

Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC)

Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

30 December 2016

The 2016 annual meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) met at 10 AM on 30 December 2016 in Bloomington IL.

The following BoD members present in person were Craig Thompson K9CT, Pat Hoppe WW9R, Brian Maves K9QQ, Ralph Bellas K9ZO, Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, and Bill Axelrod K3WA.

Present via Skype were Ryan Klavekoske KB9OWD, and Tom Harke AA9A.

This number of attendees constituted a quorum for this SMC BoD meeting.

Craig opened the meeting with an overview of SMC performance over the last 12 months.

- We have more money available than we have ever had before
- We had a significant increase in membership in this past year
- We came in second place in the 2016 NAQP club competition with NCCC and PVRC.
- We conducted a very successful SMC fest in August and a full day Contest University (CTU) coincident with the W9DXCC gathering in September

Next, the BoD reviewed the minutes from the 2 January 2016 BoD meeting which were approved for the record.

The BoD discussed the following agenda items:

Financial:

We read and unanimously accepted the treasurer's report as presented and enclosed in Attachment 1. SMC ended the 2016 fiscal year in a healthy financial condition with sufficient funds available to continue all planned programs. We have almost \$12,000 in our checking and PayPal accounts.

SMC 2017 Budget

Plaques	\$1100
W9DXCC	\$200
Web hosting	\$60
SMC Fest	\$800
SMC NAQP/SS awards	\$750
Scholarships	\$400

Total	\$3310
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SMC Tax ID:

Zig, KM9M, is doing the paperwork to establish a valid Tax Identification Number (TIN) with the IRS for the club. Val, NV9L, will assist Zig to get this completed soonest. We need to get this settled to be able to receive funds from PayPal and to bring the club “up to code” with the IRS.

Secretary and Treasurer:

The board voted and approved unanimously to appoint Sigmond (Zig) Markowski, KM9M, for another term as SMC Secretary and Treasurer in 2017.

Dayton 2017:

In 2016 SMC arranged two tables for our members at the Contest Dinner at the Dayton Hamvention 2016. We had two of the best tables in the room and a lot of fun. The board voted to do it again in 2017. In 2016 SMC reserved and paid for the tables and was reimbursed by the attendees. We will do that again in 2017.

Bill, K3WA will put out feelers for those who would like to attend so we can reserve the right number of tables. Perhaps we could fill three tables this year.

The board unanimously voted to help fund pizzas in the Contest Super Suite as we did last year.

SMC Fest 2017:

SMC Fest 2016 was a success by any measure. We had the biggest turn out ever, a day full of interesting presentations, and thanks to Val NV9L’s hard work, an outstanding series of door prizes. We also raffled off an ICOM 7301 radio with the proceeds going to sponsor two tents in WRTC 2018. The SMC Fest broke even and we netted money from the raffle to fully fund our WRTC tent commitment..

The board voted, unanimously again, to hold SMC Fest at the same venue (Hyatt Place in Bloomington IL) on Saturday 26 August 2017. Serious planning will begin in January. SMC Fest doubles as our annual club meeting.

Contest University 2017:

SMC held our Contest University (CTU) as part of the W9DXCC convention in September 2016. That CTU was a full day affair. It was well attended and featured presentations focused on both new and currently active contesters.

The board voted, unanimously, to hold CTU again at W9DXCC 2017. SMC’s CTU 2017 will be patterned after the last two.

We will budget \$400 for scholarships for interested young hams. Pat, WW9R and Bill, K3WA will coordinate the scholarship program.

SMC Reflector:

The club has been using mailman based mailing list as our reflector for many years now. Other reflector-like services are available today and provide many additional services beyond our current setup. Brian, K9QQ, will look into these new services and recommend a course of action for our future.

Web Site:

Last year's upgrade to the W9SMC.com web site brought our site into the modern era. A large number of our members enjoy seeing photos of members and their shacks and their QSL cards on our web site. In the coming year we plan to encourage even more members to share their photos and QSL cards on the site.

We are also planning to add more downloadable support files to W9SMC.com for our members use.

NAQP Club Competition:

SMC has done very well in the "Big Three" club competition. We won in 2015 and came in second in 2016. Why second? It turns out that size matters. Size really matters. While SMC is one of the "big three", PVRC, who won in 2016, is much bigger than we are and can easily drive up participation to a level we could not match even if every one of us participated.

We are very active and achieve the highest percentage of participants each year. But we still can not match PVRC's sheer numerical advantage. We're still going to work it hard, and we will be pushing participation to the max.

