

# VVARA BOARD MEETING

AGENDA – March 11, 2020

President Don Sears began the Board meeting at 11:58am with the following Board members present:

## Board Members

- Don Sears, N7PLL **President**
- Bob Shipton, K8EQC **Vice President** (via telephone, virtually present)
- Michele Pearson KD7FMJ **Secretary**
- Bob Thompson KC8BOB **Treasurer**
- Wayne Gilbertson, WA7IGI **Director- at- Large** (absent)

Non-voting Club Members present:

- Matt Dutton, N7YIO **Technology Consultant**
- Steve Pearson, KC7TIL **Technology Consultant**
- Mary Alice Sears - Hostess

Items for Discussion:

- Do we want to keep the first year free for a new ham? Don Sears began the discussion. *All present members of the Board agree to keep this in place.*
- If someone is a new ham and joins VVARA in the last quarter of the year will the next year be free? *All members present agreed.*
- Should we continue to provide free new member name tags? Other clubs do not pay for new member name tags; however, VVARA dues are higher than YARC. Bob Shipton asked how much we spend on name tags per year, Bob Thompson states the cost of a name tag is \$ 6-8 with a discount.
- Should we continue to pay for shipping of name tags to new members? Steve Pearson recommended new members attend a meeting to receive their name tags. This would alleviate the mailing cost. Don Sears states we should continue to pay for the name tags, with new members attending a meeting to collect their name tag. *All members present agreed with this plan.*
- How to get new members to join VVARA? Don Sears recommended VE staffers provide flyers at the testing sites for new ham radio operators. *At this point in the meeting, Matt Dutton showed up.*
- Are we okay with spending \$420/year for meetings at Spirit of Joy? – All the board members agreed to continue with present venue and not change at this time. Don Sears states the cost is reasonable. Matt Dutton mentioned a fire station that was used in the past. Bob Shipton will revisit this venue for size and

availability. VVARA may need to keep eyes open for a venue in Prescott. ERAU could charge for future meetings.

- ARES/RACES digipeater in Mingus building and tower. What does the Tech Committee think? Matt Dutton has no problem with this set up but there are conditions that need to be in writing. Bob Shipton recommended we wait for Doug to review the equipment needed for such an arrangement. When the weather becomes conducive for a site visit.
- ARES/RACES Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Board does not feel it necessary to have such a formal document in place. During declared emergency situations, VVARA repeater will be used by ARES/RACES.
- Buy a small PA system and microphone for meetings – Don Sears states he can purchase a system for about \$200.00. Board members agree with this purchase.
- Etiquette document – Bob Thompson generated an “etiquette document” to be sent out once a year to remind all members of radio conduct.
- Matt Dutton brought up the All Star nodes which link multiple repeaters can be connected. This may eliminate the ECHO link system set up at TIL’s house. Further discussion will continue with Doug included.

*Don Sears closed the Board meeting @12:42pm.*