

**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs, Inc., W9CCU**  
**Minutes for the club meeting of March 2023**

The meeting was called to order at by Roger Bassett, W9RAF, president at 7:30 pm. Roger is the regular presiding officer of the corporation. The minutes were recorded by the regular recording officer – Steve Peterson, N9OA, secretary. The meeting was held at the usual location of 418 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, Illinois. Those in attendance were the following: W9RAF, N9OA, N0MO, KB9FYL, KC9YFI, KC9IJO, KD9DJX, AC9VW, WB9FUB, N9CBA. KD9TKO, KD9DJT,

A motion to use the agenda from the last six meetings (clarified as “the standard agenda”) was made by Timothy Wheeler. That motion was seconded by Mary Peterson, KC9IJO and was carried.

Roger began with a prologue indicating that he has been diagnosed with a brain tumor which is considerably affecting his ability to hear. Due to his age this tumor – believed to be benign – is not operable due to his age, nor is he a candidate for radiation. Roger – brain tumor caused hearing lost. Not operable or radiation due to age. Believed to be benign.

The following corrections were requested for the minutes by Carol Schroeder: Timothy Wheeler only attended the February meeting once and was listed twice in attendance, and that Roger Bassett’s comment regarding the application of John Cheney should be noted [*He spoke with Mr. Cheney at the hamfest regarding the letter that Cheney had previously written to the club. Roger reported that Cheney had no remorse for writing the letter and indicated that Cheney stated that he would write the letter again*]

Timothy Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Tom Geletka and was carried. KC9YFI , N9CBA passed

Roger Bassett indicated that he no further report as president and that the office of Vice President is presently vacant.

Steve Peterson had a letter to read as a part of the secretary’s report.

Steve asked unanimous consent that he be allowed to read from papers. Without objection to reading from papers, Steve proceeded to read a letter received from Kelsey Schroeder, KA9KDC, that she asked be read at the meeting.

March 1, 2023

Dear WCRA,

Two weeks prior to the March 2023 meeting, I emailed the WCRA board requesting to be allowed to attend the March membership meeting via zoom. As I will be unable to attend any in person meeting for the foreseeable future due to my work schedule. However I will be able to attend remotely if a remote meeting option is available. My main motivation for making this request was two fold. One I would like to remain active and well informed about what is going on with the club. And Two, during the February Membership meeting, it was announced to those in attendance that Zoom would be a topic for major discussion during the March meeting. Therefore as someone who will need to use zoom to attend meetings. I felt it was important that I attended the meeting and was allowed to express my opinion on allowing Members to attend meetings via zoom.

After hearing nothing from the board for over a week and a half and the March meeting fast approaching, I reached out again asking for a response to my request as I will be required to work but was expecting to have nothing to do during my assigned office hours. I then received several contradictory emails. I was told that the board stopped using zoom at membership meetings early last year and that if I was allowed to attend that I would get no voting power due to Robert’s rules of orders not allowing for virtual meetings. Both of these statements are false.

First, The board never made the decision to stop allowing for hybrid meetings. According to May 2022 meeting minutes and the welcome email from the then newly elected club president Mark Spoo on May 6, 2022, Mark said:

“COVID for practical purposes is what it is and meetings in person will be the new normal. Unless change by official declaration ALL MEETINGS WILL BE LIVE AND IN PERSON. WE WILL NO LONGER BE USING ZOOM FOR GENERAL MEETINGS.”

The board and club has not followed this eddic from him which implies that it was not a statement from the board as a whole and instead Mark’s wish. In the minutes from the following months, the board actually asked for zoom to be more accessible to the membership. Zoom has

been used during several meetings since last May including both the September and October 2022 membership meetings where we had both club members and our program speaker attend via zoom.

