BVARC to accommodate. If TDXS membership is small, then BVARC would not be smart to change its date. There was a general disagreement at the meeting as to how many members TDXS has. One opinion had TDXS membership at 25 (as reported by ARRL), another at 160.
 - (4) It was suggested that BVARC and TDXS hold one or more joint meetings during the year. We already meet on the same night and the BVARC meeting place is large enough to fit the need.
 - (5) Any move to some other date is likely to create as many new conflicts as it would eliminate. This includes not only other ham clubs but also other organizations.
 - (6) At this time, BVARC has the Sugar Land Community Center reserved for the 3rd Thursday. No one has checked into availability for any other night of the month. It is likely that changing the meeting date will leave BVARC without a place to meet.
 - (7) Any potential change in the General Membership Meeting date, requires a change in the BVARC By-Laws. In addition, this type of change requires a full participation of the club because it affects everyone. For this reason, any potential change in meeting dates is many months away.
 - b) 2009 Greater Houston Hamfest:
 - i) Knoche presented to the board the hamfest cost estimate. Chauvin requested that the board make available \$4,800 to finance the activity. The board voted in favor of funding at \$4,800 level.
 - ii) Kirk Kendrick is working on having on-line registration, though to a limited extent.
- 4) New business:
 - a) Club Web Site Server: Jones was at the meeting on behalf of the owner River Oaks Car Stereo (ROCS). ROCS has offered to BVARC the free use of their web server space to host all BVARC web pages. The owner of ROCS is making the server space available as a gift to BVARC to further the Amateur Radio hobby. Frost will look into the club's needs and how this offer fits those needs.
 - b) Ft Bend County Facility Space: Sauermilch reported that Ft. Bend County has made no further progress processing the BVARC request to use county property for a permanent station location.
 - c) Digipeater: Hardwick thinks construction of the Digipeater will be complete this weekend. He will deliver it to Stone for programming and site location.
 - d) Life Members: Knoche reported that BVARC has 5 new life members.
- 5) Other Business:
 - a) Hiller needs all nominations for club awards to be sent to him ASAP!

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX