

Static



The Starved Rock Radio Club newsletter for April 2009
Prepared March 30, 2009
Editor Rick Wiegmann Koshko, KO5HKO

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Constitution changes, March meeting discussion

Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman Mark Gebhardt K9ZQ suggests a special levy limit as a compromise between getting rid of the special assessment provision and keeping it in place as is. His proposal, as read March 2, “The Starved Rock Radio Club may, by a vote of the membership, be empowered to levy on the entire regular membership such assessments as deemed necessary to carry on the business of the organization or to meet its objectives as set forth in this constitution.”

Based on feedback at the meeting, Mark changed an item limiting all assessments to a maximum \$50 to instead limit them to the yearly single individual membership dues. The revised version appears on another page in this newsletter in anticipation of a membership vote April 6.

Gary Corless WK9G said the word *assessment* scares people. He suggested taking it out entirely because, if it ever comes up, people could quit the club before the vote.

President Eldon Akers KB9PZA says the wording protects members from otherwise unregulated assessments and hopes it's never acted on. “At least it takes two thirds of the membership at that meeting to [adopt the assessment].”

An engaged discussion followed. Kurt Clausen KB9RKH suggested requiring 80% of all members to approve it, through a mailed ballot if necessary. Joel Bertram KC9NXZ asked if he and his son, J.J., would have to pay \$100. Mark has since changed the part Joel asked about.

Mark is taking input on this and other proposals to prepare constitution changes he'll propose later this year. “This is just a suggestion that makes the one member (sic) that's unhappy happy.” The proposal is being called The Joe Provision because former member Joe Tokarz KB9EZZ has objected to the special assessment clause as it's written now.

Another change being considered would make the vice president automatically the president when the president can't or won't serve and allow the president to delegate duties to the vice president. Currently, the vice president acts in place of the president after his death, disability, or resignation, but only until the Board of Directors names the vice president or someone else to the president's post.

Another would clarify the secretary's duties in keeping track of the membership.

***Static* too revealing for some**

Some club members would prefer *Static* not include material they consider too revealing. Treasurer Mark Gebhardt K9ZQ said on the Reflector March 16 he's concerned about an ARRL Section News bit about a club newsletter that, in Section Manager Tom Ciciora's opinion, contained “some painfully embarrassing details about a recent flap in the government of the club”.

Mark believes Ciciora was referring to the March 2009 *Static*. That issue detailed Frank KF9NZ's sudden resignation in the middle of his second meeting as president. Ciciora didn't identify the newsletter in the section news and still declined to identify it when contacted by *Static*. He wrote, “I

felt my message more pertinent than the content in question.”

Mark's message was titled *Bad Press*. He says this is a problem when non-members receive *Static*. Mark's message also said, “We have discussed not putting financial news in *Static*. Maybe we should go one step further.”

The editor's viewpoint: Mark and I don't completely disagree. Where we do, it is a respectful disagreement. In my opinion, if a few club members can bind all into a bailout, all members deserve to know about club finances and leadership. If there's a better way to inform them than Static, the club should use it.

EOC architect chosen

On March 9, the LaSalle County Board approved R. Johnson Architects, Inc. of LaSalle to design an emergency operations center. It will be built on county owned land just south of the courthouse on Etna Road in Ottawa.

The project's estimated cost is \$1.3 million. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is providing about \$965,000. Courthouse and Jail Committee Chairman Bob Jakupcak (D-Streator) says the county will make up the difference probably by borrowing.

County officials believe the EOC would cost no more than provided by the grant if the building would have no basement. But they don't want a building with no basement. LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Jobst has been reminding the committee that storage space is a perennial issue.

The architecture firm will be paid 7% of the construction cost. In keeping with the grant's timeline requirements, president Robert Johnson expects to finish design work by June 1. Nine months of construction will follow. Area hams are waiting to find out if the project will include a radio tower they might put a repeater on.

Stormapalooza

Kids who tried to spell their names in Morse code earned copies of *Archie's Ham Radio Adventure* at Ottawa's Reddick

Library February 28th. Joe Tokarz KB9EZZ showed them how to tap the letters out on both straight key and paddle controllers. This was during an event called Stormapalooza, arranged to tell the public about Skywarn and ARES.

Jim Alsopp from the National Weather Service storm forecast office in Romeoville explained what weather spotters do and why they are needed. He also showed movies of storms causing damage to show just what the public needs to be warned about. Laurie Bradach W9CAV, who's been involved with Skywarn for 32 years, was there demonstrating weather measuring devices.

