

Static



The Starved Rock Radio Club newsletter for May 2009
Prepared May 3, 2009
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Not much else

Joe Provision passes

A majority of club members voted for the “Joe Provision” on April 6. SRRC secretary Tom Chromczak K9ML confirms that Joe Tokarz KB9EZZ, for whom the provision was named, has paid 2009 membership dues. Joe hadn’t paid for two years because of the special assessment provision in the club constitution. The “Joe Provision” limits the assessment to twice the yearly membership dues.

Antenna repair

Club members voted April 6 to buy a new mast for \$350 to get moving on the antenna repair needed because of the December ice storm. Those using the 2-meter repeater since it was hooked up to another antenna have been complaining about poor coverage. Rick KO5HKO could barely kerchunk it with 65 watts from downtown Oglesby in his car the morning of April 25.

Mural unveiling time change

The communications mural going up in Ottawa will be unveiled at 11am instead of noon on Memorial Day, May 25. This word comes from Brush With History Mural Committee Chairman Bob Paglis and WCMY-WRKK General Manager John Harris. The mural will be on the front of the WCMY-WRKK building at 216 W. Lafayette St. The mural committee aims to time the event to attract a large crowd that’ll be assembled in nearby Washington Park for a Memorial Day event. Artist Tim Trumbo researched the history of the communications industry in Ottawa. The city’s broadcasting and telegraphy related businesses will be incorporated into the mural.

Electronics recycling

Two-way radios, uninterrupted power supplies, speakers, and computer components are among the types of electronic items that will be taken for recycling at a LaSalle County sponsored drop-off Saturday, May 16. It’ll be at the courthouse at 707 E. Etna Road in Ottawa from 9am to 1pm. Most electronic items can be dropped off for free. It will cost \$5.00 to leave a computer monitor or I-Mac, \$15.00 for a TV under 32 inches, and \$25.00 for a larger TV. Questions about the dropoff may be phoned in to 815-434-8666.

LaSalle County Environmental Services and Land Use Director Mike Harsted says only items from residential and school use will be accepted that day. Businesses and other government units can make other arrangements with his office though. He says residential users may legally put electronics in their household garbage. But he’d prefer such things be recycled to keep hazardous materials from eventually draining out of landfills.

The event is a dropoff not a pickup. So hams who want to carry on their tradition of getting just a little more life out of parts shouldn’t bother asking for them. Harsted says the insurance company covering the recycling company’s operations won’t cover liabilities arising from scavenging. Imagine someone getting zapped by a CRT capacitor or burned by a leaky battery. Furthermore, Harsted says too many people just throw out the items again. He says, “When they find it out it doesn’t work or they can’t use it, we’ll find it in a ditch sometime.”

From the editor

This issue of Static is a rather short one, because I have been busier than usual with work. This is an opportunity to see what kind of reaction a streamlined bulletin gets. Regrettably, no one has provided any feedback about what should and should not be in Static since I asked for it in last month’s issue. I’m still interested in hearing from you. Or perhaps the club should talk about alternatives to a newsletter.

Minutes as provided by the club secretary

Starved Rock Radio Club April 6, 2009 Meeting

Meeting started at 7:14pm with 19 members and several guests present.

Eldon, KB9PZA noted that the minutes from March needed a correction. The vote to return the layout of the meeting room was not to change it back. The minutes read the vote would change the seating back.

Minutes with change approved.

Mark, K9ZQ read Treasurer's report. Report approved

Eldon asked group if they would not mind if Old Business discussed before committee reports Group agreed. Eldon wanted to get vote on changes to club constitution done. Tom, K9ML reads planned changes to group. Group voted to change duties of Vice-president and Secretary, and correct wording errors in constitution approved, 13 yeas to one nay. Repeater antenna discussed. Mast will cost \$350.00 with club picking up mast at company location. Mark has submitted preliminary claim to insurance company. The question rose to get replacement elements at same time as mast. Eldon purchased aluminum solder kit to repair cracked elements. Tom will try to do repairs. Pat, KC6VVT motions to approve purchase of mast with Rich, N9OUW second of motion. Ayes carry. Pat motions to price element and if price is reasonable buy it. Kurt, KB9RKU seconds the motion. Ayes carry. Cecil, KB9LNK says club should dispose of old laptops and other broken computer gear. Rich motions to dispose of laptops with Cecil second of motion. Ayes carry.

Activities: Tom reads list of hamfests, contests and upcoming events.

Building & Grounds: Not much except for clean up around building as weather gets better. Kurt reset door lock.

Equipment: Kurt got repeater controller up and running. Cecil mentions we may need to get new controller in the future since this one has taken a few hits of lightning.

Membership: Rick, KO5HKO, Joel, KC9NXZ and Eldon are working to get younger hams to join club. Tom reads his list of unpaid members.

Repeater: Kurt gives quick rundown of controller repair. Pat mentions Illinois Repeater Assn. meeting on April 25. Pat motions to have club pay ILRA dues before meeting. Tom seconds the motion since he usually pays out of pocket at meeting. Ayes carry.

Rptr. Monitor: Rich says it is bad at his house, but he can hear it fine at Kim, KC9EMO's place.

Hamfest: Jim, KC9FGU got food lined up. Tom will get on sound. Eldon is club table manager. Rich is security manager. Mark is front gate manager. VE exam is still Tom's bailiwick.

Librarian: Rick says not much action with club library.

Photographer: Gene, N9MRG been snapping pix at meeting.

FD & Training: Joe, KB9EZZ says CERT training still going strong. He says not much about FD, but he has study guides for licensing and EmComm. Contact him by e-mail

Eldon thanks Joe for bringing donuts to meeting.

New Business: Gary mentions last page of "Static" usually has blank backside. We should put a sell/swap or other info to fill up space. Members can contact Tom or Rick about some info to put in "Static". Eldon thanks Gary for donation of good used deep cycle storage batteries. Eldon points out odd parts donated to club. Club members can look through to see if anything interests them. Gary mentions selling stuff at hamfest. Eldon says members can put items on club table. Tom explains that June 1 is club meeting this year. May 4 is next meeting.

Eldon calls for meeting adjournment. Ayes carry Meeting ends at 8:10pm.

Recorded by Tom Chromzack, K9ML