

Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday April 8, 2023, 1 PM (via Zoom)

BOD MEETING MINUTES

Officers for 2023;

Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR, President
Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO, Vice President
Gary Youngberg, W8SKI, Recording Secretary [**EXCUSED**]
Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, Treasurer

Directors for 2023;

Tom Babcock, K7ONE	San Yoder, K3SY
Peter Boers, KV4LR [EXCUSED]	Steve Phillips, NS4P
Tom Shrilla, W8QJF	Brian Jacobson, W1JBD
Dwight Sullivan, KT4DDS	Chet Fennell, KG4IYS

Meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm.

With the consent of all members present, the meeting was suspended at 1:03 pm for the purpose of holding a SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD to appoint a new club FCC license trustee. Paul Nienber, KN4BAR was appointed as trustee.

The regular board meeting resumed at 1:09 pm and motion made by Steve, NS4P to approve meeting minutes from March 4, 2023 BOD meeting as emailed to board members and as published on the TARC's website. Seconded by Chet, KG4IYS. Passed by unanimous vote.

Old Business:

1. Add SDR receiver and loop antenna to remote HF station, Tom W8QJF, (continued and tabled from BOD's meeting of 3/4/2023). This item was tabled again to the May 6th meeting.
2. PIO ideas & Progress Report; Dwight KT4DDS. Dwight gave an overview of the clubs publicity program's Classes, Protocols, and Time Lines. Revision of the club's tri-fold brochure was discussed. This item will be presented to the membership on April 12th with an end of the month deadline for member comments. The final draft for the tri-fold brochure will be presented to the board at the May 6th meeting for approval and printing.
3. Florida QSO Party, April 29 & 30; Frank W2XYZ. Item to be placed on the April 12th general meeting agenda where Frank will provide details and take sign ups. Al's cottage will be used again with a selection of antenna's. Paul asked if problems with last year's QSO logging would be addressed and action taken to ensure accurate logs. Frank said it would.

New Business

1. 2023 Holiday Party Update; By Patti Phillips N4IGI. Patti provided updated, 2023, information about venue and pricing options for this year's holiday party. After some discussion the board asked Patti to present the proposed location and date for the TARC Holiday Party to the membership on April 12th. It is the Plantation Golf and Country Club in Venice on December 6 from 6 PM to 9 PM. Dinner will consist of salad, choice of entrée (chicken, fish, vegetarian, or prime rib), and three mini desserts. Coffee, iced tea, and lemonade, along with gratuity, are included. The cost is \$46; \$57 for prime rib (\$2 surcharge for PayPal per entrée). Access to a cash bar for alcoholic drinks will be available. It is a long walk from the parking lot to the banquet room.
2. Discuss the amount and timing of contributions to VPC for use of the room; San K3SY. San stated the last payment was late last year. The club membership voted to pay \$100 per meeting for the Venue at that time. After some discussion of timing of the payments Frank made the motion that we pay VPC \$1,000 at the April 12th meeting for the Sep 2022-June 2023 time period, and going forward we make one annual payment of \$1,000 per year starting in June 2024. Seconded by Chet, KG4IYS. Approved by unanimous vote.
3. Incentive Program: advanced to extra? \$50.00 cash / gift card? Paul KN4BAR. The board agreed to amend the club's license upgrade incentive program as follows: Advanced to Extra allowed; only a DX Engineering gift card would be given; the deadline is extended to July 8th to coincide with the schedule TARC VE test date; and members testing anywhere before that date would be eligible for the TARC incentive. Steve, NS4P is obtaining 10, \$25 gift cards from a generous donation by DX Engineering. The club will need to purchase additional cards as needed from members upgrading their licenses.
4. Operating account cash surplus amount and how to use it for club benefit; Frank W2XYZ. Frank stated that the club has approximately \$8,500 of surplus funds in its general operating account as a result of much better than projected donations and sales of equipment. A lively discussion about what to do with the funds ensued. Frank also stated we had \$56.65 in interest income from the new Vanguard money market account opened last month. Paul, KN4BAR suggested that this new monthly revenue was about ½ of the amount needed for storage space rental. Tom, W8QJF pointed out that rental space was expensive; 7 years at \$150/mo was enough to buy a new Flex radio. After more discussion all members agreed that club owned storage space was a necessity and continued use of space at multiple members homes was a great imposition on them. Paul, KN4BAR stated he would pledge \$30/mo towards storage space rental and suggested that if just a

