

The SMC Board of Directors (BoD) met with the incoming President Craig Thompson (K9CT) yesterday at Ralph's (K9ZO) house in Bloomington. The SMC treasurer, Zig, also attended. Thanks and kudos to Ralph and his better half Connie for hosting our meeting and providing an outstanding, and non-alcoholic lunch.

The board meeting started with a few words from the incoming President about what we wanted to accomplish in this meeting. He then queried the board members for their inputs.

The board believed this was the first ever dedicated, in-person BoD meetings; previous meetings were via Skype. The BoD decided this in-person meeting should be an annual event with interim BoD meetings via Skype.

The consensus was that we had three goals for the Board meeting: (1) Gain an understanding of the SMC financial situation with the goal of establishing a financial plan for the club, (2) Develop a plan and schedule for updating SMC the web site, and (3) discuss the club's constitution, bylaws, etc.

We rapidly determined that we needed a secretary to keep track of our meeting and publishing minutes of the meeting. One of us was caught with a pen in his hand (doodling in his notebook) during this discussion and that is why I am drafting and sending this message.

Finances. Zig briefed the board on our financial status. Bottom line is that we are in pretty good financial shape with about \$5900 in assets. We anticipate an annual income of ~\$2000 per year and annual planned expenditures of approximately \$1700. We do have some financial challenges; the most significant is getting members to pay their dues. Today approximately 58 of our 221 members have not yet paid.

This discussion included a review of the costs and profit and loss (P&L) expectations from hosting the SMC suite at Dayton each year. The bottom line is that we pretty much break even. The board determined that we need to advertise the SMC hospitality suite within our membership (many of whom come to Dayton but do not visit the SMC Suite). The BoD agreed that the Dayton suite is a gathering place of contesters, Midwest and otherwise, and that whenever there is a deficit, it is to pay for the room itself, not for alcohol. While we do offer beverages for a donation, it's these beverage "sales" that offset the cost of the room, and therefore the cost to the SMC's treasury. The BoD felt it was important to ensure that the membership knows that this is a meeting room expense, and not alcohol.

Another issue is that the Board agrees there is a need to formalize our status as a not-for profit club and establish an SMC Tax ID Number.

A third financial issue is how to deal with membership pop-up requests for funding activities not in our annual budget. We intend to do that by establishing an accounting mechanism for "non-budget items" and pay for the BoD approved items via member contributions.

Finally, the BoD agreed that we should maintain one year's income (\$2K) as financial reserves.

Web Site. An update to the SMC Web Site is in progress. Scott, KA9FOX has agreed to do the job at a very good price. The BoD set some goals for the work:

Tuesday 31 January: Send Scott a mock-up of the web site to determine if our concept is feasible and affordable.

10 January 2014: Develop a finished template and content concept.

17 January 2014: Finalize the above and send to Scott.

1 March 2014: Initial new web site rollout.

Brian, K9QQ will work with Scott on the development and roll-out of the web site.

During the meeting the Board looked at some other club and other websites to determine a desired look and feel. Bill, K3WA, developed a rough drawing and sent it out to the BoD for ideas and comments. The discussion is on-going, lively, and outstanding.

Formalizing Club Status. The BoD agreed that we need to update and or develop an up-to-date constitution and bylaws for SMC. That project is underway with an active search for existing documentation to use as a baseline. The Board is adamant that whatever we wind up with, that it be short, to the point, and not filled with needless bureaucratic blabber.