

Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council, Inc.

Meeting Notes October 20, 2013 1:30PM

Logan Twp Municipal Complex Altoona, PA

W.P.R.C, Inc. 3000 Village Run Road, Unit 103 #173, Wexford Pa 15090-9244 W.P.R.C. E-Mail: wprc@wprcinfo.org --- W.P.R.C. Web Site: http://www.wprcinfo.org

Chairman: Paul Plants W3PLP Vice Chairman & Chaplain: Jim Knox N5NWC Secretary: Thomas Brew K3WS Assistant Secretary: Elaine Bailey K3EMM Treasurer: Tom Cooney Jr. W3SF Frequency Coordinator: Frank Bobro N3FB Bylaws Committee Chairman: Jeff Blake N8PSU Technical Committee Chairman: Kevin Custer WJ8G Publicity Chairman: Jim Knox N5NWC Assistant Publicity Chairman & Webmaster: Scott Zimmerman N3XCC

----- report highlights ------

I would like to extend a "Thank You" to the 35 people who gave of their time and attended the October 20th WPRC, Inc. meeting at the Logan Township Municipal Complex in Altoona, PA. It is only with your participation we can effectively do our jobs and serve you to the best of our abilities. It is with your attendance we all can positively affect forward thinking and continuous improvements. And the food was great!

A special thank you to Jeff Blake N8PSU our host for this great meeting location. It was great to see Jeff and enjoy the comfort of the Logan Township Municipal Building. Pictures have been posted on the WPRC, Inc. Facebook page (Photographers Jack KC3BGR and Joe W3BC)

As everyone in attendance already knows John AB3QW was the lucky winner of the \$50.00 gas card provided by Mr. John Szwarc, N3SPW of the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association <u>www.philipsburgara.org</u>. The WPRC, Inc. also raffled off several repeater directories. We hope to see more raffles at future meetings and other individuals and organizations are welcomed to provide items to give away. Please give us advanced notice for consideration and publication.

Several people provided food to share and I do not think anyone went home hungry. Pot Luck lunch seems to be a hit and will now be part of every meeting. A special thanks goes out to Emma Venesky, N3VRN, (Patton, PA) for cooking the pasta and meatballs, and to Chris Venesky, KA3JIB for transporting the food to Altoona on Sunday morning.

Congratulations to Tom Cooney Jr. W3SF our newly elected Treasurer and Paul Plants W3PLP our reelected Chairman. Both have been elected to a full 2 year term. See the last page of this report for a special message from Mr. Cooney Jr.

Note: Both positions were a unanimous vote called by the Secretary Tom Brew K3WS as Mr. Cooney Jr. and Mr. Plants were the only candidates for each position to receive a 2nd on their nomination.

As voted on and approved by the members in attendance at this meeting, WPRC, Inc. 2014 membership dues will remain \$15.00 so please proactively renew your membership and retain your voting rights and support the further improvement of WPRC, Inc. Let's see how many renewals we can receive by the January meeting.

----- report ------

Jim Knox N5NWC started the meeting with a Prayer asking for the Lord's blessing in our efforts as a group working together and he also asked that we all be blessed with a safe trip home. Jim also asked for the Lord's blessing of everyone serving in our armed forces.

Bill Kristoff N3BPB led the members attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) Meeting Called to Order

Paul W3PLP called the Regular Meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council to order at 1:30 PM. Paul announced that as with all meetings there is an audio recording that is kept on file for board of director access only. Paul also mentioned that if anyone was uncomfortable with the meeting being archived in audio format they were welcome to step out. Audio Log # 3576

2) Welcome and Introductions. We went around the room and introduced ourselves by name and call sign. Refer to attendance list at the end of this report. Log # 3575

Paul asked to make sure everyone has checked in with the Secretary and signed the check in sheet. All members confirmed to have voting rights were issued a green verification card upon check in. This was done to help streamline the process as we held elections.

3) Approval of New Members - For Chuck W3ON, Paul W3PLP read off the list of new members pending approval.

Bud Plants N3TIR for 145.250

Motion to Approve: Jeff N8PSU 2nd Chuck N3LAD Vote: Unanimous

Motion Passed All listed New Members Seated.

