AARA Newsletter

Alcatel Amateur Radio Association

Club website: www.qsl.net/w5vv

June/July 2004   AARA, m/s PB7-AARA, 3400 W Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75075

Next Meeting:

July General Membership Meeting: July 27th 5:30 p.m. PB11-1204 (NEW LOCATION) southwest corner of Plano Parkway and Independence. The Lobby faces Plano Parkway and is the entrance with the revolving door. Non-Employees can sign in at the reception desk.

Program: Bill Fell, KK5PB will present his **ARES BOOMBOX**. This is a grab and go VHF/UHF command post built into an easy transportable field carrying case.

Board Of Directors Meeting: The AARA Board of Directors will meet in the AARA Club Room in PB7 on Tuesday, August 10th, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. All interested AARA members are invited to attend.

What's New at AARA?

1. The new repeater is on the air.
2. The revised operating budget will be submitted to the membership at the July GMM.
3. HF antenna operation imminent.
4. Miguel reports that IT has agreed to give us Static IP addresses for the PCs in the clubroom and allow us internet access without LAN access.

We'd welcome articles of ham interest or anyone wishing to try their hand as newsletter editor.

Upcoming Events

6 Meter Enthusiasts: Check out the local simplex net on 52.525 MHz FM on Wednesdays at 8 pm. It is called The Six Listeners In Plano (SLIP).

TEXAS STATE ARRL CONVENTION and AUSTIN SUMMERFEST: August 6 & 7, 2004 at the Red Lion Hotel at IH 35 & US 290, 6121 North IH 35. Dealer and swap area open Friday from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. and will return at Saturday from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Sessions will run until 4 p.m. Saturday and the grand prize drawing will be at 4:30 p.m. For all the details check out: http://www.austinsummerfest.org

Plano Balloon Festival: 17-19 Sep 2004. For more information: www.planoballoonfest.org

TEXAS STATE QSO PARTY: - 25, 26 Sep 2004 - Get the rules for this years party at: http://www.txqp.org

[Note: Minutes are in reverse chronological order.]

Minutes of the July 2004 AARA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, July 13, 2004 Alcatel, PB7 Club room, 3400 West Plano Parkway, Plano TX

OPENING AND ROLL CALL
The meeting was called to order at 536 pm. Present were President Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, Vice President of Operations Mark Dempsky, N5MD, and Secretary Clarence Sebesta, K5YO. Al Koch was away on business and Miguel Ylagan was unavailable.

SECRETARY'S REPORT
The minutes for the June BoD meeting were distributed by email. There being only a minor grammar correction, Mark MOVED, Clarence SECONDED and the MOTION was PASSED. There were only a couple of newsletters received in the mail.

TREASURER'S REPORT
The treasurer was away on business but submitted his report by email: the current financial statement, list of dues paid members, and the 2004 budget vs. actual expenses. There were no changes to the checking account. Frank noted some discrepancies of the budget's actual expenses vs. checking account that Al needs to check on. The treasurer's report was accepted for audit.

VP OPERATION'S REPORT
Repeater: The repeater has been moved to UTD.

HF Station: Maintenance has the new cable for the Butternut Vertical. Mark is working on setting up a date to install the cable.

VHF / UHF Station: The installation for the VHF / UHF antennas are on hold. Maintenance wants to make sure the HF antenna isn't causing any interference before the VHF / UHF antennas are installed.

Internet: Mark is looking into if a VPN can be setup between the ham clubroom and someone's home network. If this can be done, we might be able to use this to provide an Internet connection for the clubroom.

General: Maintenance is reviewing its lightning protection for PB-7. Mark will try to work with maintenance to make sure are future antenna installation are taken into account.

EXECUTIVE VP'S REPORT (Miguel was unavailable.)

Programs: Frank has found our speaker for July 27th meeting - It's Bill Fell, KK5PB. He will show off his ARES BOOMBOX. This is a grab and go VHF/UHF command post built into an easy transportable field carrying case.

Future programs: September 28 – K5UTD HF Remote Base (K5TCP)

November 16 – Elections/Annual Meeting – Need a short program

December 14th?? – Joint Telecom Corridor clubs Christmas Dinner.

No information on Telecom Corridor programs (Aug 24, Oct 26)

Frank noted that Miguel had sent a memo to the director of personnel to check on the non-processed 2003 check requests.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Repeater: Frank reports that the new repeater is working fine with a few minor startup problems. The remote base is down due to a loose coax connection and a broken coax connector. There is also a software access issue to be resolved. Mark Butler is working on the problem. The repeater is operating at 90 watts output at the diplexer. The level may be reduced to improve de-sense. Mark Dempsky suggested a way to check for internal diplexer heating.

