

NARC Committee Meeting, 1900hrs, 17th June 2013

City of Norwich School,
Room 43 Diagonally Opposite the 6th Form Building,
Eaton Rd,
Norwich,
NR4 6PP

AGENDA

Attendees

G7URP, G0LGJ, G0TZZ, M0EBN, 2E0NKI, G0MQG, M0NKR, G0DWV, G3XLG, G0KYA, G3LDI, G3PDH, M0UJD

1 Apologies for absence

2 Previous Minutes

Proposed M0EBN Seconded M0NKR

3 Matters Arising

None

4 Forthcoming Events _G7URP

7th July Barford: Manning - Need to change or improve anything?

Review the Layout of stands/pitches, suggested move closer to MAC van, all agreed to use same basic format as this has been successful for a many years.

Roles:

Catering - G0LGJ, G7URP as previous

Car parking & Traders Marking out, Chris G0TZZ Roger G3LDI, who will amend layout 7.30am on the day

Club Display - Malcolm to organise/oversee, Niki to man stand and find 2 or 3 club members to help on stand, David to supply Stands, Club Gazebo to be set up next to MAC in case of inclement weather.

Raffle ticket sales to be allocated on the day, possibly some of the younger members

Bring & Buy Stall – Tony G0MQG, Malcolm G3PDH to man as previous experience required.

Talk-in, Tony G0MQG offered to run the usual 2m talk in.

Manning of Gate - Welcome people - collect money. Ray G3XLG, plus 3 others, 2E0BDB Tony possible (to be asked as offered previously)

Cash Management – Mark G0LGJ

Car park attendants. – David to oversee, nominate several people on the day

Visitor Parking, Trader Parking –Jonathan M1ADX, Peter VRA, Bob JTZ, Paul VPT

GB3NB Stall - Roger G3LDI to manage.

On the day Committee asked to assist in catering, crockery collection anything needed to make the event run smoothly, should not just be down to a few.

Hall and Grounds booked for 7.30am, David collecting keys etc as usual.

NARC non-Wednesday events 2013 review:

Worstead Festival 27th 28th July - G7URP advises that we are in the Hobbies section this year. There were some concerns regarding being in this area due to WiFi and not the best place for us.

David G7URP to talk to them and Organise what's required

As it's IOTA weekend, it was suggested and agreed to run a SES station, to run in the IOTA contest as a display. Hopefully making contacts and enthusing the public.

It was also suggested to Promote Foundation Course and licensing.

Railways on the Year 21st 22nd September David G7URP

This year it has a Military Display focus, it was agreed to attend but NARC have to be sent to be in keeping with the rest of the event, it was suggested that Paul G3VPT and Bob G7JTZ to be approached as they are military radio enthusiasts, NARC Tent in keeping with the Theme.

Radio by the Seaside 21st July

As previous, same venue, same event, no radical change as a successful and popular event

David to publicise with notices and a flyer.

RSGB Centenary 5th 6th August – G0DWV

Briefing before event on Wednesday 31st July, Roger to change Program. This is a club night, briefing to include operating procedures, overview of the proposed event and final planning.

Use of club Radio Interface plus any other equipment to have 3 stations available on several bands, subject to manning.

Operating Rota for the full 48 hours will be available at club during July, A BBQ will be available for people to bring food etc, tea coffee (Club urn), camping space available too.

Happisburgh Light house 17-18th August

Niki overall control, G3PDH, G3XLG to help, Jim to get keys, help to install Antennas to be requested at club prior to event etc

Hand out with Map ... David G7URP

Check out the wild birds at OWL Barn, promote as a family event with other attractions in the area.

Hamfest Trip 27th September Coach Trip

Coach schedule as published

SSB Field Day 7th 8th September

Paul G3SEM to be asked to organise. David to ask Paul SEM , Roger, Chris G0DWV to help organise

Venue is DCP as in other years. Only one team entry.

It was suggested and agreed to have a Briefing of operating and putting up the club tower, likely on a Wednesday night, to show people how to erect the club tower, so not reliant on the odd one or two that have experience. This does not mean it will be available for use by just anyone however, there are H&S issues to be considered.

