

The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Post #33

Meeting Minutes

1500 on 17 Nov. 2018 – Official Inaugural Meeting

Opening

Weekly meeting of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club at Post #33. Ideas and discussions below will be followed up upon and reviewed.

The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Post #33 was called to order at 1500 on 17 Nov. 2018 – Official Inaugural Meeting by Joe Tokarz (KB9EZZ).

Present

Joe Tokarz (KB9EZZ)-President, Treasurer and Membership chair. Matthew Weaver (KB9VZH)-VP, Secretary and Trustee, John Duback-Adjutant.

Approval of Agenda

Joe approved of agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Joe approved minutes.

Open Issues / Old Business

- This is our Inaugural meeting of the Post 33 TALARC.
- Approval of Articles or Organization approved by E-Board 5 Nov. 2018.
 - Still need signatures from post E-Board.
- John handed out info on AL Disaster and Response Prep., FEMA and TALARC and Field Day into to review.
- Discussed ICS completion and requirements.
 - Joe completed all ICS training, he is also a certified instructor.
 - Matt has completed all of the basic ICS training and needs to update.
- John is very enthusiastic about promoting the club. He will do what he can to help w/ promotion and public relations.
- Discussion on completion of the upstairs area before we move forward with any antenna or radio locations.
 - John is looking at 3+ weeks before completion.
 - Need to keep trustees/Rodger in the loop of any requests or plans.
- John asked questions regarding radio bands/frequencies. Ham bands vs. broadcast was discussed as well as amateur repeater operation and differences between UHF, VHF, HF.
- MARS was discussed and the need for antennas to do so.

- Towers not needed, can be accomplished by a simple wire antenna. IDOT antenna system mentioned.
- Joe and Matt discussed our first test of an antenna system during the Veterans Day Event with TALARC.
 - The internal wire antenna was hearing stations and K9TAL, but could not make contact via RF. We moved it outside with no better luck. A fellow operator, KC9WWG, Keith brought his Buddypole antenna, but did not have much luck on it. It tuned up, but the singles just did not get out.
 - We did make contact via Echolink and submitted a request for a QSL/Cert. for the contact.
- John discussed kids' education about radio.
 - JOTA merit badges discussed, Legion promotion to kids.
- John asked about contact with the city of Ottawa.
 - No support as of now.
 - Some reluctance with city due to volunteers vs. city employees and government/unions, insurance and liabilities.
 - Joe said we need to offer out services with the city and county EMA.

New Business

- Matt asked, what can we do now, what are our plans?
 - This is the topic for most of the remainder of the meeting.
- Matt said we need to get members and equipment.
 - As of now, we don't have enough of either to really do much emergency service. It is only Joe and Matt. We can't support a 24-hour station with only two people.
- Need to work with WCMY and The Times for publications.
- Discussed membership possibilities in the area. Several known licensed amateurs and Vets discussed.
- We still need bylaws approved.
- Discussion on when we will meet with WCMY
 - Need to come up with list of discussion points.
 - All will create a list and discuss in the near future.
 - John asked to give points about the Legion family and who we are.
- Matt discussed donation of equipment in memory of grandfather Joe Thiry, past post Commander.
 - Matt needs to itemize equipment, serial numbers and costs.
 - Will put into a go kit.
 - Matt mentioned Rodger Schuller has approved us keeping any TALARC equipment secured in the armory. It is locked and has video surveillance.
- Joe and Matt discussed a permanent antenna install.

- Both willing to donate equipment for the club.
- We will leave a copy of the Articles of Org. with John for Ray to sign.
- Bylaws signed by Joe and Matt to make official 17 Nov. 2018.
- TALARC members can be any Legion members (Legion, Sons, Auxiliary) or family in good standing.
 - Officers must be a member of post 33.
- After we get 4+ members, we can apply for a club call-sign.
- John mentioned we need to contact Karen Rhoads about the radio show, she has taken the CERT class and we should make mention during the broadcast.
- Joe made mention of a possible winter field day.
- Joe said we need to put a pulley in the attic so we can run the antenna across the attic without going up into the attic.
 - Need to work with trustees with this request.
 - Squirrels may be a problem in the attic with electrical or coax. Need to work with trustees on sealing the access areas.
- Matt discussed possible antenna routing and placement.
 - Photos taken, and antenna locations placed onto photos. We will need to review and determine what antennas we want and best way to mount and run coax.
 - Try using a portable system before a permanent one to prove it will work.
 - RFI will be reviewed before a permanent install is done.
 - We discussed with John that RFI must be eliminated if found by both parties. It is required by law and the FCC.
 - Single point ground was discussed. Need to review with trustees. Don't want to use a ground point that is not a true ground.
- Meeting adjusted, Matt has a dinner date with his wife on her birthday and must not be late.

Agenda for Next Meeting

- Review all above open topics.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1615 by Joe Tokarz (KB9EZZ). The next general meeting will be at 1500 on 15 Dec. 2018, in the 1st. floor meeting room at Post #33.

Minutes submitted by: Matthew Weaver, VP, SEC, Trustee (KB9VZH)

Approved by: Joe Tokarz, President, Treasure and Membership chair
(KB9EZZ)