



Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council, Inc.

Meeting Notes April 27, 2014 1:00PM

Glade Volunteer Fire Department Warren, 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

----- April Report Highlights -----

We would like to extend a "Thank You" to the 34 people who gave of their time and attended the April 27th WPRC, Inc. meeting at the Glade Volunteer Fire Department Warren, 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! Please also make note this was the first ever WPRC, Inc. meeting to be held in Warren, PA.

A special thank you to Terry Carlson W3GFD our host for this great meeting location. It was great to see Terry and enjoy the comfort of the Glade Volunteer Fire Department, their baked ziti, and refreshments. Pictures have been posted on the WPRC, Inc. Facebook page (Photographer Terry W3GFD)

As everyone in attendance already knows we gave away a 2014-2105 repeater directory to everyone in attendance. Bud W3TIR was the lucky winner of the HT provided by Mr. Paul Plants W3PLP, Chairman of the WPRC, Inc. The WPRC, Inc. also raffled off 3 large size 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.

With the January meeting being an undocumented work session we reminded everyone in attendance about the October 2013 election results: Congratulations to Tom Cooney Jr. W3SF our newly elected Treasurer and Paul Plants W3PLP our re-elected Chairman. Both have been elected to a full 2 year term. See the last page of this report for a special message from Mr. Tom Cooney Jr.

Please direct any comments and or feedback regarding this report directly to sec@WPRCinfo.org or via US Mail to: WPRC, Inc. c/o Secretary, 3000 Village Run Road, Unit 103 #173 Wexford, PA 15090-9244 All comments officially received will be logged and properly processes at future meetings if so required.

----- April 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 at home and away.

1) Meeting Called to Order

Paul W3PLP called the Regular Meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council to order at 1:00 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 # 3702

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 # 3699 Paul asked to make sure everyone has checked in with the Secretary and signed the check in sheet.

3) New Members

Tom K3WS Reports all renewals at this point and as of this meeting.

4) Treasurer's Report Tom W3SF

Opening Balance 1/1/2014	\$ 5,950.46
Interest Income Through 3/31/14	+ \$ 0.33
Dues Income Through 4/26/2014	+ \$ 970.00
ARRL Stipend for 2014 Repeater Data Usage	+ \$375.00
Expenses 1/1/14 Through 4/26/14	- \$ 5.80 for Postage
Ending Balance on 4/26/14	\$ 7,289.99 (Includes \$99.75 Petty Cash)

Membership Database Shows: 319 coordinated repeaters, 102 paid representations and 1 paid associate membership. There are 5 complimentary mailing addresses in the database.

Tom K3WS asked for an explanation for the benefit of the membership as to what the \$375.00 deposit / ARRL check was for. Kevin WJ8G and Frank N3FB indicated it was our reward for properly reporting our repeater information to the ARRL. Kevin also noted that in the cover of each 2014-2015 repeater directory is a link for a smart phone application you may use. Paul W3PLP mentioned that it has only been since the last 2 years of the new Board of Directors the WPRC, Inc has received this ARRL money.

Motion to Approve: Gary WA3NSM 2nd Terry W3GFD Vote: Unanimous

5) Frequency Coordinator Report - Frank N3FB

To date WPRC has approved 4 surrounding coordination requests from other councils. We have issued 1 initial coordination, 2 final coordinations and 2 denials.

I have continued to make improvements to my database files. Recently, I downloaded an updated file from the FCC containing license data. Remember, you are required to keep your current address up to date with the FCC. I base all of my mailings on the address that is on record with the FCC.

I also have created a form to send out as a reminder to send in on-air notices. There are a number of machines that have been issued initial coordinations and have not sent the WPRC an on-air notice. The initial coordination will expire in six months and the frequency will return to the pool if we are not contacted. I want to make sure that it does not fall into the cracks and become one of the 'paper' repeaters from the beginning.

I am working on a better way to submit information to our website and hope to have that worked out soon. ARRL has gone to only accepting data that is entered on their web site. In the past they would accept a database file either mailed or uploaded to them. I have always entered the information into their system and have never sent them a file.

Thanks to Kevin for all of his help with coordination issues and for checking over letters and some of my ideas. The attending membership agreed with a round of applause.

Motion to Approve: Paul W3PLP 2nd W3SF Vote: Unanimous

6) Committee Reports

a) Technical Committee – Kevin WJ8G

In December 2013 the WPRC, Inc. fielded a letter which notified us of an uncoordinated repeater operating on 147.270- MHz in Washington County. This letter stated that a deal was struck between the Trustee and another party wishing to re-establish this frequency which had been off the air for an undetermined amount of time, for undisclosed reasons. After the initial verbal agreement, the repeater went on the air at a different location than was coordinated. The Trustee indicated that parts of the agreement were not being held up by the "other party". The Trustee indicated that the deal was off and requested the other party remove their repeater on 147.270. The other party indicated they were "taking over" the frequency, thus putting this coordination in dispute. In the mean time, the original Trustee signed over the coordination to someone else. This new Trustee re-established the repeater as per their coordination. As soon as this repeater was re-established, the other party's repeater created an interference situation. A letter was written by the Trustee to the WPRC, Inc FCC, and the other party, stating that there was an interference situation and they were to cease and desist. The other party did nothing, and yet another letter was written to the WPRC, Inc, FCC, and the other party reinforcing the request. The other party did nothing. This resulted in a phone call from Ms. Laura Smith of the Amateur Enforcement Bureau (FCC) to the WPRC, Inc., which I fielded. This action resulted in a letter from the FCC to the other party creating the interference. The other party has stopped transmitting on 147.270 MHz. The WPRC understands that the other party will be filing for coordination on another frequency - other than 147.270 MHz.

