

## OEN Board Meeting Minutes for August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

The meeting was called to order by the chairman KA7FHA at 11 am PDT in Crooked River Ranch (Terrebonne) Oregon.

Board Members Present: K7RFO, KA7FHA, KD7HB, WA7FIV and AG7K

The meeting was open to the public to observe and was attended by about 15 members and a few nonmembers.

The minutes from 2015 were read and accepted.

ND7V reports that the balance as of today is \$948.23. The report was read and accepted.

Old business: Discussed again how to activate the OEN in an emergency. As the OEN is basically self-activated we need to stay cognizant of what is going on in the region. It was again agreed upon that the Net members should tune to 3.980 in the event of any emergency unfolding in the northwest United States. It was moved, seconded and approved that the Net Manager will develop a simple guideline for the net members on activation procedures and once approved by the board it will be formally adopted and distributed via the website and email to the members.

New Business: AG7K brought to the board the idea of changing the picnic day from Sunday to Saturday for all future OEN picnics. He cited numerous requests and comments from members that he has received. The discussion included comments from the members present on the pros and cons. It was moved, seconded and approved by the board to change the picnic day to Saturday while retaining the same 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August format.

With no other new business on the agenda, KA7FHA asked the non-board members in attendance if they had anything for the board? Praise, complaints, any issue? Several members commented negatively on taking early check-ins. That led to a thorough discussion of the pros and cons by all present at the meeting. The overwhelming consensus was that early check-ins are perfectly acceptable, as everyone at times will need to check out early. That being said it was unanimous that the early check in procedure as approved by the board a few years ago needs to be changed. After much discussion a motion was crafted and presented to the board for consideration. The motion said that the Net starts at 6 pm sharp with no early check-ins. As the preamble is read there will be no early check-ins accepted until after emergency gear is called. It is hard enough to hear mobiles at times without the earlies covering the mobiles up. If the earlies are on emergency gear it will be fine to check in under emergency gear. No special calls for earlies will be made by the net control.

The motion was made, seconded and voted on by all board members present to drop the early check in from the OEN net process. The motion as passed states:

The Net will start at 6pm. There will be no early check-ins accepted by the NCS before net. Early check-ins will be accepted at emergency power if they are running emergency power. There will be no call for "earlies" during the preamble or any other time during the net.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, and approved. The meeting ended at 11:54 am PDT

## OEN Board Meeting Minutes for August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

### Note 1 (Back ground notes on changing early check-in process from the meeting)

The discussion on earlies developed the idea that the members that really need to check out early will do so the same way they have done for 50 years before we started taking earlies. Most that complained had the same complaints

1. Any chatter before net always brings out a drove of people looking for an early check in and wanting anyone they heard to get them in. This was never an issue until we started taking earlies a couple of years ago. The law of unintended consequences seems to apply.
2. The earlies that check in and out before the preamble is read bring nothing to the net other than a number to count. They don't hear the traffic listing or announcements and will not be there to take traffic as needed.
3. As the number of earlies goes up (especially by the NCS that call for them after emergency gear) it alters the timing to get to the towns on the list in a timely manner. The ones that wait patiently and stick with the net for the hour really get aggravated by this.
4. Everyone involved in the discussion at the meeting wanted to be clear that they did not want to BAN the early check-ins, just manage it in the same manner that the OEN used before we liberalized the policy a few years ago.

### Note 2

OEN Picnic for 2017: Paul and Veta readily agreed to again host the 2017 meeting/picnic. The picnic will be on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at noon. The business meeting will be held on the same day at 11am

Submitted by AG7K, Dennis Deaton, Net Manager/Secretary