

NWA EmComm Group Zoom Meeting

Oct. 12, 2020

2000 Hours

Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Paul Blomgren

Bill Dean

Gregg Doty

John Henley Jr.

Mark Maddox

John Henley called the meeting to order at 2000 hours. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting was unanimous.

Paul Blomgren reported he and Gregg Doty met with Jonathon George and discussed issues and opportunities with the Benton County Emergency Operations Center. Doty reported that George has resigned as the NWA EmComm Group liaison to the Benton County EOC. Blomgren said George wanted to remain in charge of the Skywarn system. Going forward, Blomgren and Doty will be the points of contact for the EOC. We will operate without a liaison, although it was noted we could always appoint another liaison at a later date. George's contact info has been added to the NWA EmComm Group Web page as a Skywarn officer. Blomgren noted that we would need to man the EOC during the upcoming (and later) Ham In The Park (HITP) events because George and Gregg Young are only involved with the weather aspect of the EOC and HITP events are tactical. Mark Maddox noted this would be a great time to

train someone else with EOC operations and equipment. Doty also noted that Lisa Elliot, gave her contact info so we can schedule future events at Metfield through her. Elliot is in charge of Metfield Pavilion reservations for Bella Vista. Her number is 479-855-8170.

Blomgren said he had contacted John Klewicki about his interest in emergency communications. Klewicki's name was forwarded to the group by Rick Pope of the Bella Vista Radio Club (BVRC). Blomgren said he was waiting to hear back from Klewicki.

There was discussion about a request from Tom Northfell, president of BVRC, for that club's members to volunteer to help a local Cub Scout pack operate a HAM station on Saturday, Oct. 16, as part of the Boy Scouts of America Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). There was a general discussion about whether NWA EmComm Group should be involved and why. Maddox said it was too late for us to do anything this year. Doty said he thought the other clubs should be involved with JOTA, that emergency communications wasn't necessarily a good first step for scouts interested in Ham radio.

Doty discussed the redesign of the business cards and what the board wanted to do with the back of the cards. There was a discussion of putting the NWA EmComm Group repeater frequencies on the back of the

card. Doty said he would further refine the design for the back of the card and would post it on the Web site.

At this point (2033 hours), the meeting ended because of the 40-minute time limit for Zoom meetings. A second meeting commenced at 2042 hours with all members present.

Doty suggested for \$15 per month (\$3 per member), NWA EmComm Group could pay for a Zoom subscription that would allow for meetings of an unlimited time with as many as 100 attendees. Doty said no long-term contract was required and that the subscription would simply end if the board decided to stop paying the monthly bill. The subscription would be paid for out of the NWA EmComm Group treasury, which, as of Oct. 12, still had a balance of \$160, Doty said. Blomgren moved that NWA EmComm Group signed up for a subscription with Zoom. Maddox seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Everything for the October HITP event is set. Blomgren and Henley will be at the EOC. Maddox and Bill Dean will be NCS at Metfield Pavilion in Bella Vista, and Gregg Doty will be operating from his home at Prairie Creek. Blomgren, Dean and Henley said they will all be at the monthly inter-club luncheon at Golden Corral on Saturday, Oct. 24, prior to the HITP event, to represent NWA EmComm Group.

Having no further business to discuss, there was unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. The next NWA EmComm Group meeting will be at 2000 hours on Monday, Oct. 19, via Zoom.

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