Stormapalooza was the idea of Morgan Johnson, a Boy Scout working on attaining Eagle Scout rank. Johnson expects to find out in April whether his public service project earned him the rank.

Mural dedication date

Ottawa's Brush With History mural committee has decided to dedicate its next mural on Memorial Day, May 25 at noon. Committee chairman Bob Paglis says that will enable a crowd assembled in Washington Park for Memorial Day ceremonies to be a ready audience for the mural dedication. The dedication will be in front of the WCMY-WRXX building a block away.

Ottawa artist Tim Trumbo painted the mural based on the history of communications businesses in Ottawa. He's been

ready to assemble the mural since December, but the mural committee wanted to wait until warmer weather when a bigger crowd is likely.

Antenna repairs still pending

With storm season upon us, Equipment Committee chairman Kurt Clausen KB9RKH would like to "get something done" with the 2-meter repeater antenna. He'd like more omnidirectional coverage. He can hit it with difficulty from Mendota. The tower has a northeastward beam from Leonore.

The antenna was hooked up after a December ice storm felled the one previously used. Discussion at the March 2 meeting concerned what other antennas could be put up, how high, and with whose help.

There was a suggestion to have the Repeater Committee make the necessary adjustments. That committee was chaired by Bill Kraus KA9FER, but it wasn't clear if he would still serve as its chairman.

Hamfest contract set

Two rooms at the Bureau County Fairgrounds will be rented for \$800 total for the June 7 Hamfest. Campers will pay \$15 for electricity. Chairman Jim Clapp KC9FGU says the next job is lining up vendors.

The cost is down sharply from \$1700 two years ago. It dropped last year because a rodeo also reserved Bureau County Fairgrounds space. Jim says, "We just talked 'em into not raising it anymore."

More meeting notes

In the interest of getting the club's insurance situation straightened out, the members present March 2nd voted to have the Equipment Committee make necessary adjustments to the list of items insured. Also with this authorization, Treasurer Mark K9ZQ expected to update the insurance policy before the April 6 meeting.

Sympathy cards were signed for the families of Emerson Tidd and Francis Kmetz. Tidd served as the LaSalle County Emergency Services Disaster Agency director before it became the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency. Kmetz WB9VLW was an SRRC member.

A majority of members present rejected a motion to reorient the meeting room to the way it was before Frank KF9NZ became president.

Secretary Tom K9ML said he'll donate a sheet of material that can replace the club's damaged dry erase marker board. President Eldon KB9PZA explained that someone used an abrasive to clean the board and it can no longer be written on. Eldon said a protective coating would be put on the new one.

President Eldon KB9PZA says several clubhouse locks are being replaced because it's not certain who has all the keys to the old ones. Club officers will get new keys and a set will be left with the Leonore fire department.

The clubhouse door code will be changed in April.

Club members who don't pay their 2009 dues won't be club members for long. The club's constitution says after four months in arrears, a member isn't a member anymore. A membership application is included with this issue of *Static*.

Morse code class ends

The Morse code class that Jim Clapp KC9FGU started in late January has ended due to the small number of participants. Jim says he may start the class again if there's enough interest.

Club web site

President Eldon KB9PZA says he would welcome former president Frank KF9NZ back to the Starved Rock Radio Club and he would expect the rest of the members to treat Frank amicably. Frank quit at the February meeting rather than face a vote in March on whether he should remain club president. Eldon says Frank is very knowledgeable. But Eldon says he had to move to remove Frank because Frank stepped on his toes in the web site flap.

From the editor: I apologize to Eldon and everyone else concerned for my involvement in the club's recent web site flap. A club president asked me to design a new web site. In the interest of serving the club president and the club, I did. I was aware of a dispute between the president and vice president, but I trusted the president to work it out. I regret that things didn't work out that way.

Constitution change proposal as submitted to Static by Constitution and Bylaws Committee Mark Gebhardt.:

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

(OLD)B. Duties of the Vice President:

1. Assume the duties of the President in his absence.

(NEW) B. Duties of the Vice President:

1. Assume the duties of the President as required in his absence.
2. Accede to the office of the President due to his death, permanent disability, resignation, or removal.
3. Fulfill any duties assigned by the president.

C. Duties of the Secretary:

(OLD)1. Keep a record of the membership.

(NEW)1. Keep a complete record of the membership. Receiving all membership forms noting dues received and transferring the dues to the Treasurer.

