

VOI Tech Meeting Notes

January 15, 2018 Cobby's, 4843 Chinden, Garden City, ID

FINAL

Attendance:

Mike Cooper - W7OSG – Committee Chair

Doug Rich - W7DVR – VOI President

Don Lynn - ND7L

Gene Pentecost - W4IMT

Stephen Nipper – N4DJX

Lisa Nelson - KI7PWS

Andrew Spencer – KE7FIY

Tom Row – KI7RYZ

Simon Riddle – KC8WF

Gary Payne – W7JZU

Frankie Cooper – KE7YEM

Opening Remarks from Incoming VOI President Doug Rich:

Welcomed New **Technical Committee Director (TCD)** – Michael E. Cooper W7OSG "Mike" who is to be conduit for technical organization issues and will interact with the Board of Directors (BOD). General discussion ensued concerning the VOI presence at the current Schafer Butte site, rumor control, record keeping and the passage of club institutional knowledge down through the leadership. Transparency with the membership surrounding issues that affect the club responsibilities, activities and club assets. It was suggested that more detailed BOD updates be given to the membership at the monthly meeting.

Agenda Items:

- 1) Mileage Policy: "What's Fair" after a lot of discussion it was decided that:
 - a) Only members who are authorized by the Technical Committee Director (TCD) will be reimbursed gasoline usage. Authorized members should start with a full tank of fuel and upon returning fill up and then present that receipt to the TCD for reimbursement.
 - b) At the present time only trips to Snobank and Cinnabar will be reimbursed.
 - c) Only fuel will be reimbursed. In extraordinary situations, requests for other non-fuel travel and vehicle related reimbursement may be submitted for consideration by the Full Board of Directors (BOD)
 - d) Members traveling to repeater sites should do so only in vehicles suitable for back country travel driving i.e. 4wd, high clearance etc. and drivers should be experienced in back country driving under various inclement weather and road conditions.

- 1) Cinnabar repeater site: Lead person, Current Status, Issues:
 - a) Lead* – Don ND7L
 - b) Status – recently contacted person at BLM (real estate) – waiting for reply
 - c) Issues – A site plan needs to be worked out for a new building or connex cement slab or piers and the grounding system. The same will be needed for Schafer if that works out. The old building and tower have been removed per contact with the contractor and The BLM Snake River District operations and engineer's group manager.
 - d) Gene W4IMT will provide committee with contact information for specialist who might consent to help with site technical issues (Note: the contact is Ben Isla KE7II Gene asked the TCD et al to work through him before contacting Ben if that becomes necessary).
 - e) Stephen Nipper N7DJX suggested the TCD as additional person to help DON ND7L in negotiations with BLM. Don ND7L said approval from the board is required as only elected officers or delegates are authorized to negotiate contracts. Approval was given to add the TCD to the Cinnabar process from the club president in attendance, Doug, W7DVR.

- 2) Shafer Butte repeater site: Lead person, Current Status, Issues:
 - a) Lead* – Doug W7DVR (willing to step-down) Mike W7OSG and Stephen N7DJX will step in to see what can be done.
 - b) Status – VOI presence on Schafer Butte has always been tenuous, since we have no location of our own. Even the current location is fluid and maybe have to be relocated later this spring, until VOI can come up with a permanent location repeated attempts to contact the USFS with no response. The TCD requested Doug W7DVR send/email the USFS contact information he has been using to him.
 - c) Issues: *A remote control shut down system needs to be developed.

- 3) Snowbank repeater site: Lead person, Current Status, Issues:
 - a) Lead*: Stephen N7DJX & Mike W7OSG
 - b) Status: Minor items to repair – 62 antenna alignment, link radio cooling fan, move APRS antenna higher. Concrete barriers in front of the tower site are advisable to protect the tower from snow plowing equipment. The site appears to be very stable.
 - c) Issues*: The TCD and Technical Committee members suggest that the BOD arrange a good will meeting with the appropriate FAA official. *A remote control shut down system needs to be developed.

- 4) Boise Bench repeater site: Lead person, Current Status, Issues:
 - a) Lead*: Tim Ryerson N7UBO
 - b) Status: Stable at present
 - c) Issues: TCD suggest that there be an addition member be assign to back up Tim to be familiar with the site manager(s) TCD suggest Simon KC8WF to assist? *A remote control shut down system needs to be developed.

5) New Controller Programming Class:

- a) Doug W7DVR & Don ND7L are coordinating with Dennis Baker from AZ to setup a one-day controller programming class at John Kernkamps' Shop.
- b) Class to be held in early February.
- c) Don ND7L to coordinate any AV needs.
- d) Current students include: Andrew KE7FIY, Simon KC8WF, Gary W7JZU, Don ND7L, and Doug W7DVR and possibly the TCD. Other may be considered.

6) Equipment update, DVR RCL3, 147.24:

- a) The Digital Voice Recorder is working and will be used with the new Schafer controller.
- b) The RCL3 has been repaired and is being tested by Stephen N7DJX and Simon KC8WF who is also learning its programming intricacies.
- c) Stephen N7DJX has had the 147.24 machine on the air at his QTH for some testing and a check-up.

7) Inventory:

- a) Major discussion tabled until such time as Larry WA7ZZS has recovered and can participate or turn over his info to the committee.
- b) Don ND7L mentioned that there may need to be a distinct mad between technical and non-technical assets. The Technical assets being the responsibility of the Technical Committee. This may be addressed in an upcoming revision of the by-laws currently under way by the BOD.

*Action Items:

- 1) BOD meeting with FAA
- 2) Mileage Policy to be approved by the BOD
- 3) Lead persons list for each repeater site, only know existing or suggested persons at this point and subject to revision by the TCD and/or BOD.
- 4) Repeaters need an ability to be remotely shut down.

