

The Casper Amateur Radio Club – W7VNJ

February 2, 2011

I. Call to order

The CARC Vice-President, Tate Belden, KA7O, called to order the monthly business meeting of the Casper Amateur Radio Club at 1900 MST on February 2, 2011 at the Natrona County Emergency Operations Center.

II. Attendance Roster

The following persons were present. Note: Asterisk indicates an associate member or a visitor. Per club by-laws meetings are open to the public, but only full members in good standing are allowed to vote on club business.

Tate - KA7O, Vice-President

Paul – K7RXC, Secretary

Bruce – KF7CFY, Treasurer

Ben – KF7LFN

Mike – AE7EC

Kirk – KI7YY

Jay – W7DRJ

Mike – KE7WQP

Shawn – visitor*

Chuck – KF7GNB

Gary – W7GRL*

Andrea – visitor*

III. Minutes from the last meeting

CARC Secretary, Paul, K7RXC, read the minutes from the last meeting. Mike, KE7WQP, made a motion for the club to accept the minutes as read. Jay, W7DRJ, seconded the motion and the club passed it unanimously.

IV. Old business

Dave's, N0AXE, equipment disposition committee update

Tate, KA7O, asked Bruce, KF7CFY the present status of Dave's equipment. Bruce stated that he hadn't been able to contact Josh, KA7JUN, so progress is apparently stalled. Bruce stated that he would continue to attempt to contact Josh.

Mass mailing for prospective members

Paul, K7RXC, gave the club a run-down of the list, Jay, W7DRJ, had provided the club. He stated that there were 144 prospective invitees and that it would cost \$44.64. Paul also read the message that the board had approved for distribution to prospective members. Bruce, KF7CFY, asked about an expanded list to other cities surrounding Casper, and the club thought that a second cycle towards the end of the year would be more appropriate as our club membership acceptance period was close to ending. Mike, AE7EC, suggested that the club send out a mailing to radio clubs throughout the state to assist them in attending our meetings if they so desired. The club thought that a good idea, but no definite action was decided on this idea as of yet.

Wyoming hamfest

Tate, KA7O, stated that the Cheyenne and Laramie amateur radio clubs have taken on the job of doing this year's hamfest. It will occur on the weekend of 6/3/2011 and will be at Cheyenne's Little America, tentatively.

VE's separate checking account

No progress as of yet to separate VE's funds from the club's funds had occurred. Tate stated that that needed to be done in the near future.

Activities meeting

Tate, KA7O, requested input from the club as to what the activity for the next activities meeting should be. It was decided to continue the power supplies that were started last month. Paul, K7RXC, also suggested that the club discuss how to operate the digital resources available in Casper, such as opening nodes, Echolink and IRLP capabilities for the remaining part of the meeting. The club thought these ideas were good activities for this month's activities meeting.

Reimbursement for the North Pole Net radiograms

Paul, K7RXC, stated that Jay, W7DRJ, was reimbursed for his personal postage used in sending the radiograms last month. Paul also stated that that sum of \$3.52 would be assessed against the Secretary's budget for stamps.

LORAN-C station project

According to Bruce, KF7CFY, the project seems to be dead in the water as a person from Miami, FL would have to fly here to allow the club to inspect the

site. Bruce also stated that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had “hardened” the site and that it was unlikely that any forward progress in this activity was possible. He also stated that this was quite a different response from what was told to him by the people in California in the past.

Casper Planetarium Project

Jay, W7DRJ, reported that he and Kirk, KI7YY, had personally contacted Ms. Michelle Weston of the Casper Planetarium concerning a coordinated effort to do a special event, “Save The Night” on July 29 and July 30, 2011. Ms. Weston stated that she would like the club, the planetarium and the Casper Astronomy Club to be involved in this project together. A balloon launch was discussed as a possibility. There was also a discussion of a power supply that could be launched with the balloon to power the special event’s experiments with parachute retrieval as the finale. Tate, KA7O, suggested that Jay contact the University of Wyoming’s Atmospheric Studies Department for possible aid in engineering the project. Jay also stated that a meteor shower would occur in that same period with exciting possibilities for enhanced radio propagation. Jay stated that he would continue meeting with Ms. Weston concerning these matters.

