

Secretary's Report July 24, 2021

There may be a little bit of overlap between the Treasurer's report and the Secretary's report because we have been working together to get several things attended to. Since the last meeting we got the Club federal taxes filed, the State Comptroller filing done, renewed our website annual hosting, reserved the Special Event Call Sign W4W for Field Day 2022 and got the ARRL Club Liability Insurance renewed.

I have been working with Erica Mueller (KG5MPW) and Rick Leonhardt (KF5KXS) to continue the evolution of our website. We now have the ability for people to sign up or renew their membership online. We have started a migration from a flat image of recurring events that require attention, examples being the previously mentioned federal tax return and state comptroller filing to one where there is an interactive component. Features of that interactive component are reminder emails to the officers and the ability to track the task to completion. We are up to fourteen such events. Everyone in the Club has a life beyond the Club and that includes your officers. It would be super easy for something to fall through the cracks and not get done so we continue to seek out ways to ensure we and our successors have the easiest and most reasonably redundant processes in place to ensure these things are done, done right and done on time.

There was a function previously introduced with a link to Broadcastify. The purpose was to have non-hams be able to listen to the 76 repeater via the Internet. A cool concept, but it was broken on our site. It turns out we need a hardware solution to fix the problem. We pulled the launch icon off the home page, replaced it with other content and I will explore options to return that functionality at a future date.

Additionally, we have added a forums feature to the Club website. There anyone can read up on topics of interest to them and Club members that are signed in can make posts. The topics are only limited to your imagination. You can post questions and answers, pictures, links to interesting things you have read about; the sky is the limit. Please go check it out. And while you are there please check out the Member Directory. Add a picture to your profile and look Erica up. Drop her a note thanking her for the very professional contributions she is making to our Club. She is a very busy and devoted mother of three and married to another Club member and IT professional. They don't make it to Club meetings because their agenda on Saturday is filled to capacity. But she has so far donated what I would estimate to be about \$5,000 worth of programming work to the Club. We need to all treat her like the jewel she is so any comment to her thanking her for her service would be greatly appreciated.

Future programming items in progress are researching how best to offer branded email to Club members (i.e. W5EBC@wb5rdd.org), a forward looking schedule of upcoming meetings with presentation topics laid out months in advance. Examples there are briefing on the usual such as the upcoming Lion's Club/Fair to the non-usual such as a briefing I plan to do on a commercial product called EMP Shield. We want to start promoting these matters in advance so that members interested in a particular topic have the opportunity to know it is coming up. We are also going to explore a Club meeting sign in using a tablet instead of paper.

Shifting gears a bit, the Club officers have recently discussed having one person be the point of contact for coordinating all of the Field Day activities. Over the last three years it has evolved to the officers reserving the Pavilion, reserving the Event Call Sign and coordinating meals and other logistics. There has been shared responsibility with getting all of those things done, but because there is a lot of logistical coordination required we are contemplating tasking one person, a Field Day Coordinator for lack of a better way of characterizing it, to work to ensure that no detail goes unattended. If you would be willing to perform this task please reach out to the officers privately following this meeting. This person will need to have the time, organizational and interpersonal skills to coordinate things while being keenly aware of and sensitive to the views of other Club members.

Speaking of Field Day, I posted a narrative of my observations on the Club website and included several pictures. Ditto the Tour de Paris. If anyone needs help logging in, figuring out how to post something they wish to write, add one or more pictures; please reach out to me and let me help you. I am only too happy to do it. From my perspective we had a great Field Day 2021 and TDP 2021. Were they both perfect? Of course not. But I think a lot of people had a lot of fun. If you want to know more please go see my remarks and pictures in the Forums/Events section on our site.

Looking ahead, we are comparing schedules and the officers have preliminary plans to conduct our first Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, August 7th. The agenda is still coming together but discussion of a possible Field Day Coordinator is contemplated, as well as discussion of some draft Policy Manual language. Items under consideration for discussion and action are budget, an open call email solicitation to former members asking them to come and explore the website. The point there is to encourage them to come and see what we are doing and a general review of how Club business is conducted and coordinated with persons who used to be involved with us. We are considering something like ninety days of free "introductory" access. We also anticipate discussion and action related to the requirements to be considered a "Full" member for voting. At previous Club meetings there has been discussion of changing from the singular requirement of attending Saturday Club meetings to one that was more open to other participation. If you pull one or more shifts during the Fair, if you

actively participate at Field Day; this is not to say a “drive by” twenty minute social visit, but actually doing the grunt work of the Club; the view has been expressed by many, and many times, that stuff like that should count toward being a “Full” member. We anticipate bringing some language to the next Club meeting seeking your concurrence and guidance on such things. Those points are only a partial list of what will be covered. An agenda, location, confirmed date and time for the Board of Directors meeting will be distributed shortly. As a reminder, all members are welcome to attend. You may listen, take notes and view everything the board covers; but unless recognized by the president only board members are able to participate.

Finally, I would like the group’s permission to include these prepared remarks in their entirety in our meeting minutes. I want to do that so that Club members not present get the full update provided by these prepared remarks.

- Phillip Beall