

YARC Board and Ambassadors Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2020

**Call to order: 0230 UTC February 1, 2020**

1. Sterling starts audio recording
2. Roll call
  - a. NY7H
  - b. KZ0P
  - c. VA2SHF
  - d. N0XNN
  - e. KN8U
  - f. KE2GKB
  - g. KE8FGB
  - h. N0SSC
  - i. AB3NJ
  - j. VE2-SWL
  - k. XE3FOX (late)
  - l. W1PAC (late)
3. Caleb moves to hold an election for all board positions
  - a. Votes in roll call
  - b. The ayes have it
4. Empowering the People - discussion on introducing votes from YARC members
  - a. Specifically "Let YARC vote" "Let [the membership] feel like they get more out of YARC than discord shitposts, a purple name, and a g suite account"
    - i. we elect new board members from ambassadors or even the general YARC population and let it be a general election
      1. Constitution + bylaw amendments for general member voting
    - ii. Qualtrics has some protections against spam/junk submissions/human verification, we could also make everyone login via yarc account to vote
      1. Léa: require full members to have an amateur license so we can prove they're unique
      2. Bruce: that requires constitution amendment to create new member classes
      3. Léa: restrict votes to G Suite accounts; easy way to control duplicates
      4. Sterling: that would be a way to avoid amateur license requirement but they won't be able to vote anonymously
      5. Léa: can we only store who voted but not who they voted for?
      6. Caleb: I don't know if we can do that, idk what y'all think about anonymous voting but I value everyone's opinion. Voting committee of 3? Votes can be fair without being public.
      7. Howard: For an org. that does almost nothing right now, we're spending too much effort worrying about the process. Perhaps we can talk about what we can offer first before coming back to

election. They see all the hoops that they have to jump through and filling out forms and would be indifferent to the processes.

8. Sterling brought up GDPR (in text) - that gets complicated

9. Léa: If we're just voting for the board it won't be very complex

10. Sterling: agree. They have a right to vote for the board but not the nitty-gritty things

iii. What else can we offer members?

1. We discuss activities down there but what else can we do?

a. Section 5d

2. We need something a lot cooler than discord roles or an exclusive channel

3. *What can we do without funding?*

4. Maintaining a blog where YARC members are invited to guest post? (with review)

a. Howard: podcast/blog are high maintenance but wiki kinda just sits there and is more sustainable. College students don't have time for podcasts either

b. Sterling: ARRL is struggling to start a wiki. OM be like "wkl's ArE bAd"

c. Ben: knowledge base instead of wiki. Wiki is publicly edited whereas knowledge base is more closed.

d. Caleb: bookstack

e. Howard: When Jimmy Wales started Wikipedia people say it's gonna be abused but it ended up well. Amateur radio community is already a selective community so public access could work. If we want to commit to it we definitely want to have some sort of rotation/task assignment. That way we can gradually build up content.

f. Léa: markdown solutions are git based so hard to edit. We need to decide on a software package to use.

g. Tim: Git is not hard. You can edit online.

h. Léa: The concept of git is pretty simple but most people might not do it the right way and a lot of people don't know there's an edit button and all they see is scary code. They might put things on the wrong branch.

i. Sterling: move to table until next meeting

5. Building YARC up and into the ham radio community

a. Social Media

i. Howard: no, because people aren't gonna maintain it in the long run

ii. Bruce: We should have some sort of social media presence other than discord and our website. Need to be aware of our audience. But need someone who can commit to maintaining it.

iii. Léa: if we want to reach young people, no facebook.