few other club members made similar pledges that the cost of space rental could be paid with no additional club revenue being required. Frank suggested that putting another \$5,000 of the surplus funds into the reserve fund (Vanguard money market) would result in an additional \$20 or so of interest revenue. Frank motioned that we make this \$5,000 deposit, move forward with a storage space quotation, and present this option to the membership on April 12th. Seconded by Steve, NS4P. Approved by unanimous vote.

5. Ham reference library? Paul W1BIU brought this up at the March meeting and he suggested talking to the Library folks about getting a special reference collection of books available at the Library for loan ONLY to ham radio or Club members; Paul KN4BAR. Tabled to May 6th meeting.
6. Tablets for VE testing / grant application; Steve NS4P. Steve proposed the purchase of 13, 8-inch Kindle tablet computers for not to exceed \$1,500; said funds loaned by TARC from the general operating fund to be repaid with \$7 per candidate over time from VE testing funds. Frank amended the motion to include the \$316 now held for donation to the library. The amended motion was seconded by Chet, KG4IYS. Approved by unanimous vote. Item to be presented to the membership at the April 12th meeting for approval.
7. Transition of VE Exams to electronic testing; Steve NS4P. Steve explained the new virtual online testing program/process and strongly endorsed it. The board agreed unanimously to move forward with the transition to online testing. Steve plans to acquire the tablet computers necessary for the testing, to do some more training with VE s in practice sessions, and then to host an actual test session with invited candidates willing to help us test the system for real.
8. Solar power at the repeater site; Steve NS4P. Steve presented a mechanical system for mounting PV panels at the repeater site using tower sections available from Al's cottage. He stated existing batteries could be used for now; but would need replacement in the near future due to their age. He and Tom, W4IEE will develop a full system design and present it and a cost estimate at the May 6th meeting.
9. Discussion on a Solar Powered WSPR Beacon, and any interest in the Club constructing such a station; Tom Shrilla W8QJF. The board agreed that a beacon would be a good thing. San, K3SY has a QRP transceiver with GPS to donate and Frank, W2XYZ said the club has a QRP rig in inventory as well. Steve, NS4P was asked to incorporate a beacon into the solar power design for the repeater site.
10. TARC list of online accounts, e.g. QRZ, VE, ULS, etc; Paul KN4BAR. Paul showed board members the "Database" area in our Groups.io account. There is a TARC Accounts spreadsheet there to

hold and display all TARC account information. Members were asked to please provide information about any accounts they have control over related to club operations.

11. Suggest that we pick one of our Net nights per month and use it for the practice of Winlink. And the same idea for one Net night for Echolink operation. We would need to have some classes to prepare for Winlink and Echolink practice operation; Jim KJ4NDO. After some discussion there was little interest in doing Echo Link training. The service is being used by those who need/want to use it and the rest of the membership most likely has no interest. A Winlink presentation will be given by Paul, KN4BAR after the June 14th meeting. Paul agreed to announce followup WinLink training/operating sessions following the presentation in June.
12. Policy and procedure for lending of Club equipment to members, Paul KN4BAR. Tabled to May 6th meeting.

Any Other New Business:

Making of WiFi improvements to VPC Fellowship Hall. Tom, W4IEE approached Paul, KN4BAR about the possibility of TARC making improvements as a way of supporting the church. Tom, W8QJF was concerned that we hadn't been asked to do this and that the church already had a vendor for this purpose. If we got involved and there was a problem with what we did or what people thought we did then the finger pointing would be none stop and our relationship with the church could be damaged. This became the general consensus of the board and no further action is to be taken at this time.

Paul, KN4BAR pointed out that of the \$8,500 in surplus operating funds, we had only obligated \$6,500 (\$5,000 to Vanguard and \$1,500 loan for tablet purchase). Board members were asked to consider what other uses could be made of these excess funds for the next meeting on May 6th.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm, April 8, 2023

Next BOD meeting – Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 1:00 PM via Zoom

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of April, 2023

Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR
President