

DCARC Meeting Minutes

DCARC Committee Meeting Wednesday January 11th, called to order at 7:02 pm

In attendance:

Larry Claussen, Joe Giraudo, Craige Olsen, Craig Howe, Alan Malan, Dan Merkling, Hall Blankenship, Gary Johnson, Cacey Bowen, Chuck Killian, Brent Thomas, Robert Nickelson

Larry Claussen

Larry welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. Noted that we should take notes of the meeting so that all club members can know what we are discussing.

Also, all committee members should share any thoughts, ideas or concerns while we discuss all of the plans we are formulating.

First item on the agenda was to go over the prospective calendar for the year. Club topics for meeting presentations have been listed on the calendar, topics for most meetings through September are listed. Chuck mentioned that he would like to have 5-10 minutes in the upcoming January meeting to discuss field day with the club.

For the April meeting, we discussed that we wanted to do a build project for everyone, and that would require some advance work in preparing build kits for assembly by participants. Need to bring test meters to test the builds.

May, it was decided would be a meeting to plan the upcoming field day on June 22-23 so that we are better prepared and responsibilities for each area could be assigned in advance for better success.

June is planned to be a family day, with exhibits and things for kids and family to do, suggested having donuts or treats, War Wagon, Gary Davis's Bot, other activities that would interest family and expand the club.

July is service month.

August will be the Elmer fest, planned for Porter Walton Park in Centerville. The family picnic will also be in August.

September will be the swap meet, Bountiful Park is already reserved.

October and November are still open for topics.

Discussion now centered over whether the committee meetings should continue to be in person or over Zoom. Several members noted that they preferred the committee meetings should continue in person, but no consensus was reached.

Robert discussed that he was ready to start teaching classes, and Chuck is going to coordinate with him, looking at team teaching, they will get dates together.

Craig Howe, brought up that the Ogden Red Cross has lost their radio operators, and Ogden Red Cross wanted to come and present on the need, hoping to get volunteers to help out with their emergency

responses. There was discussion among the group about the value of Red Cross, their treatment of volunteers and whether anyone in our club would actually be willing to help out.

Larry then said that our groups should consider getting back up people working with us to give us better bench strength, and he'd like updates on how we are doing. He challenged us to find volunteers and at least get our own backups identified and known and build out our groups. The more people we get involved, the stronger our club will be. Get the people that have stayed with us more involved and engaged with the club. We need more Elmers. All of our groups will succeed better with an established group. There are funds available for sub groups to spend on projects, etc. Set goals for your groups, let us know what the goals are. For our upcoming meeting, let us know who your committee members are.

Chuck brought up that as a club we seem to be "siloeed", i.e. we all have interests, but we don't interact between the interests as much as we could, and that would create a more cohesive group.

Suggestions for getting better interaction:

If you're a contesteer, you can sponsor a contest, like a 2 meter sprint.

As we're playing with our stuff, figure out how to get more people involved.

Tech net- discuss- have a club planning minute.

Do a video and put it on our YouTube channel

Discussion shifted to outreach to District schools and how we can get students involved. Lisa was brought up as a good example, discussed how to get teachers involved. Good STEM projects for the district. Establishing a relationship with individual teachers seems to be the best way to get involved in the schools.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Joe Giraudo- War Wagon.

The War Wagon is getting old and needs attention. Radios are dated, don't do digital, and need updating. Gary Johnson brought up the fact that it is now about 40 years old. It doesn't allow access for disabled so Mike can't get in, and is kind of small and claustrophobic as well as heavy and hard to tow. Not real inviting. Gary Davis' larger trailer with side doors allows a better traffic flow. Last real emergency use was in the Riverdale disaster.

Joe asked that we should take a step back and decide what we're really trying to accomplish with the War Wagon. It's used more often in outreach and for show as a demonstration exhibit. We should decide what to do as a club, repair this one, or bag it and build another one. Larry stated that there is ARRL grant money available and we should look into that. It was also mentioned that there are a lot of other grants available if you had a good grant writer, and wanted to go through the circus that accounting for grant funds entails. Suggestion was to get a committee together to study the subject and make recommendations Saturday during the club meeting. Joe needs 10 minutes during the meeting to discuss.