OLD BUSINESS

2004 Operating Budget: The special meeting for June 15th that was called at last month's meeting was not held. There was a problem with the Alcatel reflectors that prevented the required 72-hour advance notice to the members. Therefore, Frank MOVED: To recommend the revised budget as prepared at the June 8th 2004 board of directors meeting be presented to the AARA membership at the July 27th general monthly meeting. Mark SECONDED and the motion was APPROVED.

Missing Laptop: No information on if we have tag information. According to Clarence, no computer equipment was included on the insurance list. How the laptop was acquired appears unknown.

Unescorted Access: Frank is checking into the status of the approvals. Once members, who have submitted requests, have been approved, they will be notified by email.

NEW BUSINESS
None

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, Mark MOVED that the meeting be adjourned. Clarence SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED and the meeting was adjourned at 614 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence Sebesta, K5YO - Secretary

[Note: There was no business conducted at the June Telecom Corridor Joint Dinner Meeting on June 22nd.]

Minutes of the June 2004 AARA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 2004
Alcatel, PB7 Club room, 3400 West Plano Parkway, Plano TX

The meeting was held in the AARA Club Room at Alcatel, PB7. In attendance were: Mark Dempsky, N5MD, VP-Operations, Al Koch, KB5VSL, Treasurer, Miguel Ylagan, KC5FEJ, Executive VP, and Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, President.

Frank called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. He mentioned Clarence, K5YO's surgery to explain his absence. Frank opted to be the Recording Secretary for the meeting.

REPORTS

Secretary

In the absence of the Secretary, Al MOVED to accept the Minutes of the May 11, 2004 AARA Board of Director's Meeting as published in the April/May, 2004 Newsletter. Miguel Seconded. Motion PASSED.

Frank reported that no other significant communications were received during the past month.

Treasurer

Al reported that there had been no transactions since the May 25, 2004 General Membership Meeting. The balance remains at $2,961.61 There being no corrections, the Treasurer's Reports were submitted for audit.

Al reported we still have not heard anything about the 2003 Company Reimbursements. Miguel offered to contact Christina Custer, who works with Scott Seale, regarding the status of the reimbursements.

Vice-President, Operations

Repeater – The repeater is being prepared for its move to UTD.

HF Station – Maintenance has the new cable for the Butternut Vertical. I'm working on setting up a date to install the cable. Matt Wilson, of Facilities, is on vacation this week, so we have to wait for his return.

VHF/UHF Station – The installation for the VHF/UHF antennas are on hold. Maintenance wants to make sure the HF antenna isn't causing any interference before the VHF/UHF antennas are installed.

Internet – I'm looking into if a VPN can be setup between the ham clubroom and someone's home network. If this can be done, we might be able to use this to provide an internet connection to the clubroom.

General – Maintenance is reviewing its lightning protection for PB-7. I will try to work with maintenance to make sure our future antenna installations are taken into account.

The Internet item was discussed by the Board and Miguel offered to contact IT at Alcatel to see of the clubroom can get a LAN port outside the firewall.

Executive Vice-President

Still need speakers for the rest of the year. The Board brainstormed some possible program topics as follows:

July 27 – Repeater Show and Tell

September 28 – K5UTD HF Remote Base (K5TCP)

November 16 – Elections/Annual Meeting – Need a short program

June 22 is the date for the Telecom Corridor Summer dinner at Ryan's Steakhouse. Frank will post on AARAMEMBERS and AARAINFO. Miguel is to post on "Newsbreak" at Alcatel. (Note: Newsbreak deadline is 5 p.m. Wed for Fri posting)

President

The Komen Race at Alcatel on Saturday, June 5, 2004, was very successful. All Hams who signed up, showed up and did a great job. Everything went well. Ham support was well received.

The New Repeater is being installed at UTD next week.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

An advertisement from "Club Express", an Internet service for clubs, was received in the mail. After some discussion, the Board felt there was no interest, especially after seeing the cost.

The tentative budget for 2004 was discussed. The Board agreed that a Budget should be drafted that did not consider the 2003 Reimbursement shortfall and that when (and if) the 2003 reimbursements are received another revised budget could be prepared. Changes were made to the 2004 Budget, originally approved at the Jan. 27, 2004 GMM. *[Ed. - See secretary for official minutes for non-published financial figures.]*

Frank MOVED to recommend the Revised Budget at a Special Meeting of the AARA Membership to be held June 15, 2004. Mark Seconded. Motion PASSED.

The Clubroom's missing laptop was discussed. No one seems to know its whereabouts.

Al to check with Clarence to determine if the laptop in the clubroom was listed on the ARRL Insurance and what is its ID and serial number.

Miguel is to pursue identification of the laptop from the docking station asset tag.

