

MISSOURI REPEATER COUNCIL, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

June 17, 2010

Meeting was called to order by MRC President, Don, KMØR, at 1900 CDST. Other board members in attendance were, Bill, NØPNP, Roger, KØGOB, Bryon, KØBSJ, Tom, KØJPR, George, WBØIIS and Jeff, KB3HF.

Agenda topics were:

1. Web site
2. Email addresses
3. Database
4. ARRL data transfer
5. Annual update forms
6. Officers up for election

MRC WEB PAGE

The Board recognized during their 2009 meeting that the MRC web site needed to be upgraded. Unfortunately, volunteer ran out of time to address the issue. The MRC web site was started by the Secretary as a personal project to provide information to the members. As members and the Amateur community in general, turn more and more to the web for information, the challenge of hosting, updating the page, adding information in a timely manner and making backups has become more than one person can handle. After much discussion, the following decisions were made concerning the MRC web site:

1. Move the hosting from private individual to commercial company to mitigate disruptions should the individual not be available when something goes wrong.
2. Backups to be made at least once per day.
3. Update web page to a more current look and feel.
4. Add available documents identified at the 2009 meeting.
5. Verify the correctness of the published information.
6. Target completion by the next MRC Annual Meeting

EMIAL ADDRESSES

Members have complained that Emails sent to Board members often bounce, causing frustration and delays. The underlying cause is usually the omission of the underscore "_" character in the address. This character is often masked by the highlighting line that appears under the Email address. The decision was made to eliminate the underscore character and to change the Email address to callsign@missourirepeater.org. Tom has already done that.

DATABASE

The official MRC database (DB) is an Access DB. In addition to the repeater records, the DB has numerous macros that are used during the coordination process. Past investigations have determined that these macros will not translate directly into a more flexible DB such as SQL. Based on the published data in the latest ARRL *Directory*, there are some issues with the transfer of MRC information. The question was also raised as who is responsible for the MRC DB...Secretary or Frequency Coordinator. Finally, the timing of sending out the Annual Update Forms was raised. After much discussion, the following decisions were made:

1. The state Frequency Coordinator is the responsible individual for the official DB.
2. The Access DB will be stored on the web site to provide reliable backups.

3. The official DB will remain in Access until a solution is available for translating the necessary macros to another DB.
4. A SQL DB will be developed for on-line use through the web site.
5. Records from the Access DB will be imported to the SQL DB for member searching and updating.
6. Database update forms will be sent out in October to allow sufficient time after they are returned for volunteers to review the information and update the DB records before sending the file to the ARRL for publishing.

ARRL DATA TRANSFER

Over the years, the ARRL has changed the data format for submissions from the coordinators. While the ARRL still accepts data in older formats, there is no guarantee that the conversion will be accurate. In addition to the data format, several fields within the data have been changed. After a period of discussion, the following decisions were made:

1. The MRC will convert the Access DB records to the current ARRL preferred data format prior to sending it to the league.
2. The MRC will review and adjust individual fields in the Access DB to match the current ARRL requirements.
3. The MRC will review the pre-published ARRL material if the league allows.

ANNUAL MRC UPDATE FORMS

The timing of sending out the Annual Update Forms (Forms) needs to be adjusted. The membership needs more time to fill out and return the forms and the MRC needs more time to verify the information and make the changes to the DB before the ARRL deadline. With all of the other changes committed to above, it may not be possible to make all of the desired changes to this schedule. However, the desired timing would get the update forms to the members in October for return in one month. This issue will be reviewed again after we see the impact of the changes in the Access DB and ARRL data transfer adjustments listed above.

ANNUAL MRC MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The date for the 2010 annual MRC meeting was set for Saturday, August 21, 2010 in Columbia, MO. Eleven in the morning was suggested as the start time, but may be modified depending on facility availability. Don, KMØR, will secure a location and fix the start time. Approval was granted to expend MRC funds, if necessary, on a suitable size, air conditioned room.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The positions of Vice President, Secretary and one Director at Large are up for election in 2010. A slate of candidates will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting.

There being no further business, Don, KMØR, thanked the Board for participating in the conference call and adjourned the meeting.