

Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC)
Annual Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting
Minutes
29 December 2017

The 2017 annual meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) convened at 10 AM on 29 December 2017 in Bloomington IL.

The following BoD members present in person were Craig Thompson K9CT, Pat Hoppe WW9R, Brian Maves K9QQ, Ralph Bellas K9ZO, Anthony Willard AB9YC, and Bill Axelrod K3WA.

Present via Skype were Valerie Hotzfeld NV9L, Ryan Klavekoske KB9OWD, Tom Harke AA9A, and Mike Kasrich AJ9C.

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 are in excellent financial shape
- We had another year of significant increase in membership
- We came in first place in the 2017 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 30 December 2016 and approved same.

The BoD discussed the following agenda items:

Board Membership:

2017 was AJ9C, Mike Kasrich's last year in his term on the SMC BoD. We thanked Mike for his past service to SMC and promised to not call him Mel very often.

In the 2017 SMC elections Anthony Willard, AB9YC, was elected to the SMC BoD. This was his first BoD meeting. Welcome Anthony!

Financial:

We read and unanimously accepted the treasurer's report as presented and enclosed in Attachment 1. SMC ended the 2017 fiscal year in a healthy financial condition with sufficient funds available to continue all planned programs. We have \$11,045.19 in our checking and PayPal accounts. Zig has been very busy with his work and has provided a high level financial and membership reports for 2017 (Attachments 1 and 2). He is in the process of completing a more complete financial report.

SMC 2018 Budget:

Plaques	\$1100
W9DXCC	\$200
Web hosting	\$60
SMC Fest	\$800
SMC NAQP/SS awards	\$750
Scholarships	\$400
WRTC 2018 Stipend for N4TZ	\$250
Total	\$3760

SMC Tax ID:

Zig, KM9M and Val, NV9L, completed all necessary actions to finalize SMC’s position as a Tax Exempt entity with the IRS.

Secretary and Treasurer:

The board discussed the level of effort required by these two positions and determined that it was more work than we should reasonably expect one person to do. As a result, we determined that we should split the Treasurer and Membership Secretary positions.

The board voted and approved unanimously to appoint Valerie Hotzfeld NV9L as Treasurer and offer Sigmond (Zig) Markowski, KM9M, for another term as SMC Membership Secretary.

Hamvention 2018:

In 2017 SMC arranged three tables (10 persons each) for our members at the Contest Dinner at the Dayton Hamvention 2017. We had no problem filling those 30 seats, had the best tables in the room, and had a lot of fun. The board voted to do it again in 2018. As we did for the last two years SMC reserved and paid for the tables and was reimbursed by the attendees. We will do that again in 2018.

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 four tables this year.

The board unanimously voted to again help fund pizzas in the Contest Super Suite as we did in 2017.

SMC Fest:

SMC Fest 2017 was a success by any measure. We had an even bigger turnout than 2016, a day full of interesting presentations, and a really great assortment of door prizes thanks to Val NV9L’s hard work. We had a great dinner at Medici’s Restaurant, a short walk from the hotel on Friday night. Medici’s was a great venue and gave us all a chance to enjoy good food and socialize with fellow SMC members.

We also raffled off an ICOM 7300 radio with the proceeds going to sponsor a third tent for WRTC 2018. The SMC Fest broke even netted money from the raffle to fully fund a third WRTC tent. The three tents we've now sponsored is the highest number of tents sponsored by any contest club. **We are number 1 – Again!**

The board voted, unanimously again, to hold SMC Fest at the same venue (Hyatt Place in Bloomington IL) on Saturday 25 August 2018. We will also arrange a Friday evening dinner at Medici's for 2018. The social dinner on Friday night in our areas the one time each year we get to socialize with a large group of SMCers. We urge everyone who can to arrive in Bloomington on Friday the 24th to join us for the dinner at Medici's.

Serious planning will begin in January. SMC Fest doubles as our annual club meeting.

The BoD also voted to do another raffle using the proceeds to go to seed money for the next WRTC event.

Contest University 2018:

SMC held our Contest University (CTU) as part of the W9DXCC convention in September 2017. 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 2018 on Friday 14 September 2018. SMC's CTU 2018 will be patterned after the last two.