- iv. Sterling: social media can be for OMs to see so that they will fund us. Organic membership doesn't increase directly through social media. OM can bring info to their club meeting and some young person will learn about it.
- v. Caleb: we shouldn't do it right now
- vi. Sterling: doesn't hurt to just start an account
- vii. Caleb: yeah but please share the password
- b. Public awareness
  - i. Bruce: Hamfests are a great opportunity to outreach. Shares anecdotes that met lots of local people, getting into CWops. Acknowledges that many folks might not be able to attend hamfests, but definitely keep it in your head.
  - ii. Caleb: maybe we can work together with CARL instead of bashing them all the time
  - iii. Léa: laughing at people is not productive
  - iv. Caleb: we should be more open with working with other orgs and perhaps actively reach out
  - v. Howard: we should focus on actual initiatives instead of made up legal things that make us feel good in our heads, but we don't necessarily have the momentum to support it.
  - vi. Sterling: let's review YCP and YOTA QP and see why they weren't being held up
    - 1. YCP: very few applied, very spread out
    - 2. YOTA QP: improved exchange and scheduling; got better participation when there were prizes but not so good even with the improved exchange and scheduling and no prizes; young people don't have HF gear
    - 3. Summary: HF is hard
    - 4. Caleb: why don't we combine all of these? NACC works well because it's 1. Competition, live scoreboard, 2. It's within a regular contest - NAQP SSB, and 3. Colleges tend to be hotspots for ham radio activity. So why don't we do NACC for youth?
    - 5. Ben: expand on what Caleb said, targeting college clubs would be a good way. You can find a group of hams who can participate and contest or just talk to people and expand the clubs
    - 6. Caleb: college stations cover most of the country with a 1-day drive radius. Summary: we want to cover the whole country and
    - 7. Bruce: involve more local stations, smaller contest stations, contest within contests, youth category,
    - 8. Patrick: We have MIT, BU, Harvard, K1TTT --- all-in-all EMA is a very good focus area.
    - 9. Howard: Would be cool if there's a compiled list of stations with open operating schedules. We email all college stations a

common list of questions about their open shack policies and if people want to do HF

10. Bruce: We can refresh the SMC list (because 99% of clubs are dead) and use the clubs as “local chapters” of a national collegiate amateur radio association
11. Abby: already emailed the schools, got some responses, some people did things, but most emails are for advisors not students. RPI can’t officially affiliate with another association w/o approval of admins. If it’s informal it would be better
12. Bruce: Depends on what sort of activities students want -- not all likes contesting. Expand to different disciplines -- sat, balloons, space-flying stuff. Broaden our horizons so that we don’t limit ourselves to HF + contesting.
13. Caleb: we mostly keep to ourselves except for brief episodes of reddit takeovers and YCP stuff. We only interact with people in Discord (keeps the boomers away). Implicit advertising (?) by being out there -- e.g., what if folks from @yarc.world email addresses keep contributing to a FOSS amateur radio project.
  - a. Point: we need networking!
14. Patrick: Still cannot ignore r/AR, they are at least super kind to link to our Discord. Twitter is cool because you are engaging individual users.
15. Léa: Should probably try to cooperate with YouTubers, e.g. [\*viral?]. Has direct contact with youtuber styropyro
16. Bruce: Discord is an echo chamber. Yes defo need to reach out to wider community.

**Members vote to have a RECESS at 0355 UTC Feb 1 2020**

- c. Partnerships with other youth radio clubs and orgs
  - i. YOTA R2 and R1/R3
  - ii. YACHT
  - iii. College clubs - N7GAS, W4AQL, others
    1. Do a better job at being CARI than CARI does
      - a. Collab with SMC in NACC?
- d. More activities (or bolstering/re-work of past ones)
  - i. Nets
    1. Something about nets just isn’t working
      - a. “Turns out people just like text chat, and maybe that’s okay”
    2. What do we replace it with?
  - ii. Classes/trainings/how tos?
    1. Howard: Wiki.
    2. Tim: we already run a website and linux servers and we need to be careful about access and backend security. MediaWiki is

