

Red River Valley Amateur Radio Club (RRVARC)

Secretary Report

August 24, 2024

In the last 30 days I conducted a review of our filings with the State of Texas and all are current. The legislature mandated no filing fee – or the form we formerly had to file – for entities like ours that generate less than \$2.4MM a year in revenue. Whereas we formerly had to file a single page form annually, with this change I anticipated no filing fee would simplify things. No, left to their own devices bureaucrats strike when able. Texas bureaucrats changed the single-page filing form to three pages. THAT filing must be done annually and it has been done.

Our Club ARRL liability insurance has been renewed. New Club member Audie Early changed his call sign to KW3J and so the “Unofficial Call Sign List” has been updated to v15. Copies are available and are being passed around the room now.

Hot spots – Wow, what a pain those things are. For a couple of years the Club did not facilitate members getting them through TechSoup because it was...very complex. Last years allotment was taken advantage of and we took the full eleven LTE hot spots that they made available to us. This year, between Rick, Mark and I we have got a lot – a lot – of wasted time trying to pin down the 5G allocation they told us we could get. It took us several contacts with them to get the rules figured out and process things. We were supposed to have access to them starting on July 1st, but due to the complexity of their offering today we are collecting the last of the money from the buyers. Yesterday I initiated the transfer of money from PayPal to our checking account, something that is not automatic, and we will be placing the orders in the next week or so. The takeaways are this: Lesson #1 – TechSoup gets these things like these hot spots in one of two forms, donated free of charge or sold to them at a discount. They in turn sell them to entities like us. If they got some for free, then a number of them are a super good deal for us. If they had to pay for them, the allocation is a good deal for us, but not a steal. And getting them paid for and in hand is complicated. Lesson #2 – The Board of Directors is going to have to establish some policies on the matter going forward. We had one member who never once followed the directions for ordering and instead asked another person with a TechSoup account to order one for them. That person ordered two for themselves and one for the other person. We can't have that going forward because it essentially skips the line for those that have raised their hand that they want one. The Club doesn't have any formal policy on the matter, nobody was inconvenienced, but we were very lucky. At our next board meeting I will recommend to the BOD that we establish policy going forward that no individual Club member can

order a hot spot to ensure that the officers can make sure everyone is treated fairly and the same. Speaking of board meeting, Mark has one tentatively scheduled for September 17th, time and location to be determined. We will advise once those details are finalized.

Our Postal Options mailbox was renewed for a year. Some have mentioned that it costs more than a PO Box and wondered why we do not use that. Some of the State of Texas filings we do will not allow a PO Box, we must have a physical address. When I took over the secretary position a number of years ago we had people using their home address for the various things we have to do. When officers were changed the addresses would frequently not be updated. We had a disorganized mess with stuff getting mailed all over and us sometimes getting things done late. Our domain registration lapsed at least twice, our state and federal filings were not done on time; there was a lot of problems with doing it at peoples homes. As a result we consolidated everything – everything – to go to the Postal Options address.