4) Reading of the Minutes of prior meeting.

Tom K3WS pointed out the past meeting notes have been publicly published for 3 months and that he received no corrections by e-mail. Bill N3BPB motioned to accept as published. Tom, K3WS, reminded everyone that all meeting notes are published at wprcinfo.org shortly after each meeting and sent to each member by e-mail. Please make sure we have your correct e-mail address. We will not SPAM.

Motion to Approve: Bill N3BPB 2nd Scott N3XCC Vote: Unanimous

Meeting notes will be submitted for publication on wprcinfo.org

5) Treasurer's Report

Subject: W.P.R.C. Treasurer's Report From: Charles Gessner W3ON, Read by Paul W3PLP SB (Checking)= \$5989.76 (7/21/2013)Deposits (Checking): \$ 195.00 Interest: \$0.31 Total Deposits: \$195.31 \$ 105.00 Cash On Hand: Expenses (7/21/2013 to 10/19/2013): Check #1023 \$ 60.45 F. Bobro N3FB (Postage/Supplies) \$ 240.00 Check #1024 UPS Store (Mail Box Rent for period 8/15/2012 to November 2014 Total Expenses: \$ 300.45 Ending Balance: \$5989.62 (10/19/2013)End Of Year Report: (10/21/2012 to 10/19/2013) SB=\$3872.13 Deposits: \$2839.00 (Cash/Checks) Interest: \$1.07 Total Deposits: \$2840.07 \$ 947.58 Expenses: Expenses by Officers: Treasurer: \$ 775.74 Secretary: \$39.39 Frequency Coordinator: \$60.45 Chairman/Vice Chairman: \$0.00 Membership Committee: \$72.00

Expenses by Category:					
Mail Box Rent:	\$240.00	Total E	Expense	es: \$947.58	
PA Dept of State:	\$125.00				
Check Deposit Books:	\$ 32.01				
Meeting Donations:	\$ 50.00				
Website Rent/Dom Name:	\$ 41.15				
Cash	\$ 40.00				
Breezeshooters Prize	\$ 87.14				
Postage:	\$332.28				
C C					
Total Deposits:	\$2840.07				
Total Expenses:	-\$ 947.58				
Difference:	\$1892.49				
Membership Statistics	Regular (Paid):	80	Repre	sented Repeaters:	135
	• • •		•		
Proposed Budget:	10/20/2013 to 10/19/	2014			
Projected Income (@\$15.00 per 125 represented repeaters)= \$1875.00 (Corrected after meeting)					d after meeting)
Projected Expenses:				\$2200.00 (added 10	00/mo automation)
Projected Balance:				-\$350.00	

Paul asked if there were any questions.

Bill N3BPB, requested an update on the absence of Charles Gessner W3ON. Paul W3PLP mentioned that Chuck had recently suffered a fall and is in the process of recovery noting upon his recent visit Chuck seemed to be in good spirits. Paul also noted that even though, Chuck W3ON did not wish to run in this election he did plan to attend subsequent meetings as he felt up to it.

Paul further announced that the WPRC, Inc and its members were presenting Chuck with a certificate of appreciation for his many, many, years of dedicated service with the WPRC, Inc.

Motion to Approve: Tom K3WS 2nd Bill N3BPB Vote: Unanimous

6) Board Year end Reports.

Chairman - Paul, W3PLP

Started off by mentioning that he was going to be brief and to the point but wanted to announce things are going very well and there are may surprises planned for the future including a new web site.

Vice-Chairman – Jim N5NWC

Thank you to the WPRC, Inc. members and the Board of Directors of whom I have had the great pleasure to serve in the past year. I do look forward to 2014 and the things we will do together.

I offer this year end report as a brief summary of our joint accomplishments for without you all, none of our successes would have been possible.

You all trusted, by your votes just a year ago, me to serve as your Vice-Chairman and with that trust I returned the following accomplishments.

While serving as Acting Chairman and Vice-Chairman elected I decided to bring prayer to our fine organization. I must report a good number of you made very positive comments on this.

Working with the newly formed committees I handled several items of public relations and resolved a few issues before they became official WPRC business.