We have some good inputs for presentations and solicit more inputs from SMC members on what they would like to see presented.

We would like to see more attendance from SMCers in 2018. More on that as we continue CTU planning.

Also, we will be advertising CT-U heavily this year to ham clubs in the SMC area.

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, looked into these new services and recommends we stay with our current arrangement. Brian talked with Scott KA9FOX after the BoD meeting. We can easily allow attachments on messages on the reflector. The Board agreed to do so and monitor impact on file storage to determine if that creates a problem or revisit if an administrative burden occurs.

Web Site:

Since our upgrade to the W9SMC.com web site two years ago a good number of our members provided photos of themselves, their shacks, and their QSL cards on our web site. The club has grown since then. In 2018 we plan to encourage even more members to share their photos and QSL cards on the site.

NAQP Club Competition:

SMC has done very well in the "Big Three" club competition. We won in 2015 and came in second in 2016. **In 2017 we won again!** We won because our members got out there, got on the air, and made QSOs in all six NAQPs.

Craig, K9CT, has been discussing potential rule changes to level the playing field but we do not expect any meaningful rule changes to accomplish that. A fourth contest club, from the Dallas/Ft. Worth TX area may join this competition.

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. Every log is a multiplier. Please encourage every SMC member to get on and make at least one QSO in each of the six NAQPs. More than one QSO is better. More QSOs than one are even better.

NAQP Cups:

Our program to have intra-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. A new award for 2018 will be for VHF contests – an award for best overall scores in VHF contests for members who do not use a VHF antenna.

The BoD solicits ideas for additional new awards.

Contest Activity:

Pat Hoppe, WW9R, has been SMC's Contest Activity and Team organizer. The Board voted to split these positions in 2018. Pat will still manage the team assignments.

We will appoint a second person as Contest Activity manager and will be offering that position to CJ Johnson, WT2P.

The Contest Activity manager will be SMC's "Cheerleader" and will work to increase SMC member participation in contests throughout the year.

W9SMC Activation:

In 2017 we had an increased number of members activating the W9SMC call sign. Ralph Bellas, K9ZO is the W9SMC club license custodian.

All SMC members are invited to contact Ralph and arrange to use W9SMC for upcoming contests.

SMC Recruiting:

We have seen continuing 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 but are not SMC members and invite him/her to join. We ask all members to "talk up" SMC membership at other ham clubs they may belong to. One good approach is to discuss how SMC membership and mentoring can help them do better in Field Day events and in the Indiana Illinois, and Wisconsin QSO parties which attract a good sized number of participants who are not otherwise testers.

WRTC 2018 Support:

Brian K9QQ continues to lead the SMC fund raising and support program for WRTC. WRTC 2018 which is only seven months away. The organizers report that the WRTC funding is in the green. Thanks to our membership for supporting three tents and for their individual contributions for WRTC 2018.

The board discussed additional ideas for supporting WRTC 2018 over the next 7 months.

Brian said he thought the best idea was to focus on individual donations and the Club Competition. SMC is currently in 6th place among U.S. clubs, but only 250 EUR from 3rd place. He will focus on encouraging individual donations over the remaining time.

The board discussed other support ideas and agreed on supporting our club member, Terry Zivney, N4TZ, who will be a competitor. The board voted to make a \$250 stipend available to help Terry offset his costs for participating in the event. Subsequent to the meeting Craig, K9CT, contacted Terry who appreciates the offer. He has agreed to attend SMC Fest and make a presentation about his experience.

Time to start preparing for WRTC 2022.

Let's all get on the air this July and make lots of WRTC 2018 QSOs.

North American Collegiate Championship (NACC):

The NACC is a contest within a contest. The goal of NACC is to attract new contesters from the college ham club ranks. Embedded in the North American QSO Party (NAQP) SSB contests, NACC provides a way for college ham clubs to compete against one another in the NAQP environment. The inaugural NACC competition will take place within 2018 SSB NAQP on 20 January 2018.

So far, we have 11 school clubs registered. This should be a fun event. We encourage all SMC members to get on air for the SSB NAQP and work as many of the college club stations as you can. We are planning an award for all SMC members who can get a clean sweep of the participating schools.