Christmas 2013 - start looking out for possibly entertainer

Committee were asked to lookout for names of likely entertainers. Usual format at the school suggested.

5 Storage –G7URP

David happy to store equipment and is clearing a stable, wants NARC to cover cost of anything required or incurred cost towards shelving, Padlocks etc. All agreed

It was also suggested to get a Box trailer or similar to allow equipment to be easily accessible for transporting. All agreed this maybe a better option. Roger agreed to store at his.

8x4x6 Box trailer was considered to be suitable size, Mark and others to monitor auction sights, all agreed on a £2000 maximum. This amount must be approved by membership. David to ask at club on Wednesday, so Membership can approve the principle in line with the NARC constitution on purchases over £500.

All agreed this was a good Idea allowing tables chairs etc to be available without having to load unload each time. Nothing would be forgotten if all in the trailer.

David was thanked for his offer of storage, he said it will still be available if required..

6 Social Networking – G7URP, G0KYA, G0LGJ

Facebook, Twitter accounts are already setup.

Mark has put these in place and people have volunteered to assist in the promotion of the club. Any member of the club can add comment and are actively encouraged to help raise the profile of NARC on this media. Older members could not see the attraction or benefit, it was explained this is more popular with the younger members of the club, however these are the future of the club and Ham radio in general and should be supported. All agreed it was a medium to be supported

Steve happy to add detail, others can also be set up to administrate if they wish.

7 Family Meetings – G0LGJ

Nigel 2E0NLK had spoken to Mark about issues with his Children at meetings that he had been made aware of.

Some members of the committee have had several people complain about noise and inconsiderate behaviour at recent meetings by some children. As the club is open to members and their families it was discussed whether we should have a minimum age requirement on formal evenings to avoid interruptions to the speakers etc. Some agreed with this idea, but it was decided that this may wrongly portray the club as one which did not encourage families or youngsters to be involved or exclude

some people from attending who have childcare problems. Everyone agreed that this is more an issue of common courtesy and consideration, or rather the lack of it, and that it should be made clear that if young children attend it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to supervise and manage them at all times to prevent any noise or distractions which may interrupt or disrupt talks and activities for other members and to take them from the room or area immediately.

Nigel to be advised of the discussion by Mark, who will explain the issue and the course of action required by him. David to continue to make general announcements to all members re switching off mobile phones, opening cans or making any other noise or disruption at any formal evening etc where appropriate.

8 Trailer Tower – G0LGJ

Update on NFD event, ease of use etc

Maintenance Schedule

1. *Grease & check hand brake*
2. *Check lights*
3. *Find better way of securing antenna tube end cap at the car end*
4. *New winches & cables?*
5. *The stub mast used was Paul's I think*
6. *Spare wheel & tire?*

Grease all cables, consider removing and soaking in oil to soak central cotton wick,

Both winches need complete maintenance. Brake on elevation is particularly bad when lowering.

Grease all slide out stabiliser arms and Jacks.

Grease pivot tube and pin.

Trailer to be stored with wheels off ground if possible, Sun covers for tyres.

Complete check on road trailer especially hand brake system.

Eyelets on guys and shackles for mast. Guy Diagram to follow.

2 off Halyards are cut but need heatshrink ends and markings.

Pull out line for inverted vees are cut need heatshrink ends and markings.

Beam storage tube:- either right angle connectors or securing pins to stop "plugs" coming out when braking

Beam, U bolt for mast support plate. spares for jubilee clips and assorted nuts/Washers etc.

Beam to be marked with scribe lines for CW /Mid/SSB segments. and dimensions marked on adjacent metalwork on Beam.

Cross arm is on tower. BUT we have no scaffold tube to fit in Rotator to hold beam. I provided a short length for NFD.

I would suggest a 10ft approx length.

Chris I believe is making storage compartments to fit on trailer they should hold every thing.

PS large wooden spread feet need marking and then put in storage boxes as mentioned above

G0DWV- From experience DO NOT LET ANYONE GREASE THE OUTRIGGERS.

