



**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
**(and Repeater Linking Subgroup Meeting)**  
**September 4, 2024**

**1. Repeater Linking Subgroup meeting (called to order 6:00 pm):**

*Members present: Craig Hange, Rita Crawford, Dave Hoos, Mary Bastian*

- a. Progress since last Repeater Linking Subgroup meeting - Craig was not able to open the map files that Joe sent. Also Joe did not contact Craig regarding the equipment transfer that he was planning while he was in town. Craig is considering traveling with his radio/large antenna to the areas of interest that Joe had determined: Pine Grove area & Charleston/Shake Ridge. David is near the latter area & might be able to help with that.
- b. Progress on linking ideas - Craig will keep an eye on the FCC regulations to make sure linking continues to be legal. Rita would like to try reaching Fiddletown during their SafetyNet. When is it? Wednesday's at 7pm. Their repeaters are Red Mule & Cobble. Craig already knows he can reach Red Mule. David can reach both.
- c. Action Items
  - i. 7pm tonight Craig & Rita will try reaching Red Mule & Cobble.
  - ii. Craig will use his car/antenna to look for a "bounce point" before the Oct 2 Core Group Meeting.
  - iii. The Repeater Linking Subgroup meetings will reduce to monthly & will be just before the Core Group meetings, until there is a need to meet more frequently.
- d. Next Repeater Linking Subgroup meeting is Wednesday, October 2 at 6pm.

**2. Core Group Meeting (called to order at 6:20 pm)**

*Members present: Craig Hange, Rita Crawford, Dave Hoos, Mary Bastian*

3. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of June 5 & August 7, 2024: Mary asked for protocol on subcommittee minutes, and it was agreed that they could be included with the Core Group minutes. The minutes from both months were approved. And again, no July minutes - the meeting was informal and happened without agenda, no actions or minutes were taken.
4. Discussion items:
  - a. Old Business:
    - i. SafetyNet Controller sign-up for September-October is available on the web-site - Craig will continue to take R#1 SafetyNets as long as he's in town. If there's ever no one available to take his place, we'll just have to skip them. There was some discussion on shortening the SafetyNets by skipping the introductory info when there's no one new on the SafetyNet, saving some time for maybe socializing.

- ii. Tait base stations and microphones - *Joe did not make the transfer before leaving town.*
  - iii. Linking repeaters update - *See above for update from today's subcommittee meeting. And refer to the final pages of this document for the update from the August 21 subcommittee meeting.*
- b. New Business:
- i. Kudos to Bobbi - *Craig would like to recognize Bobbi for stepping up and taking SafetyNet during the recent Fiddletown fire. It was approved to give her a LNRW sign at no charge. Rita offered to help her put together a "Lessons Learned" from the incident. Craig will see if she can present it at the next Core Group meeting.*
  - ii. Amador Pines evacuation drill Sept 7 - *Craig will keep an eye open for any potential to tie this event in with LNRW, talk to people, etc. Rita said she might be able to attend and talk with folks as well.*
5. Treasurer's Report:
- a. Prior balance: \$5,834.97
  - b. Revenue: -0-
  - c. Expenditures: \$1,019.40 for Streamline & for web hosting
  - d. Current balance: \$4,815.57
  - e. Discussion: *Of the \$4,815.57 balance, \$1,800 is restricted to the Grant, \$900 is allocated for next year's Streamline, and \$2,000 as contingency (by informal agreement of the Board), leaving \$115.57 is spendable money. After some discussion, it was decided to informally declare the contingency amount as \$1,000 at the current time, leaving \$1,115.57 spendable.*
6. Marketing Report: *Giving Tuesday will be on December 3rd. Do we need a flyer for this? Craig can man a station at the event. Discuss at a future meeting.*
7. Adjournment at 6:50 pm

**Next Regular Board Meeting: October 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm**  
**(preceded by the Repeater Linking Subcommittee meeting at 6:00pm)**

## **Repeater Linking Meeting**

### **August 21, 2024**

**Present: Craig Hange, Joe Pistritto, David Hoos, Rita Crawford, Lee Graveson, Mary Bastian, Gary Reinoehl**

1. Joe shared maps of the coverage area of L#1 & L#2 repeaters - *These are .png files that he saved from his research a couple years ago using a software program called Radio Mobile. He can share these files via email. Craig asked for a file format that includes the data & Joe said he may or may not be able to do that. He said Bob Hess has a similar program that can generate this data online & we could check with him about that.*

Joe's maps show that L#2 covers a lot of Pine Grove, so we may have some overlap there. There is also a very clear spot on the south side of Shake Ridge that is a good possibility. Craig says that he can sometimes reach L#2, but the map shows virtually no L#2 coverage of the Amador Pines area. Lee knows a couple people in Fiddletown who can reach both L#1 & L#2 and Joe says those would be viable sites. (He's not surprised because the maps show some overlap in the Fiddletown area.)

2. Regarding the new FCC information - Joe's opinion is that the FCC will soon make repeater linking illegal, they're moving in that direction. We are doing line-of-site from repeater to repeater and that is not currently illegal. Rita asked if he knew why El Dorado County is getting out of GMRS and moving to commercial. Joe says a couple reasons. They are much bigger and it makes sense for them. The 8-channel GMRS system results in interference from other users & commercial frequencies are controlled by the FCC to limit interference. They also want to change because of the GMRS/repeater linking conflict. Rita asked if we stay on GMRS, will it be a problem for us going forward. Joe said that because of our size, it's possible that it might never be a problem for us. But also know that Kenwood & Tait radios we currently use on GMRS that Joe programmed for us are certified to be used on a commercial system.
3. Regarding others who were invited to attend - David Horvitz is the chair of Sonoma NRW. He recommends a satellite system or Raspberry Pi. (Although the Raspberry Pi system that we had planned is one that the FCC is no longer allowing. Point-to-point is still ok, but not the internet-based system.) Robin Bell is the chair of the Amador Pines HOA & was just wanting to sit in. Bob H. & Bob K could not make it.
4. Regarding the grant - Craig said that Jackie had mentioned to him that the Rancheria is not rushing us. Mary asked for clarification about Raspberry Pi being written into the grant & not being allowed by the FCC. Lee said that he believes it was specifically mentioned in the grant, but that the Rancheria was not holding us to method, only to result. He also echoed Jackie's statement that they are not rushing us, just looking for forward movement.
5. Miscellaneous - Joe has a directional antenna he can give us, maybe two. He also has a radio for us. He's in town this week and will coordinate a dropoff with him. Craig is thinking it might be a good idea to use texting in conjunction with our radios while we work things out.
6. Schedule for further meetings - Our next Repeater Linking meeting will be on September 4th at 6pm, just before the Core Group meeting. At that time we will decide if we still need to meet every other week, or if we just meet monthly before the Core Group meetings.