(OLD)9. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to read the minutes of the previous states meeting and special meetings at the request of the President.

(NEW)9. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to read the minutes of the previous meeting and special meetings at the request of the President.

ARTICLE VII DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

(OLD)B. Special assessments:

1. The Starved rock Radio Club, may, by a vote of the membership, be empowered to levy on the entire regular membership, such assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization within it's object as set forth in the Preamble of this Constitution. Voting shall require two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members voting in a regular meeting to carry.

(NEW)B. Special assessments:

1. The Starved rock Radio Club, may, by a vote of the membership, be empowered to levy on the entire regular membership, such assessments as shall be deemed necessary to carry on the business of the organization or to meet its objectives as set forth in this Constitution. All assessments shall be limited to a maximum of the yearly single individual member dues per assessment and will not apply to family members. Voting shall require two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members voting in a regular meeting to carry.

Starved Rock Radio Club

March 2, 2009 Meeting minutes as submitted to *Static* by Secretary Tom K9ML

The meeting started at 7:03pm. Eldon, KB9PZA asks for moment of silence in memory of Francis Kmetz, WB9VLW and Emerson Tidd, LaSalle County EMA retired director recently passed away.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report read and approved. Kurt, KB9RKU motions to approve minutes with Gary, WK9G second. Craig, K9ZJK motions to approve T report with Cecil, KB9LNK second. Ayes carry.

Activities: Tom, K9ML and others give the group some info. Tom posts contest info on bulletin board.

Equipment: Kurt and others discuss software for S-Com controller and repeater antenna problem He has plan to put repeater on GP-15 antenna to hear if it would improve signal.

Buildings and Grounds: Cecil gives quick update on door locks.

Repeater: Bill, KA9FER is not present.

Repeater Monitor: Rich, N9OUW says he can barely here the repeater from his house.

Hamfest: Jim, KC9FGU did contract meeting with Kathy at the fairboard. He has contract with same pricing as last year.

Field Day and Training: Joe, KB9EZZ left clubhouse before the meeting, but not much happening except CERT training and special ARES net on March 10.

Eldon mentions new membership form and named some people to membership committee and other positions.

Old Business: Mark, K9ZQ has a constitution change proposal. It is one item of several. Group discusses change of assessments. Craig motions to accept proposed change for membership assessments with Dennis, KC9EXG seconding the motion. Motion makes maximum assessment equal to one year's dues. Vote on change next month.

New Business: Mark wants to clean up the equipment list for the ARRL insurance. He mentions tower replacement values are just unrealistic. Joel, KC9NXZ makes motion that equipment committee should adjust values and remove unnecessary items. John, AA9VT makes second. Ayes carry.

Kurt makes motion to change seating arrangement back to old layout. Gary seconds the motion. Ayes carry. Eldon mentions whiteboard needs replacement. Tom has one he will donate to club. Cecil bought new locks for doors because keys missing for old locks. Rich makes motion to reimburse Cecil for locks. Sam, KC9OJF seconds the motion. Ayes carry.

Eldon asks if there is any other new business. Rich motions to adjourn meeting with Gary seconding the motion.

Meeting ends at 8:28pm.

Recorded by Tom Chromzack, K9ML

STARVED ROCK RADIO CLUB INC.
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

ED 3/2009

COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL TO:

SRRC

PO BOX 198

LEONORE IL 61332

Enclose payment as follows: 1 calendar year - \$24.00, Add all family members - \$5.00

Part year dues prorated.

NOTE * means REQUIRED FIELD. Form will be rejected if this information is not shown.

*APPLICATION TYPE ___New Member ___Renewal ___Previous Member

*NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

*ADDRESS _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

*CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ COUNTY _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE _____

*ARRL MEMBER? (Y/N) _____ LICENSE CLASS _____

*CLUB NEWSLETTER "STATIC" via e-mail or U.S. Mail? EMAIL ___ U.S. ___

EMAIL FOR NEWSLETTER (if different) _____

List other HAM family members living at same address:

NOTICE: Dues for each member must accompany this form. Funds received by the Club without this form will be considered donations. Complete rules of the Club can be found at www.qsl.net/w9mks Printed copy of rules is available from Secretary.

By signing I agree to abide by these rules

*SIGNED _____ DATE _____

CLUB USE: Rec'd by _____ Date: _____ Payment: _____

Recorded by Treasurer _____ Secretary _____