**CARA BOARD MINUTES March 9, 2023**

**Board Members Attending: President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Vice President Brian Kress KB3WFV (via Zoom), Treasurer Dick Ratcliffe W3RBR, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Director Dale Sollars KC3RKP.**

Meeting called to order 6:35pm

Approved Board minutes from January and February.

N3AE and KR3A working on renewal of K3CAL license which expires on April 18, 2023. We discovered we need to go through the ARRL VEC for renewal of club licenses that include any changes such as email address, etc., including registering in the new CORES2 system. Since we missed the FCC’s switchover from CORES to CORES2 last year, we need to submit via a VEC.

Treasurer’s Report: CARA’s bank balance as of February 28 is $5767.36. The treasurer refunded KC3VNH’s dues since he is newly licensed and does not need to pay dues for the first calendar year per our by-laws.

Discussed how to improve the new member process, particularly informing new prospective members that their application has been received and after they have been voted in as members. The secretary will revise the new member application and send to N3PPH for updating our web site. The secretary will take on the responsibility of notifying applicants of their status. The Board decided not to add new members to the CARA email reflector until their dues are paid.

We discussed our possible support of the Southern Maryland annual firemen's parade in Prince Frederick on April 30. KC3QQD will contact the firemen’s association to see if they need any communications support. The Board also decided to recommend putting an advertisement for CARA in the parade program.

KB3WFV reminded the Board that a nominating committee needs to be set up at this membership meeting..

The Board meeting closed at 7:32pm

**CARA MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES MARCH, 2023**

**Attending: President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Treasurer Dick Ratcliffe W3RBR, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Director Dale Sollars KC3RKP, Andy KC3WRX, Charlie AB3LE, Bob KF3AA, Steve N3IPN, Dave KB3RAN, Peter N3PH, Andy Gregory, Mark KC3VNH, Joe Mandeile**

**Via Zoom: Vice President Brian Kress KB3WFV, Matt N3IVK, Dave W3PQS, Bob N3PPH, Kim K3OCM**

The meeting was called to order by President Erik Johnson at 7:38pm with Pledge of Allegiance. This was a Regular meeting but some time critical business needed to be conducted.

New members: New member Dave Armstrong, KC3TIA, was voted in.

The membership voted to approve the January and February minutes.

Treasurer’s report: CARA’s bank balance as of February 28 is $5767.36. Even though Amazon SMILE has been discontinued, some funds are still trickling in.

K3CAL license renewal: See Board minutes above. The process is proceeding. ARRL VEC has already sent our renewal application to the FCC, the $35.00 fee has been paid and the FCC license site shows our renewal action pending. A note to CARA members: If you have not already done so, you need to register in the new FCC CORES system and link that new account to your FRS number. Hopefully you already had a FRS account with the FCC. You will need your FRS account password to link the FRS to the new CORES account. See <https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-legacy-cores-system-to-be-retired> for further information and instructions.

We discussed possible support of the Southern Maryland annual firemen's parade in Prince Frederick on April 30. KC3QQD will contact the firemen’s association to see if they need any communications support. The Board recommends buying an advertisement for CARA in the parade program. After some discussion, the membership voted to approve a full page color ad at a cost of $250.00 (see <https://www.smvfa.net/content/convention/file/2023_convention_RSVP_packet(fillable).pdf> ). The ad must be submitted by March 17th. N3AE, KC3RKP, KC3QQD and KB3WFV are working on the ad. A key piece of information in the ad will be the URL to our web site.

Nominating committee: W3PQS, KC3WRX and KB3RAN volunteered to serve on the nominating committee for 2023. Their report will be due no later than October 1.

We discussed the possibility of NWS Skywarn using our repeaters for coverage of southern Maryland. The 145.350 repeater previously served that purpose but is off the air. Membership voted to approve pursuing this with the National Weather Service in Sterling. KC3WRX has already contacted them and in discussions. The local Skywarn subnet information can be found at <https://www.wx4lwx.org/Frequencies.php>

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:13

50/50: Andy, KC3WRX. won the 50/50 and donated $26.00 to CARA. Thanks Andy.

Presentation: Dale, KC3RKP, showed the group a variety of simple HF and VHF/UHF antennas he has built and used both at home and in the field as part of his go-kit. Even simple antennas can be very effective if propagation conditions are favorable.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50p

2023 Meeting Presentation Schedule

April - Business Meeting

May - PSK - Dave KB3RAN

June - Open ...... Field Day Overview

July - Business Meeting

Aug - Open

Sept - Open

Oct - Business Meeting

Nov - Open - Elections

Events for 2023

April - NVIS Day April 22nd - <https://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/nvis_day.html> contact KB3RAN & N3AE

May - OPEN

June - Field Day - Dale KC3RKP - Dave W3PQS

July - OPEN

Aug - MDC QSO Party - Andy KC3WRX

Aug - Lighthouse weekend

Sep - Fox Hunt followed by picnic

Oct - OPEN

Nov - OPEN

DEC - Christmas Party