

BRRRR! Tonight I sit at the EOC watching the winter storm warning packets from NWS come over the UI-View program. Yes we are in the dead of winter, but soon march will be here so it is time to start thinking of outdoor activities (see the VP's section below).

This month we have a couple of important issues to talk about. One of the most important is getting our repeater on the air. Mike Rink W2HYP has graciously been trying to revive our system from the dead. He is still working on it, but it might not make it. We as a club have already agreed to buy a new machine. Unfortunately our "wish list" exceeded our budget. I believe we should move ahead full steam on this matter. We have several options available to us. After this past Sunday's net we had an informal net discussing some of the possibilities. To highlight the main ideas that came through where: Getting back on the air with some donated equipment, holding a special fund raiser to cover the cost, finding something used within our budget, or hold onto our frequency but allow the county to put a 2meter repeater up. Each part has its own pluses and minuses. The final decision will be up to you the members. If you can't make it to the meeting let one of the club officers or a friend who is going to the meeting know your wishes.

Another item that will be brought up is a MOU with RACES. This proposal will bring nothing new to our current arrangement. It will just state that we will work, train, and have fun together and provide mutual assistance with ARES operations and maintain a liaison and open channel if RACES is officially called into service. Hopefully a copy of the mou / statement of affiliation will be available at the meeting for your review and comment. (This issue is separate from our repeater dilemma).

Steve, W2SES has setup E-mail through our website. He is also looking for more content for the web pages. If you have any ideas drop Steve a message, or better yet send him some html code!

Our Secretary has left us for warmer weather for the month, but he assures me that despite the almost 80 degree difference in temperature he will be back.

As our treasurer continues to protect our hoarded gold, at this meeting we should discuss getting our tax exempt number (a process which stalled back in the past) and possibly a debit or credit card so incidentals, like the web site, can be paid for directly.

While we are at it we need to update our corporate papers to show a valid mailing address. Should we go with a PO box or are there other solutions? This becomes a very important matter as we build our QSL card collection!

Words from our VP Dave Foster, AB2WZ

Another month is passing and each day is a day closer to Field Day 2008.

Now is the time to get a head start on the planning and execution of such a great event !!

WHERE can we set up to maximize participation and get our signals out to the world ?

WHAT equipment can be used to accomplish the high numbers of DX contacts ?

And most important !! WHO will grip the mic's in an effort to make SIARC history ?

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2008 will be held June 28-29, 2008.

This year we will be promoting this event in the media to try and get some interest in ham radio as a fun hobby, and hopefully shed more positive light on SIARC as a community asset. We will also schedule an exam session during Saturday afternoon or Sunday (yet to be determined) depending on where we end up.

Please bring your ideas to the February meeting and let's get started !!

We should have this hammered out by the March at the latest.

Hope to see you all on Wednesday.

Submitted by N2UMH