

OEN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 31, 2022

Quorum

-All Directors and officers were present

Opening Remarks

-John thanked everyone for their service to the net and called for officer reports

-Fred reported a bank balance of over \$1,600 after the picnic expenses

-Vern reported that there are no current issues with the Website

Continuity of the OEN Net Manager/Secretary Position in My Absence

-A proposal was approved to split the position into two parts, a data base manager which will be filled by Max, KJ7FEE, and a Net Manager who have more limited duties including keeping a calendar of net control assignments and arranging substitutes. There were no volunteers for the latter position.

-If we continue to lack volunteers for the Net Manager position, then I propose that each net control would be responsible to attempt to find a replacement during their absence via email, phone calls, on-air announcements, Etc. If that effort isn't successful, then the net could go dark, or perhaps Ron would take a last-minute net control as he did the other night. Please advise if you approve this contingency if we lack a Net Manager volunteer.

-John and Dan volunteered to store the most current key digital documents and files. Max would also have copies. I will send these out in the next couple of days.

-John volunteered to take my Friday night net control when I'm not able

-Joe volunteered to take some extra nets. He will contact Cindy and see if she would like some relief for the Monday night net that she is taking for Bob.

Elections

-The Board decided to maintain the two-year term limit as shown in the current bylaws. The schedule on the website implies a three-year term.

-My proposed draft Election Schedule draft was approved.

-I am unclear on when some existing Directors took office, and I would like to maintain a schedule of no more than four open elective position each year. Based on that, I'd like to make a somewhat arbitrary "fresh start" for new election dates per the table below for each Director just to get us back on track. That would mean no elections this year. Please advise within one week if you object and we can redo the list.

-If there are no objections within a week, I will ask Vern to delete the current schedule on the website and post the new one. Since the schedule indicates that elections would be held in September of each year, I don't see a need to modify the bylaws as they refer to the schedule on the website.

Annual Picnic

-Paul expressed concern that picnic preparation time is substantial relative to the dwindling number of attendees.

-We were reminded that long travel times, gas prices, covid, and conflicting summer schedules were contributing factors to attendance.

-General consensus was that the Board would like to see the see the picnics continue with the hope that some of limiting attendance factors would diminish.

-Alternate locations were discussed to reduce travel distance. I did a quick analysis of recent checkins from within Oregon. 50% were in NW Oregon, 29% in SW Oregon, 16% in NE Oregon, and 7% from SE Oregon. That suggests that the Southern part of the NW quadrant (Eugene or Salem over to the coast) would be shortest trip for the majority. Alternatively, we could have one gathering in the McMinnville area and one in the Roseburg area.

-It was reported that Carol, N7HEH, has health issues that would preclude hosting an event at her location.

- The Board decided to review the picnic question early next year and conduct a survey as to attendance, date, and location preference.

Emergency procedures and message/traffic handling

-The proposal from Steve, KW5V, to implement regular refresher training regarding emergency procedures and processes was approved subject to the following.

-Attendance at any on-air training or discussion sessions would be voluntary

-Such sessions would be held after conclusion of the regular net

-Steve is requested to prepare additional detail of topics and a proposed schedule to present to the Board for final approval

-Thanks to Steve for bringing forward this opportunity

Feedback/Improvement suggestions for Net Operations and the OEN Website

-It was reported that few or no complaints about either Operations or the Website have been heard

-Several good comments including fewer late or early checkins interrupting the rollcall

-It was suggested that we do more to encourage other relay stations to volunteer, up to and including "drafting" stations to make a call even it is just for one break. For example, Jagur, N7HEX, said he might be amenable to helping out in that manner. It's a start. Net controls are urged to try this approach.

-John suggested that we design and print an OEN information & promotion sheet for distribution at Rickreal on October 15th. Consensus was favorable to the idea. I think that we forgot to assign a development action item for this one.. John: Who did you have in mind to work on this?

Station Rescue

-Discussion was around the formation of a traveling help team to assist hams who are unable to get their stations back up and running due to antenna loss and other issues.

-Joe indicated that from his repeater repair activities, he has learned that this kind of activity needs a lot of planning and time commitment.

-Consensus was that this would be a helpful good Samaritan idea, but there are complications. We need to avoid being in a situation of having liability for accidents that might happen during such work.

-As alternatives, it was suggested that we could post help requests on the website or on the net itself, letting individuals make their own arrangements offline. Also, we might be able to connect requestors with their local ham club.

-As I heard it, our only action item for now would be to regularly announce that hams in need could ask for help on the net or have their request read over the air.

Encouraging younger folks to get into ham radio

-Several challenges to this effort were highlighted, but some good ideas surfaced.

-John suggested that the Rickreal flyer could include a section about encouraging ham radio newbies

-Eric suggested that emphasizing the Tech license as a first step could be useful (less expense, easier to get started) and that working through Scout troops could be helpful.

- Joe suggested encouraging folks to get involved with and work through their local club

-I suggested that presenting a live or recorded contact with the astronauts at scout troops or schools could pique interest in ham radio, and that to avoid expensive equipment outlays one can get started with a cell phone and an application that allows use of other remote ham stations throughout the world. It is a cell phone and computer world for young folks.

-No specific action items were noted, but please consider how you might help grow the ranks of new hams in your community.

Thanks all for a very productive meeting!

Regards & 73's From W7HLR,

Larry Ross Hiatt

Net Manager/Secretary

W7OEN - The Oregon Emergency Net

OREGON EMERGENCY NET BOARD ELECTION SCHEDULE
REVISED September 1, 2022

AREA & POSITION	CURRENT ELECTED OFFICE HOLDER OR APPOINTEE	YEAR OF ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT	YEAR APOINTMENT EXPIRES & NEW ELECTION	S EL
NW	AE7CJ	2022	2024	
NE	KD7HB		2023	
SE	K7RFO		2023	
SW	W7WVF		2024	
AT LARGE 1	WA7JAW	2022	2024	
AT LARGE 2	W7EV		2023	
AT LARGE 3	AF7LB		2023	
CHAIRMAN	AE7CJ		2024	

NOTES:

- 1. APPOINTMENT TERMS ARE TWO YEARS UNLESS FILLING THE REMAINDER OF A RESIGNEE TERM**
- 2. NORMALLY, THREE TO FOUR POSITIONS WOULD COME UP FOR ELECTION EACH YEAR**
- 3. ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER OF EACH YEAR**
- 3. SEE OEN BY LAWS FOR ADDITIONAL ELECTION POLICIES**