

NWA EmComm Group Jutsi Meeting

November 9, 2020

2000 Hours

Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Paul Blomgren

Bill Dean

Gregg Doty

John Henley Jr.

Harold Sobotka

President Henley opened the meeting at 8 PM.

Minutes from the November 2, 2020 meeting were approved.

The video conference with Mrs. Wagoner was discussed. No action was taken.

The Ham In The Park event scheduled for November 28 was discussed.

The event will be at Horse Shoe Bend on Beaver Lake.

Dean reported no change in the status of using facilities of the LDS Church.

Sobotka reported that Mark Reese with Smith Two Way Radio Company was contacted and asked about antenna work at the Benton county EOC building. Reese had no knowledge of the situation and said he had done no work at the county building in many years. Reese said that possibly David Edwards of the Fayetteville Smith Two Way Office may have done the work. The group discussed at length the antenna situation atop the EOC building.

Henley reported on the status of obtaining the federal 501(c)3. He said that the bylaws of NWA EMCOMM must be completed first, and then the application to the IRS will be submitted. Henley said he expects the bylaws to be complete by December.

The group discussed the transfer of the EOC radio call sign, WX5BC, from a former BCRO member to a current NWA EmComm member.

The January Ham In the Park event was discussed and date set for January 30, 2021 the same date as Winter Field day. Two or more board

members will seek a location in the Hiwasse area for the net control station to be located.

The group discussed the need for documentation concerning things done successfully/properly during the Ham In The Park events, and also the need for documentation on things that need changed, or improved.

The group discussed at length the question of whether storm spotters should be included/invited to take part in the Ham In The Park activities.

Doty asked for direction from the group concerning a possible sign up method for persons that may be interested in becoming members of the NWA EMCOMM group. It was decided that a list of interested persons be developed, and those persons be provided with information about the various EMCOMM activities available for their consideration.

The group discussed at length expanding the Ham In The Park event to involve smaller towns in Benton County and offer support and cooperation

with emergency services in those towns to assist with emergency communications in the event of a disaster. It was decided to start scheduling the Ham In The Park event in the various smaller towns, beginning in the western part of the county. Blomgren agreed to begin contacting officials in those towns to determine interest, and to set in motion plans to begin working with the smaller towns as discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Sobotka, Secretary