

**Northeast Iowa Radio Amateur Association**  
**Meeting: Board of Directors**  
**March 14, 2015**

The NIRAA Board of Directors met at 6:00 pm on Saturday, March 14, 2015 with the following board members in attendance:

Mark Colby, N8TWO, Chris Conklin, N0CF, Stan Johnson, W0SJ,  
Curtis Wilson, NK0T, Tom Bicket, AE0TB, and Scott W. Lowe, WA0TPN  
Absent: Nate Fisher, N0ZYC.

**Meeting objective:** Brainstorming session to identify areas of potential development to focus club resources and activities on during 2015.

**Discussion:** The discussion included a broad array of topics to consider during 2015 and beyond including:

- Membership growth
- Getting newly licensed hams involved in club activities
- Improved public awareness
- Use of WOMG club station
- Ideas for presentations at club meetings
- Development of Elmer's program
- Use of club repeaters
- Emergency communications capabilities
- Supportive and encouraging culture of the club

Note: A list of ideas to get new hams involved in the club that was prepared by Sean Rogers, W0SMR, was referenced throughout the board meeting.

**Outcomes:**

The Board identified the following five (5) specific areas to develop during 2015:

- **Membership development:** NIRAA currently has 34 paid members (not including licensed spouses) with several additional members who are active in the club but have not yet paid their dues for 2015.
  - **Goal for 2015:** Increase the number of active members to at least 45 active members during 2015.
- **Utilization of WOMG club station:** The club radio station located at the American Red Cross, is a potentially valuable asset of the club, sits dormant and rarely used.
  - **Goal for 2015:** Significantly increase utilization of the club radio station.

- **Emergency communications and public service:** A significant number of new, existing, and former members are attracted to amateur radio for the opportunity to be involved in public service activities and to provide emergency communication capabilities.
  - **Goal for 2015:** Strengthen the clubs capabilities to provide reliable alternative communication capabilities at public service events and emergency communications exercises.
- **Community outreach and Membership Support:** Many opportunities exist to increase awareness throughout Northeast Iowa of the role of amateur radio as a valuable public service, to demonstrate state-of-the-art communication capabilities, and encourage potential, existing, and past members through enhanced Elmer and mentorship programs and social activities.
  - **Goal for 2015:** Increase awareness of amateur radio activities throughout northeast Iowa by increasing the use public service announcements (PSA's), communications with potential, existing, and former members, and establishment of an active Elmer program, and additional Special Events station operations.
- **Repeater Management:** Currently only Chris Conklin and Chuck Angel have the knowledge and practical experience to manage and maintain the clubs repeaters.
  - **Goal for 2015:** Involve additional members in learning how to manage and maintain club repeaters and take active roles in implementing new communications and control technologies.

### **Leadership:**

The Board understands that leadership is required to achieve each of the goals for 2015. Therefore, the following Board members have agreed to coordinate and oversee activities related to achieving the clubs goals during 2015:

- **Community outreach, Membership Development and Support:**
  - Curtis Wilson, NK0T
- **Utilization of WOMG Club Station:**
  - Tom Bicket, AE0TB, and Scott W. Lowe, WA0TPN
- **Emergency Communications and Public Service:**
  - Mark Colby, N8TWO, and Jerome Palas, KE0AIX
- **Repeater Management:**
  - Chris Conklin, NOCF

Stan Johnson, WOSJ, will assist in all technical training, support, and mentoring to the extent possible.

**Program Development and Tasks:**

Each Board member with oversight responsibility will identify specific tasks and methods, as they desire to achieve the clubs goals for 2015 and will recruit the assistance of club members to increase participation and involvement to achieve the goals and strengthen the club.

**Collaboration:**

The Board intends to meet frequently during 2015 to share and coordinate ideas and initiatives leading to the execution of a cohesive development strategy throughout 2015.

Collaboration can be accomplished 'informally' at anytime and continued in formal meetings of the board.

**Advance Preparation:**

Board members are encouraged to develop their programs prior to the next board meeting to be scheduled in the near future.

**Development of Strategic Plan:**

If desired, this document can serve as a starting point to create a written strategic plan to stimulate enthusiasm within the membership, and for use as recruiting tool to attract and retain new members, stimulate existing members, and renew the interest of past or inactive members.

In addition the written strategic plan can be used as a tool to help the community better understand the role and value that the NIRAA is contributing to the community and to cultivate additional opportunities to participate in public service activities and as a viable alternative to support emergency communications capabilities throughout northeast Iowa.