Director Roll Call:

Present: AE7CJ John, W7EV Eric, AF7LB Matt, KD7HB Paul, AA7JS Joe, KB7DS Debbie, W7WVF Dan, K7RDP John

Absent: WA7JAW Joe, Traveling

Others Attending:

W7HLR Larry, K7PCJ Bob, N7HEX Jagar, WT4D Ken, WA7YPJ Ron, KI7TRF Cody, KD7DB Dennis, WV1T Daniel, W7FON Marvin, KF7TCK Will, W7WX Larry, W7DPS Harold

Opening Remarks:

AE7CJ, John, Board Chairman provided greeting to all. Urged brevity in comments and thanked all for their efforts.

W7DPS Introduction

Harold gave a brief overview of the project to develop a new website for the net.

Feedback Received to date for the new pilot website (https://w7dps.com/w7oen/index.htm)

Unanimous positive comments

Suggestions for improving the website received to date

Change filenames on the website (mostly archives) to be alphanumeric for better search capability on cell phone. The Board voted "No" on making this change but gave Harold latitude to use his own judgement if it does not delay getting the website up and live.

W7WVF, Dan suggested changes to the "Membership Info" folder titles to make it easier for net participants to find out how to become a member. He suggested something like "Join the OEN". The Board approved this change, and Harold will use his own judgement on how to make the changes.

For future changes to the website, Harold is given broad discretionary decision authority in making non-major changes. If he wants input on more significant changes, he should email to the net officers and net controls to seek feedback.

It is Harold's understanding that the new website will still be hosted on KA7FHA (Mark) servers and that Mark will remain the Registrar for the site name. If this turns out not to be the case, Harold will advise a new plan.

Board vote on website

Harold was appointed Webmaster and an officer of the net, replacing Vern, K6UGS.

Many thanks to Vern for years of service. We wish him all the best.

Taking the pilot website "live" was approved. Many thanks to Harold, Joe, and Debbie for their excellent work to get to this point.

Proposal From KD7HB, Paul

Paul proposed a "mandatory" process for net controls and relays to use when making calls at preamble break point for late, missed, or early check-ins. The calls should be made in alphabetical sections as done with emergency gear check-ins. At the subsequent breaks, use of the alphabetical breakout is optional. A majority of the Board approved. There were minority objections to "mandatory".

In related comments, it was proposed that net controls take the first break call at the end of the preamble. This was approved, but optional.

Larry will draft updated preamble and operating guidelines documents, then circulate drafts for comment and approval

Other Comments

As has been the case for some time, there were minority calls to eliminate the emergency gear and early check-ins sections. I sense that the majority does not want to reopen those discussions at the present time. I suggest that the Net Managers or Chairman make this an agenda item later if they so choose.

Editorial Comments

There is a reasonable balance to be maintained between having structure and excessive rigidity. Some level of flexibility must be allowed with individual net controls and relays. We are all volunteers and have our own style. It is inappropriate to criticize others for some limited deviation from the guidelines, <u>particularly over the air.</u> Even the word "mandatory" as used above is a guideline. When I update the Operating Procedures documents, I am inclined to use words like "Highly Recommended" in some cases.

It is expected that new relay stations and net controls will be "slow" initially, and it is easy for us "old timers" to get impatient and forget about the anxiety during our first experiences in those roles. Please consider the following:

1. Don't make it worse for someone new by making sarcastic comments
2. Slow down and use phonetics
3. Offer to help new net controls by setting up a one-on-one discussion time
4. If you are new, be assertive about what you want people to do in terms of separation, speed, and phonetics. Don't be discouraged by others who can do the job faster. It just takes time and practice.
5. Cut off calling for early check-ins by 6:15 to 6:20 so that the role call can be started. It is natural that the slower the net goes, more people will want to check in early, and it gets out-of-hand