I maintained a complete open door policy and made myself available to anyone with questions, comments, or concerns. Offering support and advice needed throughout the year.

While originally appointing the current committees and assistant positions believing we needed the help to transform the New WPRC, Inc. into a group serving the best interest of its membership. I realize today by your comments and feedback we have done well with the wide variety of talent at our disposal.

With my experience I provided technical assistance and repeater support as needed throughout the year.

In closing this was simply the most important and higher level items that I care to mention in my year end report.

May God Bless you all and I wish you a blessed holiday season!!

Secretary – Tom K3WS Assistant Secretary - Elaine K3EMM

Thank you to the WPRC, Inc. members and the Board of Directors of whom I have had the great pleasure to serve in the past year. I am offering this report for both the Secretary and the Assistant to the Secretary. I must first personally thank Elaine K3EMM for her dedication and assistance as without it we would not have been able to do what we have accomplished this year.

I would also like to personally thank each member in each committee who also have done much more work than any of us will ever realize. We as a unified group truly have accomplished a lot in a short period of time. Not all of you may be happy with some of our decisions but the great majority has offered positive progress reports.

You will notice Scott N3XCC will be passing out a WPRC, Inc. report card in this meeting. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to him.

I offer this year end report as a brief summary of our joint accomplishments for without you all, none of our successes would have been possible.

I decided after being elected to call a special meeting in November of 2102 so that our efforts starting 2103 would be positive and efficient. In the November Special meeting we were able to iron out most of the issues that would have surely set us back from have a good start of 2013. Thank you again for everyone who dedicated their time to the special meeting and helping make the positive changes.

While serving as the Secretary we logged and processed 294 items of official business among many non official items.

Working with the newly formed committees we worked hard to automate a lot of the paper portion of processing WPRC, Inc Business. Including efficient meeting note completion and distribution. 2014 will be a year of automation and streamlining processing.

With our experience we provided technical assistance and data support as needed throughout the year.

In closing thank you for your trust.

Frequency Coordinator - Frank N3FB

We have approved 27 requests from surrounding coordination bodies. This process has become one of the easier ones for me to respond to as it was the first that I had to create a system for.

We have acted upon 44 coordination requests, of those we have issued 39 initial coordinations and 19 of those became final coordinations in 2013. I have managed to get caught up through September for most of the requests. For me this is a slow and deliberate process. I am still learning methods to this process and it will take me a while to process each application.

Survey reports continued to trickle in in the early part of the year, this information is critical in keeping the database updates to afford protection to your repeaters.

Early in the year I responded to the ARRL repeater directory and updated all of the machines listed in the book. This process is about to begin again for this past year.

I have continued to improve a database of system information using Microsoft Access. It can export a file that is capable of generating a kml file for Google earth. This has been the first line of checks for new applications. If the spacing is close, a check using the FCC's distance and bearing locator is performed.

I also have added a table in the database to track changes to coordinations. This is working well. I still need to develop a few forms for data entry and processing and timely reminders.

Thank you for allowing me to assist the council in this capacity and I have hopes that I will be able to create systems that will allow for better tracking of information.

Paul W3PLP asked if anyone needed a restroom break if not we will move on. On we went...

Bill N3BPB commented "It is amazing form my point of view and many others here to see the 180 degree change in the WPRC, the cooperation, the openness, the transparency, it is unbelievable. It makes me feel warm."

The entire room applauded.

Joe W3BC offered this resolution.

A Resolution of The Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council, October 20, 2013

Whereas

The Year 2013 has been a year of many changes and challenges, and changes,

Whereas

The 2013 Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council Executive Board has provided exceptional leadership and outstanding service to WPRC members, repeater users and the Public,

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved

The Membership of The Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council hereby expresses its most sincere thanks and praise to the Board for its service and leadership.

Motion to Approve: Kevin WJ8G 2nd Bill N3BPB Vote: Unanimous

- 7) Committee Reports
 - a) Technical Committee Kevin WJ8G

I have been involved in building and coordinating repeaters in the WPRC defined section since 1979. In 1991 I ran against Joe McElhaney for position frequency coordinator, but didn't make it. Sometime in late 1998 I submitted a request to change standard the PL tone in the south-east quadrant from 146.2 to 123.0 Hz. In the January 1999 meeting of the WPRC, Sam - W3CYO and Paul - W3PLP motioned that standard be changed to 123 Hz, and the motion carried. Later in 1999 I helped on a topic of whether or not mobile cross-band repeaters were required to identify, as well as other operating parameters. In

January of 2000, I was appointed as one of the first six Regional Coordination Assistants (RCA's), along with Jim - N5NWC and Paul - W3PLP.

