

VOI Tech Meeting Notes

February 19, 2018 Cobby's, 4843 Chinden, Garden City, ID

FINAL

Attendance:

Mike Cooper - W7OSG – Committee Director (TCD)

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

Rick Briggs – KL7BR

Agenda Items:

- 1) Frequency Coordination review – The committee reviewed all of the current VHF and UHF frequencies coordinated to the VOI through the National Frequency Coordinators' Council Regional Coordinator Larry Smith. Status reports on each of the frequencies need to be filed with the coordinator in order for the club to maintain them, especially now, since we are in a rebuilding and reorganization effort and some of the frequencies may be off the air for a while. The majority of the frequencies are associated with Snobank, Cinnabar, Shafer and Bench for UHF, VHF, APRS, Dstar, and Control Links and will have a status update sent to the coordinator. There are five other frequencies coordinated with the VOI that did not have a designated use, one UHF frequency was returned by letter to the coordinator, for use by another club, years ago, we think? That left one UHF repeater frequency that will be held for potential use at Snobank and Two VHF repeater frequencies, one that might be returned to the coordinator, and one that might be held for use on the VOI portable repeater, One UHF control link frequency that might be utilized on the Bench repeater. The UHF Dstar repeater in Jerome is uncoordinated at this time and the committee will move forward with that coordination. The committee will make a recommendations the BOD at its next meeting.
- 2) Shafer Butte repeater site: SF299 Communication Site Application draft was circulated to the committee members for their review. It is just about ready to submit.
- 3) Cinnabar repeater site: Don Lynn paperwork has been and is being submitted again to try and get a response from their real estate specialists, if not he is just about to take it the State Director and/or congressional delegation for help.
- 4) Bench Repeater Onsite Tour February 15 report. Tim Rynearson, Simon Ruddle, Stephen Nipper, Rick Briggs and Mike Cooper Met with Dave Jolley the Facilities Coordinator with MWI Animal

Health Company. To look at the repeater site and antenna location. There is probably some room for improvement in the location of the repeater cabinet to get it closer to the roof and reduce the amount of coax needed and possibly separating the antennas. There is a collinear antenna?? on the same mast as ours and they overlap each other. We have also thought about temporarily relocating the Cinnabar 440 repeater to the bench site, just to keep that frequency active, but that will require the approval of the landlord.

- 5) Remote repeater shut down: While a repeater may shut down remotely via a controller or the repeater itself the FCC requires an additional back for that purpose. We are looking at a number of secure options to pick audio from an additional radio or link radio and route them to a relay board that could cut off the power to an offending transmitter. There are parts to be accumulated for some experimentation and bench testing.
- 6) New Controller Programming class: It is being scheduled for the week of March 6th we will have 6-8 people attending. See the January 2018 meeting note for the details.
- 7) Equipment Inventory: TCD has received a list from Larry Bickham to be reconciled against what he and Stephen N7DJX have already compiled. An online inventory system is being looked at, along with the need for an equipment check-in – checkout system. It was suggested that all requests for equipment be routed through a single person such as the TCD and a written sign out sheet form be used, before anything is moved or put into service.

Other Topics

- 1) Rick Briggs, KL7BR has set up a Winlink gateway system on 145.04 Mhz at this house. It was suggested that he give a presentation to the General Membership on Winlink. The TCD said he would get Rick in touch with VOI Vice-President Gordon Wilmoth to see if that could be arranged.
- 2) It was suggested a call be put out to see club pictures and documents could be found and securely archived somewhere. It was suggested that maybe VOI Secretary Bill Overton KI7IFC could possibly oversee that and put out an E-Mail “blast” to the membership to see what could be found.

Action Items

- 1) “Meet and Greet” with FAA officials this still needs to be done and it may just be left up to the TCD and VOI President Dough Rich to undertake this.
- 2) The TCD will make frequency coordination recommendations to the BOD and their next meeting as was mentioned under item number one above.

