

Minutes

Palomar Amateur Radio Club

Board of Directors Meeting

March 9, 2011



The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ron Pollack K2RP at 7:22pm at the home of Al Donlevy W6GNI. In attendance were:

Vice President	Ron Pollack K2RP
Secretary	Paul Williamson, KB5MU
Director #1	Don Johnson, WD6FWE
Membership Chairman	Al Donlevy W6GNI
SCOPE Editor	Michelle Thompson W5NYV
Repeater Technical Chairman	Conrad Lara KG6JEI
Field Day Chairman	Greg Gibbs KI6RXX
Guest	Fred Atchley AE6IC

Secretary's Report

No minutes were available.

Treasurer's Report

K2RP distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report, extensively annotated by Treasurer Georgia Smith KI6LAV. **Motion** by Paul Williamson KB5MU to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Seconded by Don Johnson WD6FWE. Motion passed.

Upcoming General Meeting

K2RP reported that David Doan KC6YSO is scheduled to speak at the April meeting on NVIS. Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ is scheduled to speak at the May meeting on his trip to the Dayton Hamvention. Greg Gibbs KI6RXX is scheduled to lead a program at the June meeting in preparation for Field Day.

Repeater Technical Report

Repeater Technical Chairman Conrad Lara KG6JEI reported that he, Ted, and Dennis Baca KD6TUJ plan to work at the repeater site on Sunday, March 13. They will reset the 145.05 MHz packet TNC, install a 48V switching power supply for the 447 MHz repeater, and swap out the duplexer for 447 MHz with one salvaged from the KGB repeater.

There is presently nothing preventing the batteries from being discharged below safe levels during an extended power outage. Art McBride KC6UQH has identified a suitable power relay (\$163.75 plus tax and shipping from Mouser) and he and KG6JEI will build up the circuit to control it remotely using a spare repeater controller board. **Motion** by WD6FWE to approve up to \$250 to purchase the relay and materials to install a power cutoff circuit. Seconded by KB5MU. Motion passed unanimously.

Last month one of the SD-350 C-12 DC to DC power converters was overloaded due to an error in interpreting its specifications. We currently have two spare converters. One is slated to run the 447 MHz repeater and other other is to be kept at the repeater site as a

spare. Three more are needed, one for each of the packet systems at the repeater site. What are the current requirements of these systems? Action deferred until they can be measured.

The power output problem of the 52.68 MHz repeater was isolated to the exciter. Joe Acevedo N6SIX has donated a Motorola Micor mobile transceiver to use as a backup for this repeater. It will need a new crystal to work on our frequency. The cost to re-crystal the element is \$52.35, or about \$100 for a temperature-compensated element.

Internet Relay Request

Michelle Thompson W5NYV relayed a request via Facebook from Jim Davidson on behalf of the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. They would like to place a data relay at our site for the purpose of providing Internet access for the Fire Station and the secondary command post at the Chief's home. Do the needed lines of sight exist between these locations? W5NYV will check using Radio Mobile.

Field Day

KI6RXX reported on Field Day preparations. McAuliffe Elementary has been our proposed site, but Oceanside Councilman Jerry Kern has suggested using Buddy Todd Park instead. Both places have good elevation.

Buddy Todd Park is not very flat, so K2RP recommended asking John Kuivinen WB6IQS to do a site evaluation to determine if the portable towers could be erected safely. Al Donlevy W6GNI pointed out that Buddy Todd Park is very busy on weekends and parking can be a problem, with belligerent neighbors preventing nearby parking. McAuliffe Elementary will be expensive if we don't get a special deal, because they charge by the hour and require a staff member be present.

Some but not all station captains have been identified.

KB5MU agreed to add KI6RXX to the Board mailing list.

K2RP suggested that advance sign-ups to bring rigs to Field Day might help prevent unpleasantness with last-minute volunteers.

Requests for Repeater Usage

San Marcos CERT has requested use of the 146.73 MHz repeater from 6:45pm to 7:00pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays for their emergency preparedness net. Southwestern REACT has requested use of the 147.075 MHz repeater from 5:30am to 11:00am on Sunday, March 13, for the Safari Park Half Marathon. **Motion** by WD6FWE to approve both requests. Seconded by W6GNI. Motion passed unanimously.

Operating Day Park Rental

KD6TUJ teleconferenced into the meeting. The fee to rent Rancho Del Oro Park for Operating Day (with less than 60 days notice) is in the \$300 range. KD6TUJ believes we will be able to get a fee reduction with help from Councilman Kern, but we must first commit to pay the regular fee. **Motion** by WD6FWE to go ahead with Operating Day even with the \$300 fee. Seconded by W5NYV. Motion passed with three ayes, one nay, and one abstention. The conference call was then disconnected.

Recognition for Councilman Kern

Fred Atchley AE6IC stated that he believes the relatively favorable outcome in Oceanside would not have been possible without the help of Councilman Jerry Kern. AE6IC proposed that the club present Kern with a plaque in appreciation. K2RP had a concern about ethics rules regarding gifts. AE6IC agreed to check with the city attorney.

GOTA Station Scheduling at Field Day

AE6IC mentioned problems with mutual interference experienced at recent Field Days between the GOTA station and other stations operating on the same band. He asked that we consider some sort of operating schedule to permit the GOTA station to operate in certain windows without getting complaints from the other stations. K2RP stated that he should get with the Field Day Chairman and that it would be up to him. KI6RXX indicated that he'd be open to discussing it with AE6IC.

Involvement of CERT, Salvation Army, Etc. at Field Day

AE6IC asked if we wanted to involve CERT, the Salvation Army, etc. at Field Day. K2RP stated that this would be up to the Field Day Chairman, but that we've done so in the past and, generally, "the more the merrier".

Appointment of Director #2

KG6JEI relayed that Eric Hutchins K7ELH has volunteered to take up the vacated Director #2 position on the Board, and the President has appointed him to that position. **Motion** by WD6FWE to approve the appointment. Seconded by W6GNI. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Board Meeting Location

It was agreed that the next Board meeting would be held at the home of K2RP at 7pm on April 13, 2011.

Membership Report

Membership chairman Al Donlevy W6GNI reported that Club membership is 280.

Articles Needed for the SCOPE

W5NYV stated that articles are needed for the SCOPE, by this weekend (earlier than usual).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Williamson KB5MU
Secretary