During February's meeting, Roger announced that during March's meeting that the club would be discussing allowing Zoom attendance. He did not want to discuss it at that meeting to allow for more people to attend knowing that zoom would be discussed. However this was never announced to anyone who did not attend the February meeting. So more people will not be in attendance to discuss the topic instead it is more likely that far less people will be in attendance. Also by not allowing members to attend via zoom to a meeting where zoom is discussed you are already ignoring those that would support and utilize zoom. In addition, if the board has already unanimously decided to not allow it then why are we going to debate it during the March meeting? The board elected in April can just over rule this discussion.

Zoom allows for club members that are unable in person for various reasons to stay active and participate in the club. Club members can still attend via zoom even if they just had surgery, have to work, are unable to find a ride to the meeting or are hard of hearing and would prefer to have the computer's volume blasting while having meeting captions. This will allow these members to know what is discussed. If we want the club to grow we need to get with the times and embrace technology. There should be no reason to exclude people based on their ability to attend a meeting in person.

Second, Robert's rules of orders. While Robert rules of order does not specifically allow virtual or hybrid meetings, it also does not specifically prevent them either. Instead it says that it is up to the organizational bylaws to determine who is considered present during a business meeting. Robert rules of order does state that meetings need to allow for "simultaneous aural communication". Allowing members to attend via zoom will still meet this requirement. As both remote and in person attendees in a small group like our club meetings can communicate simultaneously and audibly.

According to Robert, Henry M.. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th edition (pp. 128-129) business meetings can take place when, "Except as authorized in the bylaws, the business of an organization or board can be validly transacted only at a regular or properly called meeting—that is, as defined in 8:2(1), a single official gathering in one room or area—of the assembly of its members at which a quorum is present."

Hybrid meetings still meet this rule as attending a meeting remotely still places the remote attendees in the same room as in person attendees. Our bylaws only says we need to follow Robert's rules of order and that a "A quorum shall be the FULL members present at any regular scheduled meeting". So our bylaws do not specifically allow or prevent virtual and hybrid meetings nor does it say who is considered present at the meeting. Therefore it is up to the club to determine if members should be allowed to attend and vote via zoom. We should not allow the ambiguities of Robert's Rules of Order and our bylaws on this topic prevent the club from allowing its membership to attend meetings and vote via zoom. We should also stop using the fact that either Robert's Rules of Order or our bylaws does not specifically state whether we can or can not do something as a reason to not move forward with the times.

When I was told I could not attend the meeting via zoom, I was told that they hoped that I remained an active member of the club. However I am not sure how to be an active member without attending meetings to find out about what the committees are up to and what upcoming events are happening. I seldom receive meeting minutes without asking for them and even then may not receive them until hours before the next club meeting. Notice about upcoming meetings and events are also almost never posted anywhere public. In fact I was told that having a membership meeting notice listed in the 'insider' is good enough. But how do you expect to grow a club when you are only advertising to existing club members? Also how do you expect a member to be active if they do not find out about events until after the event or the pleas for last minute help go out. In addition, the March 2023 insider did not even list tonight's meeting. There was no public announcement outside of the net about tonight's meeting. So if you missed the net, the meeting or are not a member of the club yet, you have no way of knowing what is going on, when you can join, or what the club does. How does the club plan on growing or getting the current members to be more active? Why would someone new to the hobby or a young adult choose to be a member of a club that is bad at disseminating info, is stuck in that

past and is the only amateur radio club in the area that does not support hybrid meetings?

Sincerely,  
Kelsey Schroeder, KA9KDC

Carol Schroder, treasurer presented her report including that bank balances. She continued that budget numbers for next year are needed, and that dues are due.

Mike Wilson, property custodian, reported that no shelving had been donated. After requesting clarification regarding the type of shelving that was needed, Timothy mentioned that used shelving may be available from Bellwood DHSEM.

Timothy Wheeler reported on behalf of the RAB; to wit, York inquired about the state of our Fusion repeater located on the Esplanade. A co-coordinated site visit will be in the near future.

The Newsletter went out 3/1. It was sent via groups.io and individually to members via a list.

Website: Timothy reported that the March meeting was not on the website.

