

Minutes of Monthly LCARA Business Meeting

Held:

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 1914 hours on ZOOM.

In Attendance:

Ralph, N2RJR (President and conducting); Glen, N7UIG (Treasurer); Carl, K7ECW (Secretary); Kevin, KC6FLG (Trustee), Randy, NU7D; Lloyd, W7KDG; Brian, KJ7OX; Rick, WA7NWN; Bob, KB7ADO; Connie, KB7AYY; Curt, KJ7CXR; Kyle, KJ7CXQ; Stu, K7WF; Jeff, KJ6ETR; Bill, KB7CZ; Dawna, KG7DZE; Charles, AD7UF; Linda (ACS)

Correspondence:

Glen N7UIG reports W7DG received a QSL card from California.

Randy, NU7D reported that the IRS has approved the ACS group's application as a 501C3 tax exempt status conforming to tax code 170 as an educational group. Paperwork to be mailed to Randy shortly.

OLD Business:

1. Minutes of the August 20, 2020 meeting have been posted to the website. No corrections or additions were necessary so Randy, NU7D seconded Ralph's, N2RJR motion to accept, motion passed.
2. Canceling the annual LCARA Christmas party due to Covid-19 restrictions was discussed. Unless we are in Phase 4, it will be a moot point. If we can meet, then options were discussed about alternatives to the typical structure of past years' event. Due to lack of ability to raise funds, perhaps a dinner only party would be appropriate or add the white elephant feature in which costs the club zero dollars. Topic was tabled since we would have time to decide something last minute should we get to phase 4.
3. Swap meets as fund raisers was discussed. Again, unless we are in Phase 4, it's a moot point so probably won't happen this year. When/if it does happen, holding it at the clubhouse is a bad idea so we don't attract undue attention to our facilities.
4. Maintenance items are ongoing like field mowing by Randy, NU7D. Kevin, KC6FLG put up a new VHF long-distance antenna. Kevin, KC6FLG, Brian, KJ7OX and Lloyd, W7KDG raised the 40-meter loop antenna from 40' to 60' which greatly improved its performance. Brian, KJ7OX spent 4.5 hours replacing the rotator and atop of the 100-foot tower and the rehabbed driven element of the beam antenna. The short tower now designated the VHF tower and the tall tower designated the HF tower. Lloyd is making a grounding bus bar which will accommodate polyphasers (RF surge and lightning protection).
5. The Salmon Run (Washington State QSO Party) is Sept 19-20, 2020. People are encouraged to come to the clubhouse and participate to see if we can duplicate last year's first place efforts! Contest hours are 0700-2400 on Saturday and 0700-1700 on Sunday. Only LCARA members can make contacts that count towards a winning total for W7DG!
6. The Finance Committee can now make trades using the online brokerage account and move monies from that account to the club checking account without additional approvals. The Finance Committee is now comprised of Ralph, N2RJR; Brian, KJ7OX; Lloyd, W7KDG; Kevin, KC6FLG and Glen, N7UIG.

7. The APRS station is working. Earl, N3EG set the power level at 5 watts, down from the previous setting of 25 watts, so it won't interfere with any other radio transmission at the clubhouse. Frequency knob had been bumped off frequency. Brian, KJ7OX set it back on 144.390 MHz.

8. The weather station at the clubhouse isn't presently sending information to the LCARA website. Issues with that are being addressed.

NEW Business

1. It was agreed that for the foreseeable future, having business meetings on ZOOM worked well and this format should be continued. Ralph, N2RJR will send out an email containing the ZOOM link to the membership. The link is not to be shared with others. Members logging on to the ZOOM meeting should identify themselves with the usual first name and call sign. Even when we can hold meetings at the clubhouse, consideration is being given to use dual formats. ZOOM could run, in addition to in person attendance so that people that cannot attend the meeting in person could participate.

2. Ralph, N2RJR explained the necessity of opening the LCARA By-Laws for amendments. After some discussion, Brian, KJ7OX made a motion to open the By-Laws for amendments which Lloyd, W7KDG seconded. Motion passed after more discussion. Future meetings will bring amendment proposals up for approval.

3. Randy, NU7D asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of the 6-meter CEMNET antenna as replacement cost estimates are around \$470. Brian, KJ7OX thought the antenna was in pieces stored in the container.

Good of the Order:

1. It appears that the source of the KBAM interference with our clubhouse has been identified and fixed! The large weather head in the storage room was the culprit. The fix was a ground braid installed from the weather head to ground. Thank Brian, KJ7OX for your diligence in troubleshooting the problem. Oftentimes, problems are resolved serendipitously. The other weather heads will be similarly grounded as a precautionary measure.

2. It seems that one or more of our neighbors to the south have been parking their vehicles in the rear of their property. They gain access to do so by using our driveway off Lone Oak Rd and driving across the field under the guy wires. A big no-no from both a safety and liability standpoint. KBAM Engineer John, KS0F had some signage stating Private Property, No Trespassing made up and will be installed, probably by LCARA members at the driveway entrance at Lone Oak Rd. If that does not resolve the problem, further action may become necessary.

3. It was suggested that perhaps we should invite members of other radio clubs in the area to combine with us in the use of our facilities. Contesting and presentation nights were given as examples where a cooperative venture might work. Brian, KJ7OX was aware of a radio club in St. Helens/Scappoose, OR and Kevin, KC6FLG has worked with hams in the North Mason County Radio Club in Belfair, WA. Members of these clubs could be invited to participate with us, or we could act as hosts for their activities at our clubhouse. It has the possibility of generating interest in our club (LCARA) at the same time. Ralph, N2RJR made a motion to pursue this, Lloyd, W7KDG seconded the motion which passed by a majority vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 2004 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl, K7ECW
Secretary

PS. If I gave anyone a new call sign, I apologize.