They collect grit dirt and anything else and wedge themselves in..... if they are stiff they need to come right out and the crap that's in there needs cleaning out!!

Anything you grease heavily will attract grit dirt when being transported....

I would also say that we need a trolley jack to level toweri use one and it's a lot easier than winding each leg down....

Set one leg....then level the opposite one by jacking up (trolley Jack). Then set the jack arm and tension so when removing trolley jack it doesn't go down....

Repeat for others....

It's a lot easier than doing it by winding each jack arm.

As maintenance is an important safety issue, Mark has been authorised to spend up to £500 on items required to ease use and keep it working as required. All agreed to the expenditure .

9 Equipment Purchases and current List - G0LGJ

G3XLG Agenda, - I think we should also consider buying a new Transceiver for the club. The shortcomings of the Pro 3 with high levels of radio activity nearby (the B station & the QRP station) were very evident on NFD.

A number of other more minor things also need to be purchased if we are to be independent of borrowing members gear from now on – a second linear power supply, some chairs (e.g. cheap rigid plastic stackable patio chairs), an auto ATU, a small trailer etc. If we are having two stations on SSB field day these need to be bought soonest.

Mark priced up a Kenwood TS590, Microham Keyer II, MFJ Auto ATU, 30 Amp Linear PSU at just over £2000.

It was suggested to upgrade the club ICOM 718 to have added filters to make a good stand by radio.

This was £480 and considered too expensive on such a low end radio.

It was then discussed and agreed to have committee look into Four models to be recommended with specifications to be presented to membership for approval of a purchase

Mark to do template for filling in by the reviewers.

Budget limit set at £2500, as spending more was considered a waste of money for the limited number of times a year it would be used.

VHF gear?

Andy M0NKR suggested that Not enough interest was shown at the 6m VHF and NFD event in operating the VHF 6m station and that spending money on this type of equipment would be a bad idea. Those that expressed interest previously and requested the gear had made no effort to be involved, so no action to be taken sourcing this equipment will be made. All agreed.

10 Accounts G0LGJ

See accounts attached, Mark also updated the committee on items that had be added since the report was present for the meeting. Update accounts are now available.

11 AOB

John Lockwood G3XLL

Just a note of thanks for the committee as a whole, who do a great job for us members. The programme is varied and of interest to us all. We each have particular interests in some of the many facets of our hobby and the programme covers them all over time. The visits and other external activities follow a similar pattern. It is fairly self-evident that you're doing something right by the number of members who attend regularly. Thanks and more of the same, please!

As my particular interests lie in the aeronautical and marine world of radio comms, perhaps other visits to such as RAF Mildenhall, the Norfolk & Norwich Aviation Museum, Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum, Flixton and a club outing to a Duxford Airshow perhaps may be of interest. I can assist with the paperwork for Mildenhall if required and can also enquire about visits to 22 Sqn, RAF SAR Flight and the Suffolk Police Flight, both at Wattisham Airfield. I appreciate some of the above can be done by members individually, of course. (Civilian airport visits are a bit difficult due to security concerns.) Regrettably, since HM Coastguard station at Yarmouth closed, that visit is no longer possible, but it was most interesting from a radio aspect. Humber Radio is a bit too far, I suspect!

Thanks and 73,

John G3XLL.

Chris to reply on behalf of the club

Andy suggested he would see about organising a Stanta training ground visit. This has a military slant with visits to old villages that were taken over by the MOD on formation of the training ground. Likely to be of interest to many.

Ralph DM5RS to visit NARC from the Koblenz club at the end of his holiday in the UK

27th to 30th June

Malcolm to organise some hospitality, open to anyone that wants to be involved. To be announced at the club Wednesday. The Koblenz club have made several of our members most welcome in Germany and this is an opportunity for NARC to reciprocate the favour.

Mark advised the Old Shack computer to be sold by secret tender, bids to Mark, all agreed to £30 minimum sale price.

12 Next Meeting date

October 7th – Xmas Party etc

Meeting Closed 21.35