The PR committee chairmanship is open

Roger Bassett presented the following club awards:

To Timothy Wheeler: An award for outstanding work at the hamfest and a "Certificate of Excellence" for his work within the RAB on the new repeater. [Timothy quickly commented that David Weinheimer, AC9VW, helped at lot too]

To Mike Wilson: An award for outstanding work at the hamfest

Timothy Wheeler reported that there is a lot of work coming up for the CSU as he now feels removing the tarp normally placed on it for the winter. Roger asked Timothy to provide a high-level task list. Timothy continued that they will be installing the new ceiling and that there is a voltage drop somewhere that they will be investigating.

There was no report for the interference or training committees.

Steve Peterson is exploring options for the VE team to offer sessions on a regularly scheduled basis and solicited feedback. Carol suggested the Wheaton or Glen Ellyn libraries. Mike suggested a location in Villa Park to which he may have access.

Programs – Tonight's program was a member who forgot. No program. Next month is the annual meeting w/o a program.

Timothy Wheeler reported that he has major coax issues and his station is down. He is looking for a second Sunday net control operator on at least an interim basis. He also requests any announcements for the net be emailed to him by Thursday evening or Friday at the absolute latest.

Roger reported that Kelsey Schroeder, KA9KDC will be unable to chair the 2024 hamfest due to her new work schedule and obligations.

Timothy Wheeler began the field day committee report with a poll of who would participate in field day. He stated that in the last 4-5 years there has not been an in-person FD. If we get a site, who is volunteering to man it?

Holiday party and membership are open committees which had no report.

The public service / emergency committee report was submitted by Mike Wilson. He indicated that nothing had changed in the last month. He reported that Special Olympics would be headed by Steve due to his daughters 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 30. Volunteers are still needed for Shamrock Shuffle, The Trek 100 in Waterloo, WI is on June 10. Lilac Parade is May 21. Additionally, a Facebook group has been created called Midwest Radio Public Service and Communications Clearing house to serve as a go to point in securing public service volunteers. See Mike or Timothy if interested in this group or for more information.

There were no new member applications on which to vote.

Roger Basset passed on a matter of interest regarding Scouting and amateur radion. BSA issued bulletin including the most popular Merit Badges showing increased interest in electronics and radio. This is a sign that younger people are interested in electronics

Mike added that he assisted with a Merit Badge university recently

Local ham passed. A family member selling goods. Roger printed email to share

Zoom meeting:

Tom – if there is a volunteer that wants to do it we can, but that we could not commit as needed

Tim - asked of Carol. Is there a way to create a static link?

Steve asked a question and learned that we always use the account's default room

Roger took a poll on who believed that we should offer Zoom participation in meetings. There seemed to be none opposed. In a second poll, it seemed that about 80% of those present would use Zoom if it were available.

Discussion ensued; summarized as follows:

Steve – we should amend the bylaws and do it.

Tim- in favor wholeheartedly he would use it if he needed but thinks some may abuse it. His intention is to come in person.

Tom Kravkar – vacations, summer, is for it, likes to attend meeting.

Mary – questions: Is Zoom inexpensive? Carol: \$150

David – it would allow new members to be met who have not been met

Carol – we had a member from out of state attend the meeting when we were doing Zoom meetings during the pandemic.

Roger appointed a committee consisting of Timothy Wheeler, Carol Schroeder, Steve Peterson, Kelsey Schroder, and Mary Peterson to recommend wording on which to revise the bylaws to allow for electronic meeting participation. This committee is to report at the April meeting.

Timothy Wheeler reported that elections are next month. Zero nominations received. Pres 1 yr VP 2 yrs Treas 2 yrs. This grew to one. This club has been around too long to die a death like this. We'll take a half term.

Membership comments – Mike News: Mark Potter W9UZ was in an automobile accident and is currently hospitalized with blood clots. Expected to be released this weekend. Mark is a Life Member.

The board will send a card.

Mike Wilson made a motion, seconded by Mary Peterson to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 20:52

Respectfully Submitted,  
[s] Stephen J. Peterson, N9OA  
Secretary, WCRA