

Minutes of September 5th, 2013 Board of Directors meeting of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club:

Secretarial Note: A discussion took place before the meeting regarding Rick Hiller acting under proxy for David Barber. Attending board member consensus was that it was allowable because the by-laws did not address the issue.

Michael Wrenn called the monthly Board of Directors meeting for the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club to order at 7:00 PM on September 5th, 2013 at Fuddruckers, 11445 Fountain Lake Drive, Stafford, TX. Attending were; Michael Wrenn, K5WRN (V.P.); Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX (Rec. Sec.); Ron Litt, K5HM (2yr At-Large Dir. & Radio Sport); Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM; John Chauvin, K5IZO (Newsletter Editor); Michael Monsour, AC0TX (Quartermaster); Rick Hiller, W5RH (proxy for David Barber); Ross Lawler, W5HFF; Mark Lawler; Matt Tatro, K5NGU; Roy Storey, W5TKZ.

1. Minutes for the August 1st, 2013 meeting were approved as previously distributed by email and appears in the September 2013 newsletter.
2. Treasurer's Report, delivered to board through email by Tomlinson, was presented to and approved by the Board.
3. Old Business:
 - 3.1. Greater Houston Hamfest (GHH): Chauvin willing to be the 2014 chairman under conditions stated in the August minutes. Board approved Chauvin as 2014 chairman. Date is set at March 22nd. Kick-off meeting will be September 19th at Fuddruckers. About 10 tables will be added for 2014. He has been to fair ground to check on status. Marshall is willing to do set-up and tear-down. He is looking for new venue for 2015. Other organizations been approached to participate. NARS and ECHO have not responded. Pearland responded but is not enthusiastic about running tail-gating.
 - 3.2. Astronomy Day: Chauvin stated that it will be hosted by the Houston Museum of Natural Science at the George Observatory, Saturday October 12th.
 - 3.3. Storage Lockers: Monsour produced a survey document of available locations. Discussion followed that a storage locker needs to be separate from the permanent home discussion. Also storage takes priority over permanent home and the need for a standing budget. Laptop computers were discussed as being a non-locker item because of their need for battery charging and software update. Monsour will visit the Public Storage at 888 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land. If it suits our purpose, he will email board. The board will authorize, possibly through e-mail balloting.
 - 3.4. Permanent Home: Chauvin reported that the Permanent Home Committee has not located additional attractive properties. Litt raised objectives about not having financial basics in place before looking at properties. He made the case that the board needs to make a proposal of what the club needs and take that proposal to the general membership. Litt made a motion. "In thirty days, anyone who has an idea about what a permanent home should be and how it would be used, should present that idea to the board." Board approved motion.
 - 3.5. Newsletter: Wrenn reopened topic about electronic versus paper distribution.
 - 3.5.1. Chauvin presented various proposals.
 - 3.5.1.1. Retain status quo.
 - 3.5.1.2. Go all electronic.
 - 3.5.1.3. Go electronic but have post card notice.
 - 3.5.1.4. Make electronic available, with proviso that individual members must opt out of receiving a mailed copy.
 - 3.5.1.5. Make electronic the default, with the proviso that individual members must opt in to receiving a mailed copy.
 - 3.5.1.6. Go all electronic by default, but have surcharge to receive a mailed copy.
 - 3.5.2. Chauvin made the following additional comments.
 - 3.5.2.1. The by-laws do not require a direct notice to members for General Membership Meetings. Such is required only for special meetings.
 - 3.5.2.2. The paper copy costs, on average, 86¢ per copy for printing and postage.
 - 3.5.2.3. Delivery of even one newsletter sets the edition size at twelve pages. (One sheet of paper contains two pages.) The twelve page limit is set by the weight limit of one stamp. Having a separate electronic edition with expansive articles doubles the newsletter editorial work.
 - 3.5.2.4. Many members aren't web, e-mail oriented. They are not likely to accept electronic only distribution.
 - 3.5.2.5. His experience with the Houston Astronomical Society (HAS) showed that they lost about 30% membership when they stopped their paper newsletter. It took three to five years to recover their membership numbers. He noted that HAS has a different demographic from BVARC.
 - 3.5.2.6. A Scientific American article; April 11, 2013; states that an organization should have both electronic and paper newsletters. (Recording Secretary Note: Please refer to item 3.5.7.)
 - 3.5.3. Tatro said he made a web survey of some East Coast clubs and found that they offer no mail-out newsletter distribution. Hard copy available at meetings. He stated that there needs to be a survey of membership to separate fact from fiction.
 - 3.5.4. Litt stated that it is a foundation of club and membership needs to decide.
 - 3.5.5. Mitchell made point that in a Scientific American Article, people more comfortable with paper. As people age, they become even more comfortable with paper. (Recording Secretary Note: Please refer to item 3.5.7.)
 - 3.5.6. Wrenn said he will put it to the membership on November meeting about electronic versus paper newsletter. Appropriate announcements shall be made on the nets and through an e-mail distribution.
 - 3.5.7. Comment by Recording Secretary: The Scientific American Article that I am told is the source for comments made in items 3.5.2.6 and 3.5.5 above was provided to me by request after the meeting. It can be viewed at the link "<http://www.scientific-american.com/article.cfm?id=reading-paper-screens>". I have read the article and

conducted key word searches. I cannot find quotable text to match statements made. I can say that the content of the article does match statements made at the meeting.

- 3.6. MSWE: Litt said he has received QSL cards. One thousand QSL cards at printer. He has secured volunteers to filling them out. Cavalla will do mailing. mailing will include park brochure with our QSL card. BVARC will buy food for volunteers.
4. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Peter Sauermilch, KD5QPX

Editor's Note: Re the "comment" 3.5.7, after comparing notes with Cameron, we do not know what exact words were spoken regarding the two points challenged, but do not believe them to be 100% accurate as cited. The comments weren't quotes but rather were references to points made in the article or elsewhere. Cam or I will be happy to discuss this with you offline.