A year ago I proposed the reformation of a Technical Committee to assist the Frequency Coordinator with his duties. Acting Chairman Paul - W3PLP appointed me as Technical Committee Chairman. At the time, I wasn't sure if that was done in spite - or in the best interest of the WPRC...

Over the past year, we had a special 7 hour work session that was held January 19, 2013 to review the backlog of many open coordination items. That work party consisted of Frank and Lori, and Elaine and I. I recognized Frank on a job well done, especially where the new frequency database was concerned. The Technical Committee should help the Frequency Coordinator in his duties by relieving some of his burden on research, coverage prediction, and general logistics, among the many other aspects of frequency coordination.

Cynthia - WB3CNJ reported about interference to the 146.985 repeater.

In a post meeting update January 23, after an e-mail exchange started by Tom K3WS with Len N8AD and myself, I reported that Len N8AD has agreed to move his 2 meter operations from 147.000 MHz to another frequency and apologized for any inconvenience.

I worked with Jim - N5NWC and several others on the 27 unresolved frequency coordination surveys. I motioned that any unresolved items/frequencies in this list be returned to the coordination pool on June 20, 2103. That motioned carried by unanimous vote.

On a request from Frank - N3FB, I wrote up some correspondence that accompanies initial coordinations, as well as fielded information from/to coordination bodies that surround us concerning two coordination disputes and helped write the resolutions for each of them. Since this time, I have been pre-screening the coordination applications for any inaccuracies, and where necessary I contact the prospective trustee by phone or email to obtain the correct data. This helps streamline the coordination process and help eliminate erroneous data. During this time, I updated several web pages to make them easier to read and understand.

Tom - K3WS made a motion to authorize and task the Technical Committee (lead by myself) with the duty of evaluating and researching the best option to totally optimize the operations of the WPRC, Inc from every standpoint. A budget will be proposed to the board, including web site hosting, design, and updating. I'm still working with Scott - N3XCC and Elaine - K3EMM on this proposal.

I also worked on two reports of interference and their resolve. These include 145.110 between Rochester NY and Warren PA, and the other on 146.610 between Pittsburgh and Altoona.

As introduced as an idea for the board to consider by Elaine K3EMM, is the matter of "Paper Repeaters". In an email received from Wayne - WS3PC on October 1st 2013 informed the WPRC of two repeaters claimed to be off the air - for some time. The repeaters reported were the 146.88 in Coudersport and 147.300 in Smethport.

On October 3rd Paul - W3PLP asked me if I was close enough to either of these locations to establish whether or not either were truly on the air - or not. I told him I was too far away to be sure, but I would take the time to go on an expedition and see. On Sunday October 6th, Elaine and I went on a road trip. We traveled from Warren to Smethport, Coudersport and then to Kane, Leeper, Tionesta, Youngsville and back to Warren.

From that trip, the following five repeaters are confirmed not currently on the air as of October 6, 2013. Smethport - 147.300 Coudersport - 146.88 Vowinkel - 443.375 Tionesta - 145.49

Tionesta - 442.400

The repeaters that were NOT on the air were investigated to the fullest. In all three cases we tried EVERY PL tone and drove within several hundred feet of the coordinated repeater site. We also tested from the town center.

Please note that NOT every coordinated repeater near our travels, or in this quadrant, was tested for on air conformity. That was way beyond the scope of what I was asked to do.

It is my goal as Technical Committee Chairman to assist the Board of Directors and the members of the WPRC, Inc. to continue to make it a better organization.

b) By Laws Committee - Jeff N8PSU

The by-laws committee along with members of the current board have continued to develop the by-laws revisions. While the process is slow, the development of solid language that will carry the WPRC forward is the primary focus. This process removes conflicting language, gives more specific language around membership and organizational function such as establishing standing committees and assistant positions to help process day to day business.