Dr. Dave’s antenna removal

Paul, K7RXC, stated that Jay, W7DRJ, had removed Dave’s, N0AXE, antenna and was now in Kirk’s, KI7YY, possession.

V. New business

Purchase of marathon tracker

Tate, KA7O, suggested that the club go ahead and purchase the tracker that the club had approved in the past. Jay, W7DRJ, stated that the funds had been appropriated but were returned back into the treasury. Tate reiterated that this device would be very helpful in the upcoming marathon. Jay suggested that the marathon committee purchase their own tracker, Tate suggested that the marathon committee might do that after they see how indispensable our tracker was. Jay moved that the club go ahead with the project and purchase the tracker as previously approved. Mike, KE7WQP seconded the motion. The club voted and approved the purchase. Tate stated that he would purchase the tracker on his own personal credit card and submit the receipt to the treasury for reimbursement later.

Investment Plan

Tate, KA7O, suggested that the club consider a diversified portfolio to enhance the revenue necessary to operate the club with less strain on the treasury.

Tate stated that he was in contact with Kathy Sasser of Lincoln Financial concerning just such an investment with the club withdrawing \$10,000 from the club's treasury to start it. Jay, W7DRJ, suggested municipal bonds that were being issued by the Wyoming Medical Center as a more appropriate style of investment. Tate stated that the return on this type of security was not high enough to improve our financial position. Kirk, KI7YY, stated that at this time, being as we are in a pre-Great Depression posture nationally, that it might not be a good idea to venture into that line of risk concerning our treasury. Mike, AE7EC, stated that a managed diversified portfolio scared him. He stated that he didn't know this person from Adam, but there are people like Bernie Madoff out there too. Tate stated that at this time we are only exploring the possibility and could the board be authorized into looking into this matter as it is the business arm of the club. He reminded the club on how the club got this windfall and how if we lost it; we really hadn't lost much even though that is \$10,000. Tate stated the paperwork was on the way. Jay thought that the club needed an at-large member on the board for an "outside of the board" look. Tate thought that was not necessary as all board members are elected from the club. Jay moved that we go forward on this, while Chuck, KF7GNB, seconded the motion. The club approved it.

Committee assignments

Tate suggested that the club tag a few people for various committee so that we can do better planning during the year:

Planetarium – Jay, W7DRJ
Marathon – Tate, KA7O
Pony Express Re-ride – Mike, KE7WQP
North Pole Net – Mike, AE7EC
Field Day – Mike, KE7WQP

Annual selection of Field Day sites

Tate suggested that the club use a public service site one year while using a remote site the next year alternately. The club thought that would be a good idea.

Repeater controller update

Tate, KA7O stated that he would take possession of the S-Com controller from Warren, KU7D, and get the controller ready to replace the one in the .94 machine, as Dave, K7YE, was getting impatient to get his own controller back.

Future use of the Yaesu FT-1000D transceiver

Tate, KA7O stated that the suggestion to sale the FT-1000D was brought up at the board meeting and it was decided that its use would be more beneficial as

a “pass around” item for club members. Jay, W7DRJ, discussed the question of who’s responsibility it was; should the rig experience reduced function while in the borrower’s possession. Tate stated that those who have borrowed it have been extremely aware of that. Jay recommended the need for a contract to clarify that problem. Tate agreed and said that would happen. Jay moved that the “break it; buy it” policy be adopted by the club in the meantime, Mike, KE7WQP seconded it and the club voted to approve it.

Payment of electric bill

Bruce, KF7CFY stated that it was necessary for the club to pay the annual electric bill for the .235 repeater. Last year’s bill was \$331.44. Mike, KE7WQP moved that we take \$350 out of the treasury to pay this year’s power bill for the . 235 repeater, Chuck, KF7GNB, seconded the motion. The club voted on the motion and the motion carried.

V. Adjournment

As there was no further business for the club, Jay, W7DRJ, moved that the meeting adjourn, Mike, KE7WQP seconded the motion and the club voted to adjourn at 1955 MST.

