

PSRG Board Meeting Minutes

October 10th, 2020, 13:30

Via Zoom



1. **Meeting called to order** at 13:35.

2. **Board members present :**

Kirsten N2BRN, Quentin K7DRQ, Doug KD7DK, Allison KI7QBD, Tim WT1IM, Don W7UUL, Bill N6NBN.

Old Business

3. **Approve board meeting minutes from [previous meeting](#) (August 8, 2020).** Bill N6NBN motioned to approve, Allison KI7QBD seconded, all approved.
4. **Plans for the Annual Dinner.** Tim WT1IM suggests a Zoom meeting where we share recipes ahead of time and some people can cook the same things -- a casual event where we can all get together. Doug KD7DK suggests we take this idea to the Facebook group for feedback and ideas.
5. **Financial summary and budget for the year.** Allison KI7QBD has made some progress on the budget, and will touch base later with Doug KD7DK working on fiscal year 2020's budget.
6. **Educational meetings feedback from members.** Quentin K7DRQ to email the list of solicited talk topics to the board and tech group to seek speakers.
7. **Remote station exploration.** The board will read [recommendations](#) by Rich K7RCH and Quentin K7DRQ, to be discussed at the next board meeting. Doug KD7DK suggests we begin thinking about a formal budget.

New Business

8. **6m repeater system.** Doug KD7DK is modeling a 6m system around that of the Nixa Amateur Radio Club in Missouri, using a Henry 300W amp and Motorola radios. We can implement voting in the same manner as our 2m system. Doug has obtained three RTCMs and two CDM radios. We have talked with Seattle ACS to place these at Beacon and Capitol Park; feedlines and antennas are needed but otherwise, power and networking is available at these sites. The initial plan is to use a split site system to avoid the use of duplexers. There are plenty of open frequencies in-band and we believe this is not a slow or arduous process to register with WVARA.
The CDM750s, when run at their lowest power, and force-air-cooled, can be operated at high duty cycles. Doug KD7DK calls for volunteers to look at building an air-cooling system that triggers on PTT signals for the 6m repeater; another project is to build AllStar nodes on Raspberry Pis; finally, repeater control (power cycling, shutting down the transmitter, etc.) is also a desired project. Quentin K7DRQ will forward these requests to the Facebook group.
A motion to move forwards on this project was made by Quentin K7DRQ, seconded by Kirsten N2BRN, and approved by all. Doug KD7DK will issue a revised budget.

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9. **New receiver at Magnolia.** The new receiver is running well at Magnolia. Doug KD7DK suggests that we decommission the receiver at Shilshole because Magnolia should cover the area well.

Standing Committee Reports

10. **Treasurer's report.**

We have

- \$2,985.16 in checking
- \$5,165.16 in savings

Allison KI7QBD has transferred \$1,622.57 from PayPal into our Savings account. The board sees this financial situation as very healthy and sees no need to call a funding drive for new tech projects.

11. **Technical Committee report.**

- 11.1. **New ethernet switch for Capitol Park.** The new switch was purchased and will be installed at the next trip to Capitol Park, giving us the ethernet ports that we need to manage the growing number of devices there. We may need another for Beacon in the near future, costing around \$170, for the 6m repeater installation there. This will become part of the 6m project budget.

- 11.2. **Additional monitoring of our services.** We have a large number of different devices running in the field. Doug KD7DK is testing SmokePing, a network monitoring tool, as a way to monitor the performance of these devices and receive alerts when problems arise.

- 11.3. **Second Broadcastify account.** The current account uploads to Cory NQ1E's account. We wanted more advanced access to recordings of repeater activity, so we obtained our own Broadcastify account. Doug KD7DK proposes we get a second dedicated to uploading recordings. Kirsten moved that we acquire a second dedicated Broadcastify account, Quentin K7DRQ seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- 11.4. **Scraping Voterscope data for analysis.** Quentin K7DRQ has written code that scrapes the PSRG Voterscope twice a second on a continual basis. He's delivered to the board an analysis of the performance of the receivers, and will renew the analysis including the Magnolia receiver before sending it out to general membership, or deliver an educational meeting on the topic.

12. **Net Manager's report.** Kenah K3NAH and James WQ7H have become net hosts for the 19:30 check-in net, replacing Bob K9PQ in his retirement from net host duties. Thanks, Bob !

Announcements

13. **The next Educational Meeting will be on November 14th, online via Zoom.**
14. **The next Board Meeting will be on December 12th, online via Zoom.**

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Closing

- 15. Motion to adjourn** made at 14:37 made by Quentin K7DRQ, seconded by Bill N6NBN, and approved by all.