

BRITISH COLUMBIA AMATEUR RADIO COORDINATION COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: May 27, 2018

at North Shore Emergency Management office, 145 E 14th Street, North Vancouver, BC

- 1. Opening of Meeting:** President Ian Procyk VE7HHS was chair, and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. There being 21 delegates in attendance, representing 16 clubs, the Chair declared a quorum. (The Constitution specifies a quorum as 9 representatives, representing at least 3 clubs)
- 2. Welcoming comments and Introductions:** Mike Andrews, Director of North Shore Emergency Management welcomed everyone on behalf of NSEM, and provided an update of recent activities. Of note, Mike said that Amateur Radio Operators are a treasure to Emergency Management, not only for their use of the amateur spectrum, but also because they are skilled and versatile. "*Hams are Technically Inclined*".

Nick Massey VA7NRM, President of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club, welcomed delegates and guests on behalf of the club.

Introductions

The Chair introduced the BCARCC Directors and Officers in attendance, and listed the names of those unable to attend. The complete list is attached to these Minutes. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves, giving their name, call-sign and Club. The meeting was also attended via video-conference by Doug Carter VE7RXC of Cranbrook, Coordinator for south-east B.C., Robe Kuse VE7BKU of North Vancouver, Coordinator for the Lower Mainland, and Kosta Arvanitis VE7KCY of Nanaimo, BC.

- 3. AGENDA:** The Agenda was submitted for review by the meeting. Secretary Ed Frazer VE7EF requested an addition under New Business of two items:
 - a. Amendment of the Constitution to provide for the appointment of Honorary Members, and Honorary Life Members.
 - b. The appointment of an Honorary Life Member.

The Agenda was approved as amended.

- 4. MINUTES of 2017 Annual General Meeting:**

The Minutes were approved as presented. The 2017 AGM minutes are also posted on the BCARCC website.
- 5. CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence received during the year involved coordination issues which were referred to Chief Coordinator, George Merchant VE7QH.

6. REPORTS

President Ian advised that all matters will be covered in the following reports.

6A. Chief Coordinator's report

George Merchant VE7QH summarized his report which was provided to attendees. Although the demand for new repeater allocations continues, traffic on repeaters is declining in the Lower Mainland. This reduction in repeater interest was likely a factor in ARRL's decision to reduce involvement in their Repeater Directory, discontinue payments to coordination councils, and to transfer data collection to RFinder. Unfortunately, RFinder is permitting direct input from individual hams, as well as data from Councils, with the result that much of their database is inaccurate. George believes it is thus more essential for BCARCC to publish an accurate repeater database. The lack of ARRL financial input is a serious concern that will be addressed by the Treasurer.

He has three goals for the coming year:

- (a) More input from the field, by requesting every member club to advise the Council of activity in their area;
- (b) Create a more user-friendly process to enable repeater operators to update changes to their repeaters;

- (c) Find ways to lower operating costs in view of the major reduction of our income due to ARRL's ending of paying Councils for use of their database.

The full report of the Chief Coordinator is attached and included on the BCARCC website. George moved that his report be accepted. Carried.

6B. Treasurer's report

Treasurer Brian Summers VE7JKZ presented the financial statements for the 12 months ended March 31, 2018 reporting an operating surplus of \$576.43, including the final payment by ARRL for use of our repeater database. Brian moved that the report be accepted. Carried.

Treasurer Brian submitted a proposed budget for 2018-19 in which similar amounts were budgeted for travel expenses, paid secretarial services, and membership fees of \$20 per delegate which resulted in an operating loss of \$475. The report prompted considerable discussion on methods to improve the financial situation, including increasing membership dues, increasing BCARCC visibility, and conducting a membership drive. These suggestions were referred to the new Board of Directors.

Brian moved that the budget be approved. Carried.

Treasurer Brian moved that the membership dues for the next fiscal year be set at \$20 per delegate. Carried.

7. BUSINESS ARISING from the minutes of AGM of May, 2017:

- a. Use of 2m Simplex channels for emergency nets by the Municipal Emergency groups in the Lower Mainland. Mike Watkins VE7WV reported that a new plan is still being considered to replace the original simplex plan prepared for B.C. municipalities. Also, the issue of WWARA using several simplex channels in our Bandplan will require further review by the Chief Coordinator and Policy Chair. Mike referred the meeting to *lmerc.ca* for information of the Lower Mainland Emergency Radio Committee.
- b. Hang Gliders use of amateur Spectrum: Jack Olson VE7GDE reported that some Hang Gliders have attended Basic classes on Vancouver Island, and now operate legally. Others appear to use 146.415 MHz simplex without identifying and are likely uncertified. The NARA plans to gather more information and to advise the Victoria office of ISED.
- c. APRS: David Sinclair VA7DRS was not in attendance to comment on issues involving APRS.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **ISED Canada** provided an Information Update for the AGM. This report is posted on the BCARCC website. Their main points were:
 - Amateurs are not permitted to communicate with Emergency groups who are not Hams. A presentation is being prepared for distribution to Emergency Preparedness entities.
 - Jammers are increasingly being used. ISED requests help in tracking such devices.
 - Some businesses are using cheap VHF/UHF radios. ISED requests help in tracking down such devices.
 - 5 MHz change: The maximum power for this band is now 100W PEP.

The full text of ISED's report is posted on the BCARCC website.

- b. Motion to amend Constitution to allow for the appointment of an Honorary Life Member to recognize exemplary service over many years. Such recipients are to receive the privileges of membership without further payment of dues.

Proposed by Ed Frazer VE7EF, Carried

- c. Motion to appoint Bill Tracey VE7QQ as an Honorary Life Member for his years of service to the Council as one of the founding members, service as President, and as Policy Chair.

Proposed by Ed Frazer:VE7EF, Carried.

9. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- Vancouver Island South: Jack Olsen VE7GDE of NARA continues for the 2nd year of his first two-year term.
- Greater Vancouver #1: Ian Procyk VE7HHS of Coquitlam ARC continues for the 2nd year of his first two year term.
- Greater Vancouver #2: Urey Chan VE7URE of Richmond ARC elected.
- Greater Vancouver #3: Doug McBurney VA7DJ of Delta ARC elected.
- Vancouver Island North: Russell Storry VA7UQ of Powell River ARC, appointed for a second two year term.
- North Interior: No nominations; position vacant. Candidates will be sought north of Kamloops.
- Fraser Valley: No nominations; position vacant. Jay Melvin VE7KC of SEPAR, former director, will be asked to continue.
- South Interior: No nominations; position vacant. Al McNeil VA7QQ of Penticton ARC, former director, will be asked to continue.

10. Closing Remarks - The Chair gave thanks to the hosts (NSEM and NSARC), Coordinators, Officers, and Directors, to retiring Director Tom Dunn VE7TD, and especially to retiring Treasurer Brian Summers VE7JKZ for his many years of service.

11. Adjournment at 1200

Following the adjournment, the new BOARD OF DIRECTORS met to select 2017-2018 officers.

- President: Ian Procyk VE7HHS
- Vice-President: Doug McBurney VA7DJ
- Treasurer: Urey Chan VE7URE
- Secretary: Ed Frazer VE7EF
- Chief Coordinator: George Merchant VE7QH
- Policy Chair: Vacant

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