There being no further business, Al MOVED, Mark Seconded and Motion PASSED to adjourn at 6:58 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, Acting Secretary

Minutes of the May 2004 AARA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 25, 2004
May 25th 5:30 p.m. PB11-1204 (NEW LOCATION)

OPENING AND ROLL CALL

President Frank Krizan KR1ZAN called the meeting to order at 1732 CDST. Other officers attending the meeting were Executive Vice President Miguel Ylagan KC5FVJ, Treasurer Al Koch KB5VSL, and Secretary Clarence Sebesta K5YO. Also attending were George Huling K5GH, Bill Hammon KA5SOT, Kris Mraz N5KM, Thorsten Prutz K5TCP, Keith Parris WB5RBA, Charles Penry YI9VHU/WA5VHU, Cindy Penry KD5CCB, Dhawal Moghe.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes for the April GMM were published in the newsletter. There being no corrections, Frank declared that the minutes were APPROVED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Al Koch submitted the current financial statement, dues paid list and current operating budget vs actuals. The May phone bill payment expenses were shown on the latest transactions report. One new member application was received.

Frank noted that the revised 2004 operating budget was to be presented at this meeting. However, Alcatel has still not addressed reimbursement for 2003 funding. That number affects what projects would be budgeted. Primarily it is hoped to include a satellite antenna system. When Alcatel gives the club a response, a special meeting may be required to approve

the 2004 operating budget later this month.

The financial report was submitted for audit.

VP OPERATION'S REPORT

Acting-VP Operations Mark Dempsky was not present. Frank noted that the VHF antenna has been relocated but Facilities has not furnished the cable yet.

Frank reported that the new repeater is FINISHED. It is hoped that the move to UTD will be made early June. The Linux software was also finished which will improve remote control access.

The club station was photographed by CQ magazine and will appear in a forthcoming issue.

EXECUTIVE VP'S REPORT

Programs: The May meeting will be a joint dinner meeting with other Telecom Corridor clubs at 6 pm, May 22nd at Ryan's Family Steakhouse Restaurant near Jupiter and Buckingham.

Miguel noted that he would ask if one of the computers might be outside the firewall. Visitor Thorsten Prutz suggested what we might be able to make a wireless connection to UTD or other external source.

Training: Miguel hopes to organize a class for this fall.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As mentioned earlier, it is hoped that the June board meeting will be able to work out the final details of the revised 2004 operating budget.

Frank announced that the club plans to hold field day using the clubroom station. A show of hands indicated at least 7 of those present would participate.

NEW BUSINESS

Frank noted that we've been unable to locate the club's laptop computer. It hasn't been seen since the move. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the laptop please contact Frank or one of the officers.

Thorsten Prutz K5TCP made a brief presentation about requesting permission to allow UTD to connect to Echolink via the Alcatel repeater W5VV. He has been helping UTD and David Brandenburg with the K5UTD station. They are interested in making an Internet remote base for UTD students. This would also tie into hf stations that David set up at various local schools.

Thorsten also offered AARA the use of his hf mini beam, an hf vertical antenna and a vhf/uhf vertical if the club was interested.

OLD BUSINESS - none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan G. Komen Race at Alcatel, Saturday, June 5, 2004: There is a need for operators. Alcatel, Komen and Security were extremely pleased with the professionalism exhibited last year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Al MOVED that the meeting be adjourned. Miguel SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED and the meeting was adjourned at 1806 CDST.

PROGRAM

Charles Penry, WA5VHU/ YI9VHU fresh back from a stint with Halliburton in Iraq. He shared photos and stories of his work trip, plus some ham radio experiences.

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence Sebesta K5YO Secretary

Extra

Source unknown

AARA Club Information

AARA General Meetings are held at 5:30 pm of the 4th Tuesday except for November, which meets on the 3rd Tuesday. On odd numbered months, the club meets in PB11-1204 southwest corner of Plano Parkway and Independence, Plano.   On even number months, the club meets with the Telecom Corridor ham clubs at the MCI Campbell Creek Bldg, 2400 N Glenville Dr, Richardson. In June and December, the club joins the Telecom Corridor clubs for a dinner party.

AARA Board Meetings are held at 5:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday in the AARA clubroom in PB7. AARA members welcome.

Clubroom - PB7-20104   972 477-5079

Repeater: W5VV   442.8 MHz (+/110.9)

A L C A T E L   Sponsored by Alcatel

Co-Sponsor for Venturing Crew 73

President: Frank Krizan KR1ZAN
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        Mark.Dempsky@Alcatel.com
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Other Positions:
 Acting Newsletter Editor:
        Clarence Sebesta   K5YO
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 Repeater Committee Chairman:
        Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN
 W5VV Station Trustee:
        Mark Dempsky, N5MD

American Radio Relay League Affiliated Club

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