Alan Malan- Report on repeater.

The problem was a “cascading event”, or as lawyers call it, a “parade of horrors”. Generator failure, lack of low voltage cutoff, smart charger. When they went out to check, couldn’t get generator started had to use ether to get it going. Possible icing in the fuel line might have kept it from starting up. They went through the batteries to find some with enough residual charge that they could charge them up, some of them the smart charger wouldn’t start as they looked like they were shorted. We’re going to have to keep an eye on the batteries, as some of them may have been damaged or had their lives shortened, which is a shame as they were replaced only a couple of years ago. A low voltage cut off is ordered and on its way. There was also discussion on whether the site is still being monitored for operation.

Failback site is the Kaysville Sewer building where they have updated their facility and cleaned up and updated their equipment in it. They are amenable to our using it and updating our equipment.

Craig Howe- Tech Net

Far more people are monitoring it than are participating, Liam, our new young member is active, was playing around with a Corsair2 but he is upgrading to an Icom 736, and is playing around with antennas. Won’t be too long until he is Elmering us, very sharp. Tech net is an opportunity for our various communities to interact.

Craig Olsen- Bookstore

Craig made the point that our club expenses are mostly covered by the dues and that the Bookstore creates the increases in our funding, asked if we wanted/ needed the Bookstore with the challenges recently of running it, and a need for greater help and support. Miss-steps with the handbook purchases just before covid were discussed, how we had to liquidate the handbooks and how we have a number of books in inventory that are not moving, whether we should continue as a book/ hardware store. We should liquidate “dead” books, by placing them on sale or giving them away in the drawings. Points were made that the bookstore is a hotbed of Elmering, and that lots of folks gather back there and just discuss what they are doing. Remarks were also made that a lot of connector and other purchases are made and relied upon there. Discussion continued on how to make the bookstore more relevant to club. Larry told us that we are now qualifying for a new discount from ARRL that will make books more affordable to be purchased through the club, and individual books can be purchased as long as the total purchase is 100 volumes. Question was asked if the bookstore had a way for club members to request that they purchase specific books, kind of a purchase request. We still need to get an application into the ARRL for this. Remark was made that ARRL is really a publishing company, and not a support agency.

Dan Merklin- PIO

Dan is currently in transition from PIO to a new mission that is more like promotions. Working on a kit or information display and outreach kit that can be deployed to explain our club and the attraction to Amateur Radio. Also will be the agency liaison Elmer.

Hall Blankenship- Mesh

Described how he was involved in tracking down packet racket on 146.62. Managed to capture the ID, contacted the ham who’s radio was doing it, and it turned out that it was a Yaesu 300 that apparently

you have to turn APRS off manually, as it comes with the APRS turned on by default. Solved the problem and made us more aware of being cognizant of the problem.

Brent Thomas- Mesh

Brent's group is holding a meeting Saturday morning at 9 am before our club. Went up to fire station 54 in Layton which is a brand new facility and may be a good site to base Mesh equipment. Were told that the Mesh up at the Animal Shelter is having problems that may be related to cell tower microwave interference. Best answer for the problem may be pulling the equipment out and relocating it. There was also discussion that the city water tower complex in South Weber might be a good location for a set up if the city can be convinced to let us.

Gary Johnson- Finance

We're doing well financially. In the interest of time (meeting was running really long), no details at this time.

Chuck Killian- Field Day

Chuck stated that he has three backups in his group to help with Field Day. He stated his preference for Monte Cristo, as he can always use "tree time", but conceded that doing it locally on the flat lands makes sense for greater participation, but that we had problems at this last year's location with a fair amount of interference on the 20 meter band. The matter of where to hold it will be placed before the club at our meeting on Saturday. He is also wanting to get captains in place for the various demonstrations that we will be doing.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

DCARC Club Secretary

Cacey Bowen