We are planning to award the first, second, and third place winners with either a trophy or plaque and to also provide a certificate of recognition to all the schools participating in this inaugural event.

SMC, primary sponsor for NACC, along with co-sponsors (the NCJ and DX-Engineering) will contribute to these awards.

The board motioned and approved allocating \$250 for NACC awards.

Adjourn:

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the 2017 SMC BoD meeting at 1545 CST 29 December 2017.

Attachment 1

Preliminary SMC Treasury Report - December 27, 2017

Chase Checking : \$4059.60
PayPal : \$6985.59
Total : \$11045.19

Payments via PayPal

01/03/17 - Contest Dinner - \$770.00 -2 tables (all tickets paid for my attendees, SMC sent funds)
03/17/17 - Contest Dinner - \$385.00 - 1 table (all tickets paid for my attendees, SMC sent funds)
06/19/17 - QTH.com - \$59.40 - Web services
06/19/17 - QTH.com - \$11.45 - domain
10/01/17 - WRTC18 - Tent sponsorship \$1020 EU
10/08/17 -Craig Thompson - \$45.00

Payments via Check

01/25 - #880 - Contest University - \$200 - Pizza Bash Sponsorship
01/25 - #881 - WWROF Inc - CQWW SOAB USA Z4 - \$65
02/09 - #882 - IRS - Filing Not for Profit - \$400
03/18 - #883 - WWROF Inc - WPX SSB USA Z4 - HP/LP - \$110
04/08 - #884 - Jim's Engraving - \$269.45
05/29 - #885 - ARRL Contest Branch - Updated Plaques - K9CT list
06/26 - #886 - Hyatt Place, Bloom/Norm. Deposit SMCfest 17 - \$500.00
07/03 - #887 - WWROF Inc - WPX CW USA Z4 - HP/LP - \$110.00
07/03 - #888 - Mel Chrichton - 2 - 2018 INQP Plaques - \$48
07/16 - #889 - Icom America - IC7300 for WRTC Raffle - \$1207.94 (up \$276.14 from 2016)
08/28 - #890 - Craig Thompson - Final Reimbursement SMCfest 17 - \$2910.95
08/29 - #891 - Craig Thompson - Net Brands (SMCfest) \$70.31
09/04 - #892 - Ralph Bellas - SmcFest cake, napkins, forks - \$56.80
11/10 - #893 - WWROF Inc - CQWW SSB SOAB Z4 USA - \$65.00

Deposits Chase Checking

03/20 - \$50.00 Dues
03/20 - \$290.00 Dues
04/17 - \$2000.00 Wire Transfer from PayPal
04/19 - \$580.50 - 13 checks for 15 seats at Contest Dinner
04/19 - \$20.00 - dues
06/01 - \$154.00 - 4 Contest Dinner seats
07/03 - \$4500.00 - Wire Transfer from PayPal
07/15 - \$105.00 - 3 seats for SMCfest
08/29 - \$160.00 - 2 SMCfest tickets, 9- IC7300 raffle tickets
11/21 - \$990.00 - IC7300 raffle ticket sales (@ SMCfest)
11/21 - \$70.00 - dues/donations.

Attachment 2

Preliminary SMC Membership Report - December 27, 2017

323 Calls in the roster. 310 individuals, 13 club stations.

As the last 11 years I've been doing this, we will probably drop down to 275 individuals after the drop date of Jan 15. Some come back well after, some don't. New calls seem to fill the places of those that have left. (Unscientifically, these are usually those added after a membership drive of combing through logs, and decide "it's not for me.")

I have 28 renewals to process, just been extremely busy.

87 members have not responded as of 23:30 local, 27 December. This is not unusual. I feel some look at it as a game.(pretty much the same individuals year to year)

Individual emails have been sent, appx 6-7 bounced back. One is a 2017 hardship who was attempting to sell/move out of the state boundaries, but wished to remain a member.

A "your dues are now past due" email will be sent both individually and to the reflector sometime on 1/1/18. (working both 12/31 and 1/1).

For 2018, 2 hardship requests have been requested.