

Minutes-April 17, 2025, General Meeting

By Jim Gifford N8KET, Secretary

Executive Committee Members Present

President: Geoff Kline, KI5VNB

Vice President: Eric Bramini, KC8OPY

Treasurer: John Westerkamp W8LRJ, Webmaster, Comm Center

Secretary: Jim Gifford N8KET

Senior Director: Bob French AC8ZU, POTA, Tech Night

Junior Director: Don Macon KE8WVJ

Executive Committee Members Absent

None

President Geoff Kline KI5VNB welcomed members and guests and led in introductions. In a different twist, he asked that members also state which radio they most used during the month.

General meeting minutes, as emailed

Questions/Comments/or motions: None

Eric Bramini KC8OPY moved we accept; Paul Sharp WS8R seconded; passed.

Treasurer's report – John Westerkamp

John Westerkamp W8LRJ provided an update on finances, stating that the position of BARC going into our probable move is good. His emailed report is below:

March and April are usually slow months as the membership is all paid up and income slows down. We do have a few new members and Kroger Rewards, but mostly expenses for yearly subscriptions to Zoom and our insurance as well as our monthly Spectrum payments. Our balance as of the April Membership meeting is \$12,001.13. We continue to be in excellent financial shape as we prepare for our move.

Thanks!

John Westerkamp, W8LRJ
Treasurer

Fund	31-Mar-25	Income	Expenses	30-Apr-25
General	\$4,611.44	\$35.00	\$340.00	\$4,306.44
Comm center	\$1,007.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,007.43
Refreshments	\$911.34	\$56.00	\$0.00	\$967.34
Repeater	\$319.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$319.53
All Liquid Funds	\$6,849.74	\$91.00	\$340.00	\$6,600.74
6 Month CD	\$5,400.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,400.39
ALL FUNDS	\$12,250.13	\$91.00	\$340.00	\$12,001.13

Ken Gunton W8ASA moved we accept the treasurer's report; Glenn Rodgers WI8O seconded; passed.

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Network Policies

Kline explained the policies had been emailed to members a couple months in a row.

Glenn Rodgers moved we accept; Fred Stockwell KE8ZPN seconded; passed.

Updates from coordinators

No reports

April Topic: Status of the Probable move

Geoff Kline said that our scheduled speaker had a conflict and could not attend tonight. He said that he would lead in a short discussion and then a question and answer session on the status of moving to a new location.

He said that the committee is waiting on the business manager of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School Board to issue the board's decision. There are two options, both of which require that the present location in this building to be closed.

Kline explained that the possible new location, should the school board permit, would be in the board building located between the grade school and high school on Upper Bellbrook Road.

He said the purpose of tonight's meeting was not to give answers but to hear what the members want to see occur. Some answers will only be tentative since we still await the school board's decision.

SECRETARY NOTE: Following is the agenda that Geoff provided:

Kline spoke to the following, although based on questions, not in this exact order:

High Level Discussion Questions

Subject to change depending on how discussion progresses

Operating and Station Layout

- 1) How many stations do you think we should have available at once?
- 2) Would you prefer permanent station setups or modular stations that can be reconfigured, or movable stations that can be rolled out as needed?
- 3) Are there any operating modes that we don't offer today that you would like to see added?

Antenna & Towers

- 1) What kind of antennas do you think are essential for our club's operating goals?
- 2) Should we prioritize a particular band or mode (e.g. contesting, digital modes, emcomms)?
- 3) Would you still want rotating beam antennas or other high gain options if space and budget allow?

Workshop / Makerspace

- 1) Would you like to have a dedicated technical workbench/repair area?

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- 2) Should we dedicate space to building kits, soldering, testing or do what we do today and utilize tables as needed for multiple purposes?
- 3) What tools or test equipment would be most useful to keep on hand?

Training/Learning Areas

- 1) How important is classroom-style space for training sessions or tech nights?
- 2) Do you find A/V equipment (Projector, screen, etc) helpful for our presentations, and tech nights, etc.?
- 3) Would you like to keep a small ham library?

Social & Meeting Space

- 1) How many people should our main meeting space accommodate?
- 2) Should there be a separate area for casual conversation, snacks, etc before and after meetings/events?
- 3) Would you prefer the "radio" room to be strictly functional or more of a "club lounge" type of area?

Youth & Public Outreach

- 1) What features could make the space welcoming for youth or school outreach? (STEM stations, demo radios, maker kits)
- 2) Should we include dedicated "student" or "new ham" stations, or potentially portable stations we can setup for this purpose, or use what we have?

EmComm

- 1) Should we specify priority use of the space goes to EmComm?
- 2) Should we invest in several portable Go-Kits specifically for EmComm?
- 3) Would you like backup power?
- 4) How would we store and access emergency equipment?

Internet, Networking & Technology

- 1) How important is fast and reliable internet at the new location?
- 2) Would you use a remote station if the club offered one?

Storage & Organization

- 1) What kind of storage do we need?
- 2) What needs to be stored?
- 3) Should it be secure storage or open shelving?

General Clubhouse

- 1) What would make the new clubhouse a more inviting place you would want to visit more often?
- 2) Are there any design or comfort features (lighting, seating, decor) you feel strongly about?

Open-Ended Questions

- 1) What is your top 1-2 priorities for the new club house?

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- 2) If money was no object, what would your dream clubhouse include?
- 3) What are we not thinking about that we should be?

SECRETARY'NOTE: Following are comments and questions from members and from members on the committee. When the reader reads a name next to a comment, it is because that person is on the committee overseeing the move.

Members asked what will we do for a tower?

What kind of tower is on the building?

John Westerkamp said it appears to be similar to a Rohn tower, but we have not been on the roof to examine it, so we may only speculate at this time.

Geoff Kline told attendees that the school board will allow us to use the tower but requires BARC to hire a professional to climber to perform installation. He produced a photo of the building on the overhead screen.

Kline then used the overhead screen to show a diagram of the proposed room that BARC may use at the site. He posed the question whether we will have three or four operating stations and opened discussion up on that topic.

One person said we never, or very seldom, use all four stations at once, unless Field Day has to be inside.

There were several questions and comments about classroom space, tables, chairs, arrangement, etc.

One main question centered on where we would hold our meetings. Can we use the gymnasium in that building for meetings?

Eric Bramini said that we might have free access to the meeting auditorium at Miami Valley South. In fact, we are conducting a trial meeting of the BARC Planning Meeting at Miami Valley South in May.

A members commented that we ought to meet at the same place our stations are located.

Another member said that we may not have much choice and have to hold our membership meeting at a separate location.

Kline said we might be able to use other rooms for meetings on the same hallway. Bramini said that one room was probably large enough to have a membership meeting of normal attendance.

John Westerkamp explained that we also had some limited storage.

Bob French AC8ZU said that we could have Tech Night in the new space.

Tim Proconiar N8NQH showed attendees a scaled drawing with moveable tables and stations to illustrate the possible configurations.

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A member asked if we could put up antennas we use for Field Day as a temporary installation.

Paul Sharp WS8R stated that at this point, there are many unknowns.

Another asked how many electrical outlets are in the proposed room.

John Westerkamp said probably four, one on each wall.

Geoff Kline said maintenance promised to assist us if we need help in areas like the electricity.

The possibility of helping students get involved in ham radio was discussed.

Other questions and discussion:

After-hours access was questioned. Use of a realtor's box was suggested.

How do we unlock the doors?

Will we have room for our library? Popcorn machine? Refrigerator?

How many people will the room hold?

Larry Darner KD8RER moved we adjourn; Bill Weaner KB8BKW seconded; meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.