The bottom line is that, under the previously existing rules we simply can not win. Rule changes are needed to level the playing field.

President Craig, K9CT, has been negotiating with his NCCC and PVRC counterparts to evolve to a rule-based approach to leveling the playing field. This effort will take more than one year to complete. The revised rules for 2017 are available on the W9SMC.com home page.

More to follow as the rules evolve. Meanwhile, we need to continue our efforts to get as many of us SMCers as possible on in the NAQPs and to keep kicking butts.

NAQP Cups:

Our program to have inter-club competitions rewarded by presentation of a SMC coffee mug has been received well by our club membership. The board voted unanimously to continue this competition. Keep an eye out for new award categories this year, get on the air, and have fun.

SMC Recruiting:

We have seen really great growth in SMC membership over the last few years and have every expectation to see even greater growth in the years ahead. Ryan, KB9OWD, will continue to check contest results to find hams in our area of interest who have submitted a contest log and not SMC members and invite him/her to join. That includes hams that are outside our circle (eg. Northern Wisconsin). We ask all members to do the same.

W9SMC Activation:

The board has noticed that we do not get many requests to activate the W9SMC call sign. Ralph, K9ZO, is the call sign custodian for W9SMC. The board believes that getting the call sign W9SMC on the air will grow visibility for SMC. To get started, Bill, K3WA, will use the club call for the 2017 ILQP. Perhaps someone would like to do that for the Indiana and Wisconsin QSO parties.

WRTC 2018 Support:

Brian K9QQ has been leading the SMC fund raising and support program for WRTC. Valerie NV9L is the North American ambassador for WRTC.

- The Germans have met 56% of their financial goals as of this writing.
- Our own Mike, W9RE, will be the team leader for the W9/W8 team.

SMC is well ahead in donation to, and support for, WRTC 2018. We have already donated funds for two tents. And SMC in Number 2 in cash donations, behind only PVRC. We're not done yet. Please keep your hearts and wallets open for the Ham Radio Olympics, WRTC.

We will again raffle off a new radio at SMC Fest with the proceeds going to WRTC.

Attachment 1

SMC Treasury Report - December 30, 2016

SMC Balances as of 29 December 2016 @ 20:00 hrs

Chase Checking - \$2815.55

Not deposited - \$70.00

Total for checking \$2885.55

PayPal – \$8551.47

Total \$11,437.02

Payments made in 2016 (pp denotes payment sent via PayPal)

1-6-16-pp-Engraved Memories - SMC Award Mugs - \$518.00

1-8-16-pp- Contest Dinner Table Payment #1 - \$308.00

1-8-16-pp- Contest Dinner Table Payment #2 - \$308.00

2-14-16- #870- WWROF – CQWW CW SOAB USA Z4 \$65.00

3-08-16 – #871- West Allis Radio Club – WIQP Plaques \$100.00

3-14-16 – #872- WWROF – WPX SSB USA Z4 HI/LOW PWR - \$110.00

4-24-16-pp- Payment to WRTC 2018 -\$2000EU = \$2352.77

4-25-16 - #873- WWROF – WPX CW USA Z4 HI/LOW PWR - \$110.00

5-17-16-pp- Payment to Contest University - \$200.00

5-27-16-pp- Payment to QTH.com (domain renewal) \$11.45

6-4-16- pp - Payment to QTH.com (web and email services) \$59.40

7-21-16 – #874- Mel Chrichton – 3 INQP Plaques - \$69.00

8-1-16 – #875- Jim McDonald – SMC Room @ The Ram - \$150.00

9-8-16 – #876- Craig Thompson – SMC Fest Buttons – \$72.96

9-8-16 - #877- Craig Thompson - Ship costs IC7300 to WW9R - \$10.93

9-13-16 – #878- Craig Thompson – Reimb. All Hyatt SMC Fest costs – \$2100.43

9-25-16 – #879- Sig Markowski – Reimb. for cost of IC7300 for wrtc raffle \$931.80

2016 Expenditures - \$7,477.74

WRTC Fundraising from treasury to WRTC 2018 sponsoring 2 tents - \$2352.77

IC7300 from Icom America \$931.80

Total SMC Expenses from treasury to WRTC 2018 \$3284.57

240 raffle tickets to IC7300 sold @ \$10per \$2440.00

Member donations to WRTC through SMC \$780.00

Amount remaining not recovered by SMC Treasury \$64.57