

SMCARA Zoom Meeting Minutes, 24 September, 2020

- Meeting called to order at 1932: Rob, N2OMC presiding
- Meeting was held using the video meeting app Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions and not being able to meet in person
- Presentation: Bob Davidson, KB3KOW; Introduction to Raspberry Pi
 - Bob covered the different types of Pi's available, downloading the operating system(s), multiple uses and functions.

Attendance List:

SMCARA Officers:

N2OMC – Rob Hoyt (Hollywood, MD) – President, SMCARA
WA3UMY – Pete Butt (Lexington Park, MD) – Vice President, SMCARA
W4VJU – Jayne McNutt (Leonardtwn, MD) – Secretary, SMCARA
W3GYT – Walt Rupp (California, MD) – Treasurer, SMCARA

Guest Speaker:

KB3KOW – Bob Davidson (Waldorf, MD)

Members/Attendees:

KB3ZWM - Julian 'Mike' Souders (Hollywood, MD)
KB1YZ – Jim Forest (Mechanicsville, MD)
AC3CU – Neil Sovern Sr. (Great Mills, MD)
W4OKW – Tom Clarke (California, MD)
KA3WAP – Steve Dagey (Lexington Park, MD)
KB2SKP – Chris McGraw (Lexington Park, MD)
KF7AWC – Rachael McGraw (Lexington Park, MD)
N3AK – Jonathan Sheldon (Lexington Park, MD)
KD3CQ – Dan Hatcher (Tall Timbers, MD) – logged in initially but dropped off after a few minutes (may have had connection issues).

Report of Officers:

- President: Elections will be held at the next SMCARA club meeting on 22 October.
 - Rob, N2OMC has agreed to stay on as President for another two year term if he is voted in by the club.

- Pete, WA3UMY has agreed to stay on as Vice President for another two year term if he is voted in by the club.
- Jayne, W4VJU has advised she is going to step down as the Secretary. Very sorry to see her go, thank you very much for all you've done for the club!
 - We need a candidate to step up and take this important position on the board.
- Walt, W3GYT has agreed to stay on as the Treasurer for another two year term if he is voted in by the club.
- Vice President:
 - Pete brought up that the current club Constitution states the President can only serve one (2) year term and as such, would prevent the current President, N2OMC from holding the office for another term.
 - Pete proposed changing it to read that "Any Officer may succeed themselves in office indefinitely, providing they receive the majority vote of the voting members present to be re-elected"
 - All members of the club in attendance agreed this was a good idea and should be voted on at the 10/22/2020 club meeting before the elections are held.
 - The club Secretary will put this information out on the club email reflector and post it on the club's website.
 - See Pete's proposal slideshow below.
- Secretary: Jayne, W4VJU advised no updates at this time.
- Treasurer: Walt, W3GYT advised the club was solvent with multiple membership checks received in the past month. He also provided a Treasurers report to the members of the board.

Discussion Points:

- Fox Hunt: Still plan to host in Southern, MD
 - Standby for date. Rob. N2OMC and Bob, KB3KOW to host, hopefully!
- VE Test Sessions: On hold for now; will start back up as soon as possible
- ARES:

- Nets are held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 1930 on the 147.390 repeater
- We are participating in the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) taking place on 10 October. Scenario is status updates on County water gauges after a tropical storm.
- The meeting was called to a close at 2030.

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Topic: Recommended change to the SMCARA Constitution,
(24 May 2018 version – currently in effect)

Request made by: Pete Butt, WA3UMY at the 24
September 2020 regular meeting of the Association

- **The issue**: Our current Constitution has a provision in it that is overly restrictive for a small fraternal organization with limited membership. We are currently limiting the position of Association President to only one 2-year term while not imposing the same limitations on any other Officer position.
- Article III – Elections, paragraph 4, currently states “Any Officer may succeed himself in office indefinitely **with the exception of the president, who shall be limited to one (2) year term**”.

- **Discussion:** The current wording of the Constitution impacts our flexibility to retain qualified personnel on our board of directors who have demonstrated excellent leadership skills and wish to continue contributing to the success of the Association. They will be forced to leave the position ***even if the majority of the membership are in favor of endorsing them for additional 2-year terms via the voting process.*** I am of the position that this current requirement is not needed in our small organization.
- **Recommendation:** Request that Article III – Elections, paragraph 4 be amended to change the wording to read: **“Any Officer may succeed themselves in office indefinitely, providing they receive the majority vote of the voting members present to be re-elected.”**

- Article VII – Amendments, currently states:

“The Constitution or the By-laws may be amended by two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a regular meeting, providing there is a quorum.

Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting and shall be voted on at the next following regular meeting, provided an announcement has been posted on the Association’s web page of the intent to amend the Constitution or By-laws at the said following meeting.”

- **Action**: Request that the SMCARA Secretary post this amendment change request to Article III – Elections, paragraph 4 on the club website and via an e-mail sent on the Association e-mail reflector and schedule a vote from the members present during the 22 October 2020 meeting of the organization.