- commonly targeted. Need to have someone watching server security all the time.
- 3. Caleb: wiki syntax sucks. Yet to see a good markdown based wiki.
- 4. Tim/Ben: Static / Git based wiki?
- iii. Developing new tools / advancing the radio art
  - 1. cSmith has some wacky ideas for this
  - 2. [YARL](#)
- iv. develop guides and well written articles/knowledge base on ham radio topics
  - 1. Youth engagement ideas
  - 2. how to college club
  - 3. how to contest
  - 4. nothing that people haven't already written better than us
    - a. Maybe a collection of links to better articles though + making sure those links are archived somewhere for when the boomers die and stop paying for web hosting
    - b. Officially hosted YARC Wiki not run by waterlubber
    - c. All wiki software sucks - what should we use instead?
- 6. Building YARC's members up
  - a. Surveying and other membership administrative stuff
    - i. Who are our people
    - ii. Where did they come from
    - iii. Do we *really* have 1300 ppl on server? (Nein lachen)
      - 1. I [sterling] keep using this as merit for YARC in my PR stuff but i keep getting this feeling that the clout really isn't there (i.e. if we wrote a petition could we get # signatures = # server members? )
      - 2. By rough estimate (read: last I [ntos] checked) we have ~125 active unique people each month or so. I think that number \*is\* going up over time, if a bit slowly
      - 3. What causes members to become inactive?
  - b. In person booths at hamfests? More promotional stuff?
    - i. Use Hamvention to reach out to Youtube/popular hams
  - c. Reach out to /r/amateurradio, Dave Casler, Hoshboi, work with them to promote us
  - d. If the league won't support us, who can and will?
- 7. Open letter and/or other good old fashioned ARRL hate discussion
  - a. What do we want to see from the ARRL?
  - b. What's our vision of a new org to replace arrl?
  - c. Do we continue and submit the open letter?
    - i. Maybe start from scratch with a clear objective?
    - ii. A series of blog posts on issues we see and how those could be addressed?
  - d. Do we engage ARRL EC via direct email/phone discussions?

- i. Will it make a difference?
- 8. By-Laws Beefinings and Changes
  - a. Beefining up of bylaws
  - b. Does the president/VP get veto power?
    - i. Can the board overrule the president?
  - c. #4, specifically
    - i. vote on each individual member stay every election cycle, Non-re-elected board members remain faithful servants (ambassadors) and the removal does not mean animosity, This will bring more turnover, ideas, impetus, motivation, etc. and avoid "old boys club" syndrome
    - ii. Other beefinings
      - 1. Terms and term limits
      - 2. Establishing/clarifying the role of non-board Leadership ie ambassadors/trustee
  - d. Any adjustments as a result of the above decisions
  - e. There should be a Secretary position, most clubs/orgs have one.
- 9. Money/Tax stuff
  - a. YARC was originally formed as a 501(c)(7) meaning we're technically a social club
    - i. IRS's website isn't terribly helpful but from what I've read we might want to reconsider this setup
  - b. EVERYTHING FOLLOWING THIS ITEM IS cSmith's READING OF THINGS AND COULD VERY WELL BE VERY WRONG**
  - c. We're currently not meeting all the requirements
    - i. Restrictions on membership (not doing this currently)
    - ii. Having lots of members is discouraged by the IRS
    - iii. All members have to co-mingle
      - 1. YH sort of accomplishes this up until the point at which we accept a non-statistical-anomaly number of members that don't co-mingle
      - 2. YH also may not count if there's non-yarc members as part of the co-mingling???
      - 3. Doing things all digitally makes this very complicated
      - 4. "Though the term "club" is not defined, the IRM indicates that clubs have the following characteristics: membership of individuals, personal contact, co-mingling of members, fellowship among members, and shared interests and goals among members"
    - iv. We have to file tax forms which we're not doing - if we don't do this we lose our tax exempt status either way
    - v. "all of the organization's activities must be for pleasure, recreation, and other nonprofit purposes;"
      - 1. I'm not entirely convinced YARC as we intend it to be in the future fits perfectly within this

- vi. Most of our income has to come from members
  - 1. This makes donations tricky?
  - 2. We probably don't plan on charging membership dues???
  - 3. Idk?????????
- vii. Donations to YARC aren't tax exempt and can't be more than 35% from non-members and if they benefit members then things get super complicated????
- viii. Idk it's a mess and i'm not qualified to do this - we should talk to someone who knows what they're doing

## ACTION ITEMS

- Further meetings
  - QP: qso party needs a redo - let's fix it and do better than ever before
    - Nacc style + ycp
  - Wiki: POCs, hosting, how, what, etc.
  - Blog: We need to discuss how/who/whatever else
  - Outreach: We need to get more specific
    - How to get/keep partnerships with other clubs
    - What to outreach on (expanding subject matter)
    - Who to reach out to:
      - College clubs
      - Contester groups/stations/whatever
      - Youtubers
        - Dave casler
        - N0SSC
        - Hosh
        - Ham Radio 2.0?
      - ARRL / CARI