

Tamiami Amateur Radio Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday July 8, 2023, 1 PM (via Zoom)

BOD Meeting Minutes (AMENDED)

Officers for 2023;

Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, President
Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, Vice President
Art Wester, W4NUM, Recording Secretary (**TRAVELING**)
Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, Treasurer

Directors for 2023;

Tom Babcock, K7ONE	San Yoder, K3SY
Peter Boers, KV4LR (RESIGNED)	Steve Phillips, NS4P
Tom Shrilla, W8QJF (TRAVELING)	Brian Jacobson, W1JBD
Dwight Sullivan, KT4DDS	Chet Fennell, KG4IYS
Gary Youngberg, W8SKI	

Review and approve meeting minutes from June 10, 2023, prior BOD meeting as published on the TARC's website.
<https://tamiamiarc.org/tarc/wp-content/uploads/BOD-Meeting-Minutes-June-10-2023.pdf>

Motion to approve by Chet, 2nd by Steve; UNANIMOUS

Announcement: Peter KV4LR has resigned in advance of and to promote the reduction of directors to 5 by 2024. Chet KG4IYS also announced his resignation for the same reasons effective after this meeting. The board members thanked Chet and Peter for their service to the club. Richard KK4AHZ (Quartermaster) reminded the board that he will be out of the country from Dec thru Apr 2024 and requested someone to fill in for him during that time. Steve NS4P volunteered to do so.

Old Business:

1. DRAFT 2024 budget. To be Presented at Club Membership Mtg, Sep. 2023; Paul KN4BAR. **A review and discussion of the draft budget was begun but due to time limitations and a long agenda for this meeting, Paul asked to table this item to the August meeting. All board members were asked to submit their comments and suggestions for the budget to Paul so that they can be incorporated into the draft for next month's meeting.**
2. Proposed \$500 scholarship fund at Venice High School for STEM and Technical students; Steve, NS4P. **Steve notified the board that he had determined that the "Rotary Futures" organization based at Venice High School was the organization to discuss a possible TARC scholarship. He has been unable to make contact and will report back to the board next month on this item.**
3. Proposed purchase of a Force 12 antenna from Captain Bob W5GJ for \$600 to be used at remote HF site; Frank, W2XYZ. **Chet proposed the purchase of this antenna and Frank 2nd it. Discussion determined that the antenna had not performed well at Field Day, possibly due to interference at the airport, that there were space limitations at the repeater site that would preclude installation or effective operation. Vote on this item did NOT PASS; 3 yea/7nay/1 abstain.**
4. Purchase an RF noise finder and a Field Strength meter, Steve NS4P. **Steve proposed purchase of a TYPE HFDF VECTOR (nationalrf.com) with inexpensive Raspberry Pi based HF radio receiver for purchase by the club. Paul motioned to make the purchase, 2nd by Dwight. After some discussion of pros/cons/alternatives the board voted to make this purchase, UNANIMOUS. Club membership approved of this purchase at the June club meeting so the item will be purchased immediately.**

5. Irregularities occurring during our 2M and DMR nets last month; cause/solution; Frank W2XYZ. **Frank and Steve discussed some minor issues with Echo Link that were quickly resolved. The repeaters are functioning properly now.**
6. **Steve NS4P reported that he and Tom W4IEE had not yet begun the solar power project at the repeater site that was approved last month. They plan to begin later in July.**
7. **Dwight KT4DDS submitted an email after action report on his PIO activities for Field Day with a number of very good recommendations for improving operations next year. All board members agreed with those suggestions and will include them in our planning for 2024. Dwight and Frank W2XYZ were congratulated by board members for their great contributions to the success of Field Day 2023.**

New Business

1. **TTC roll out, Paul KN4BAR. Paul reviewed the draft equipment loan list with Steve and Frank. Some items were removed based on equipment sales over the past few years. Paul will post the edited equipment loan list to the website and will send a Groups.io message out to club members announcing the start of this program.**
2. **Plan a fall picnic?; Paul KN4BAR. Several club members have approached board members about the feasibility of having a club picnic this fall. After discussion about the pros and cons of doing this the board decided to not move forward with a fall picnic believing that the new “Annual TARC BBQ” started in April of this year was sufficient as there should really only be one “annual” event each year. A suggestion to do “something” food/picnic related during Winter Field Day the end of January was made and received positive comments from board members. This should be discussed again in August for possible planning.**
3. **Dollar value for insuring items of equipment. \$500?; Frank W2XYZ. Frank stated the current policy was to insure items at \$200 of value. He proposed that \$500 was more realistic and cost effective when compared to cost of insurance. 2nd by Paul and adopted by UNANIMOUS vote.**
4. **First Annual TARC 13 Colony Challenge – prize award?; Frank W2XYZ. Everyone congratulated Frank on dreaming up this club challenge event. It has been well received by club members and has a number of participants. A monetary prize was dismissed by board members and instead it was decided to have a nice wall plaque made with plenty of space for annual recognition of challenge winners. Frank will take the lead on sourcing and pricing the plaque, and San K3SY will prepare a nice paper certificate for the winner to keep.**
5. **Board members recalled that there was a SK plaque made several years ago by Jim KJ4NDO to recognize club members who have passed away. Jim confirmed he has the plaque and he promised to update it with the names of newly deceased club members. All board members agreed that the 13 Colonies and SK plaques should be displayed on a wall in Al’s K0AL cottage as the de facto club station location.**
6. **Brain storm field day locations. Designate club representative; Paul KN4BAR. Everyone agreed that this was very likely the last year of Field Day operations at the Coast Guard Aux. station in Venice. The Air Force is taking over the property and will construct a radar installation there at any time now. Paul KN4BAR stated**

that we needed to move proactively to identify an alternate location, and, importantly, there should only be one person from the club doing any discussion or negotiation about possible locations. All agreed with this and Steve NS4P was appointed as the club's representative for this effort. Everyone was asked to route all ideas or contacts through him. Paul will send a Groups.io message to club members informing them of Steve's appointment and soliciting member input to possible locations. The board brainstormed the following list of possible locations: Venice High School press box, a class room at one of the area schools, South Venice Yacht Club, South Venice Civic Center, Venice Gardens Civic Center, Venice Train Depot or adjacent Venice City Legacy Park, North Jetty Park, Venice By-Pass Park, Laurel Civic Center, Braves Stadium, or the repeater site.

Any Other New Business:

7. Chet KG4IYS stated that there is some club member interest in having a remote, dedicated HF digital station available to club members from the repeater site. Steve stated the club now has a complete donated AV-680 vertical antenna and there is still the 10-foot tower section mast and buried feedline at the repeater site from a previous and then abandoned project to install a second antenna for the existing (non-digital) remote HF station at the repeater site. Some questioned the feasibility of having a second HF station at the repeater site. After some discussion it was decided that Paul KN4BAR would contact the original remote HF station designer, Tom W8QJF and ask his thoughts on this item. Tom is on an extended summer vacation until October.
8. Tom K7ONE said he had been contacted by a number of club members recently complaining about the length of club monthly meetings. They have been running to 80 to 100 minutes and are just too long. Paul KN4BAR and other club members stated they had also received these complaints. Everyone agreed that this was a valid complaint and that action to shorten the meetings was needed. Paul stated a reluctance to "cut off" discussion or comments from club members. Rather than do that, the board recommended that the agenda for future meetings be limited to only those topics that could be presented in under an hour of total meeting time. This may result in some topics not being placed on the agenda in a timely manner; assigning priority items to the "top of the list" for any given meeting.

Next BOD meeting – Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 1:00 PM via Zoom

Respectfully submitted: Paul KN4BAR, president