The WPRC became officially incorporated as a PA non profit in early 2013.

It's my expectation that we will bring forward to the membership a final document in 2014 that will survive and keep the WPRC grounded, stable and membership driven!

c) Public Relations Committee – Jim N5NWC and Scott N3XCC

Jim N5NWC mentioned that Scott N3XCC will give this report.

Scott N3XCC, commented on the new WPRC, Inc website and his plans to help streamline its presentation and use. Scott showed the main page on the screen at the meeting indicating this is just a start. Please visit wprcinfo.org and give your input along the way. There will be a member's only area as well.

- 8) Old Business
 - a) Review on paper reports and some repeaters reported or found to be off air.

This subject received a great deal of around the room discussion and information sharing. Quite a few members in attendance openly participated in this great discussion. This was a very impressive discussion lead by Kevin WJ8G who overviewed a recent drive-out to verify the operation status of several repeaters. In an email received from Wayne - WS3PC on October 1st 2013 informed the WPRC of two repeaters claimed to be off the air - for some time. The repeaters reported were the 146.88 in Coudersport and 147.300 in Smethport.

On October 3rd Paul - W3PLP asked Kevin if he was close enough to either of these locations to establish whether or not either were truly on the air - or not. Kevin told Paul he was too far away to be sure, but he would take the time to go on an expedition and see. On Sunday October 6th, Elaine - K3EMM and Kevin - WJ8G went on a road trip. They traveled from Warren to Smethport, Coudersport and then to Kane, Leeper, Tionesta, Youngsville and back to Warren.

From that trip, the following five repeaters were confirmed not currently on the air as of October 6, 2013. Smethport - 147.300 Coudersport - 146.88 Vowinkel - 443.375 Tionesta - 145.49 It was reported by Frank - N3FB the Frequency Coordinator that the Trustees for the 147.300 and 146.88 frequencies had responded that while their repeaters were off the air at the time of returning the surveys, they would have their repeaters on the air sometime in 2012. Since neither trustee had established a working repeater in over a year, it was discussed and decided that these two coordinations would be revoked immediately and their frequencies be returned to the pool. It was also discussed and decided that the remaining three would be sent a letter informing the Trustees that they had 90 days, or until the next meeting (which ever came first) to return their perspective repeaters to working operation or they would lose their coordination(s).

This discussion was brought to a motion by Bill - N3BPB, seconded by Paul - W3PLP and carried on unanimous vote.

- b) Paul W3PLP appointed Scott N3XCC as WPRC, Inc. Webmaster
- 9) New Business
 - a) We have issued log numbers 3551 3572 since the July meeting.
 - b) 2014 Membership dues. After around the room discussion with all members in attendance a motion by Scott N3XCC was made to keep the dues at \$15.00 for 2014 so we may continue to support and sustain the growth of the WPRC, Inc. There is a pending budget for automation and streamlined processing as well as on line membership application and payment.

Motion to Approve: N3XCC 2nd Eric KB3TTX Vote: Unanimous

10) Location and time of next meetings

2014 WPRC, Inc. meeting area/locations (addresses will be confirmed and posted on WPRCinfo.org)

January - Washington County, 911

April - Warren, PA

July - Punxsutawney, PA

October - Altoona, PA

Motion to approve as suggested by attending members: N3LAD 2nd Brian KB3ORS Vote: Unanimous

11) Raffle

Raffle for the \$50.00 gas card provided by Mr. John Szwarc N3SPW, that the Philipsburg Amateur Radio Association <u>www.philipsburg-ara.org</u> and repeater directories supplied by the ARRL. Sheetz Gas Card Winner John AB3QW

12) Elections:

Thomas Cooney Jr. Nominated by Jeff N8PSU and 2nd by K3WS (no others nominated received 2nd) Motion to close by Jeff N8PSU and 2nd by Kevin WJ8G Paul Plats Nominated by Bill N3PLP and 2nd by Kevin WJ8G Motion to close by Jeff N8PSU and 2nd by Paul AB3PJ

Jeff N8PSU moved for the Secretary to a cast Unanimous ballot for both candidates.