b) By Laws Committee – Jeff N8PSU

Tom K3WS reported for Jeff N8PSU that 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. Tom W3SF, Chuck N3LAD, and Elaine K3EMM expressed interest in assisting Jeff N8PSU in this process.

c) Public Relations Committee – Jim N5NWC and Scott N3XCC

Jim N5NWC mentioned that Kevin WJ8G had been handling most PR items but there were some things that he had handled that did not need board involvement.

d) WPRC, Inc. Website update. This effort is still work in process and Kevin WJ8G added there is still a lot of work being done to come up with a user friendly website that members can access their status on while maintaining security. Kevin also added we wish to only implement a website that can be handed down to future board members to easily use.

7) Old Business

- a) Review on paper reports and some repeaters reported or found to be off air. Frank N3FB reported that all know issues are in due process.

8) New Business

- a) We have issued log numbers 3573 – 3682 since the last report. Over 110 items of business.
- b) Bud W3TIR expressed an interest in the WPRC, Inc. having a PR representative and a method of teaching area clubs about the WPRC, Inc. and how to use us properly. A lot of around the room discussion and debate took place. All in attendance were able to comment and make their own opinions known. It was mentioned in a past meeting we design a tri-fold for use at events. We will revisit the possibility of a handout to help complement the information published on our

website and Facebook page. Brian KB3ORS stood up for the current information published by the WPRC, Inc. and also commented on his opinion that clubs and individuals should become involved and attend meetings to learn about how to do business with the WPRC, Inc. Jim N5NWC disputed the comment made stating we have low meeting attendance. In the past it was 5-7 and today its 30 plus. Joe W3BC suggested a short informative program be held at each meeting.

- c) Tom W3SF asked for detail on how the WPRC, Inc. would eventually handle the 2.4GHz HAM-NET Mesh Networking issues that are up and coming.

A lot of around the room technical discussion lead to a motion:

Joe W3BC Motioned that the WPRC, Inc. becomes technically aware of the 2.4GHz HAM-NET Mesh Networking technology and that the WPRC, Inc. be prepared to handle and future possible coordination of the spectrum or take action as possibly needed.

Motion to Approve: Joe W3BC 2nd Kevin WJ8G Vote: Unanimous

9) Location and time of next meeting

July 20th - Punxsutawney, PA 1:00 PM Address and talk in to be posted on wprcinfo.org and our Facebook page. Mardy W3YZR thanked everyone for coming, stated she thinks we are all doing a good job, and mentioned she finds plenty of information about the WPRC, Inc. in the in box. Members applauded her comments.

10) Raffle as mentioned in the opening of this report

11) Adjournment at 2:35 PM

Motion to Adjourn: Sam W3CYO 2nd Brian KB3ORS Vote: Unanimous K3EMM- LETS EAT!!!!

12) Attendance as copied from signed attendance Log Number: 3699 34 in attendance.

Paul Plants	W3PLP	Member – Chairman
Tom Brew	K3WS	Member – Secretary
Elaine Bailey	K3EMM	Member – Assistant Secretary
Kevin Custer	WJ8G	Member – Technical Committee Chairman
Frank Bobro	N3FB	Member – Frequency Coordinator
Jim Knox	N5NWC	Member – Vice-Chairman/Chaplain
Tom Cooney Jr.	W3SF	Member – Treasurer
Lori Bobro	KB3GMU	Guest
Patty Marshall	N3XAR	Member
Sam Mayberry	W3CYO	Member
Cynthia Rushton	WB3CNJ	Member
Michael Sakmar	N3SSD	Member - 2 nd Rep
Elmer “Bud” Plants	N3TIR	Member
Brian Burton	KB3ORS	Member
Brian Fornwalt	N3ZQY	Member – 2 nd Rep
Joe Shupienis	W3BC	Member
Chuck Englody	N3LAD	Member
Judy Orzetti	KA3EAT	Member
Tom Orzetti	WB3IGM	Member
Robert Korban	N3MWD	Member
Nicholas Moran	KC3AIV	Guest
Doug Smith	N3COW	Member
Bob Phillips	AJ3T	Guest

Lee Williams	N3APP	Guest
David Wellman	WX3E	Member
Terry Carlson	W3GFD	Member
Wes Nicholas	KD3IJ	Member
David Thompson	AB2WL	Member
Mardy Backstrom	W3YZR	Member
Greg Jeffers	N3FXXD	Member
Gary Chisholm	WA3NSM	Member
Teresa Chisholm	KC3BKU	Member
Herb Murray	W3TM	Guest
Mike Perry	N2COD	Member

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: 3703

Meeting Audio Log Number: 3702

Meeting Sign In Log Number: 3699

See you all at the Punxsutawney, PA 1:00 PM Regular Meeting

Tom Cooney, Jr., W3SF
 Treasure WPRC, Inc.
 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.

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