Tom K3WS Cast Unanimous ballot for both candidates. Vote: Unanimous

Paul, W3PLP, once reelected, seated Tom W3SF as Treasurer and reappointed all of the current committees and also appointed Scott, N3XCC as the WPRC, Inc. Webmaster. Please check <u>wprcinfo.org</u> for our new web site as Scott N3XCC is in the process of making some updates.

13) Adjournment at 2:57 PM

Motion to Adjourn: Brian KB3ORS 2nd Sam W3CYO Vote: Unanimous

14) Attendance as copied from signed attendance Log Number: 3575 35 in attendance.

Mike ErrigoWB3EQWMemberMichael SakmarN3SSDMember - 2 nd RepEric LongwellKB3TTXMemberJohn GarberAB3QWMember - 2 nd RepEd HinkleK3EDDMemberElmer PlatsN3TIRMemberBrian BurtonKB3ORSMemberBrian FornwaltN3ZQYMember - 2 nd RepBryan SimanicWA3UFNMemberJoe ShupienisW3BCMemberRich BrinkKB3QKRMemberJohn SzwarcN3SPWMemberScott RummingsW3EQDMemberChuck EnglodyN3LADMemberHerb EnosKB3REAGuest	T J B M F J F W F J L F W O J A W A A A B J B B B B B J F J W O F	Michael Sakmar Eric Longwell John Garber Ed Hinkle Elmer Plats Brian Burton Brian Fornwalt Bryan Simanic Joe Shupienis Rich Brink John Szwarc Scott Rummings Chuck Englody Herb Enos	N3SSD KB3TTX AB3QW K3EDD N3TIR KB3ORS N3ZQY WA3UFN W3BC KB3QKR N3SPW W3EQD N3LAD KB3REA	Member - 2 nd Rep Member Member - 2 nd Rep Member Member Member Member Member Member Member Member Member Member Member Member
Ed Fleck W3ERF Member – 2^{nd} Rep				

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Special Committees, Thank you to everyone for your continued support and assistance in the growth and continued success of the WPRC, Inc. providing effective coordination services to the amateur community.

Meeting Notes Log Number: 3577 Meeting Audio Log Number: 3576 Meeting Sign In Log Number: 3575

See you all January at the Washington County, PA 911 Center

Tom Cooney, Jr., W3SF Treasure WPRC, Inc. October 23, 2013 Statement of Introduction to WPRC members

Dear Council Members,

It is an honor to be elected to serve as treasurer for the Western PA Repeater Council.

A good first order of business would be to introduce myself. I am a second generation ham, being first licensed as a novice in 1977, at the age of 15. My father, W3ULM, is still an active source of encouragement and support.

While finishing an Electrical Engineering Degree at Penn State, I met my wife Tammy, who shortly thereafter became N3MAZ. We have two children, both in their mid 20s; Amber, KB3EVN (Austin, TX), and Justin, KB3LGS (Altoona, PA).

I have been the secretary of the Horseshoe ARC in Altoona for well over 25 years, and treasurer for a couple of those. I enjoy the HF bands, and spend a good bit of time working on the 2 VHF and 1 UHF repeater owned by HARC. I am also a member of the Cambria Radio Club, and the Potomac Valley Radio Club. Currently, an Extra class, occasionally I guest operate and maintain equipment at the W3SO contest station in FN00sn. I am a volunteer examiner for the ARRL VEC.

I am fortunate to have a job I love, and an employer who supports amateur radio and community service. I plan to bring my time and talents to the WPRC over the next two years to make the systems, policies, and procedures of the council leaner, more responsive, and in-touch with the membership.

I welcome both your suggestions and the opportunity to serve you alongside the other council directors.

73 - Tom Cooney, W3SF

Tom - K3WS for a final, On behalf of all of the members: A dedication...

Mr. Charles Gessner W3ON, our long time Treasurer (among other things) received a certificate of recognition and appreciation for his many years of service with the WPRC, Inc. "Chuck" decided to not run for re-election so he may recover from a recent medical condition. Paul, W3PLP reports that, upon his recent visit, Chuck is in good spirits and doing well. Chuck please know we all look forward to hearing from you and visiting with you at future meetings... 73 OM