

BARC Critique Meeting – 2/23/2008

Present: Jeff (KCOMKS), Joan, Matt (KB0KQA), Loren (KA0TMW), Randy (KCORTX), Paul (KC0WDQ), Brendan (W0KTX), Jean (KC0ZEX), Diane (KC0TIU), Fred, Cory (KC0CVP), Len (KC0EPR), Rick (KC0YBA), Andy (KCOMKT), Lloyd (KC0SJB), Bill (KC0ZZL)

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Nast at 1615

President's report: Majority of the President's report will be within the New and Old Business portions of the meeting.

Vice President's: No report

Secretary's Report: Randy moved to accept the minutes as posted, Matt (KB0KQA) seconded, motion carried. The minutes were approved as posted.

Treasurer's Report: Len reported membership numbers improved with the race. Account opening balance of \$240.00, \$108.00 spent to order badges for new members, resulting in a final balance of \$577.00. A total of 53 paid memberships this year.

Rick (KB0YBA), moved to accept Treasurer's report. Randy (KCORTX) seconded; motion carried, report accepted.

Net Control: Nothing New

Checkpoint Coordinator: Race went well, thanks to everyone for their work and dedication.

New Business:

Positions for next year announced

President:	Jeff KCOMKS
Vice President:	Loren KA0TMW
Secretary:	Diane KC0TIU
Treasurer:	Len KC0EPR
Net Control:	Randy KCORTX
Road Crossings:	Vacant due to Tim's resignation
Checkpoint Coordinator:	Paul, KC0WDQ

Personal Information: Request from Jeff and the board to keep personal details regarding a BARC member confidential, providing information to the board to allow them to inform the group. Intent is to protect personal privacy and keep communications focused on those things that pertain to the race and its operation.

Rick, (KB0YBA) read Tim's resignation from his position as Road Crossings Coordinator as Tim was unable to attend the meeting.

Road Crossings Chair: The position is open. Those interested in volunteering should communicate their name to the board. An individual will be chosen for the position from among the volunteers. There are 4 volunteers so far to date.

Bylaw Update: Bylaw regarding election of officers in years when the race is cancelled and no critique meeting is held was passed. The complete language of the new bylaw is available on the Web site for review.

Communication Plan Updates: A question arose regarding the need for a membership vote/approval of updates to the list of repeater information used for the race. After review of the bylaws, it appeared there was not a requirement for a vote.

Fred motioned to allow the BARC board to update the repeater listings as needed and including all pertinent frequencies, PL tones and offsets, without requiring a membership vote. As this is a formal update to the bylaws, it will require announcements ahead of the vote. The board accepts this as a task to word appropriately. Matt (KB0KQA) recommended wording the amendment so that the matter could be handled via email, and may be accomplished during the months when the membership is not formally meeting.

BARC Logo: The new logo is on the Web site. Jeff presented sample bumper stickers; his Web search resulted in a small test sampling of vinyl sticky-back bumper stickers. They were expensive in small batches -- \$6.77 for a lot of 10, but prices declined as the size of the lot increased. For a lot of 100 stickers, the cost would be approximately \$1.24 each. Jean (KC0ZEX) will review local vendors to obtain pricing information for next year's race.

Media coverage: Several favorable reports by various media outlets, including WDIO TV and the National Forest Service. Possible other avenues of promotion could be: QRZ, CQ, WR (UK), QST / ARRL Web site listing

Conflict of Interest? A BARC member is questioning the legality of those BARC members or Beargrease staff that serve on both BARC and the Beargrease board. The board will investigate.

Incorporate BARC? Extended discussion regarding the pros/cons of incorporation of BARC. Rick (KB0YBA), advocated in favor, citing ability to establish a checking account in BARC's name, reduction of individual liability in the event of a law suit, etc. (not complete indemnification here, but greater protection from frivolous law suits). Approximate cost per Rick is around \$70 to designate as a non-profit. The Board has been asked to consider his proposal and will report to the group. Rick volunteered to assist in the process as he has had personal experience completing the paperwork. Liability insurance could be purchased at the same time, though cost is in the \$300 – 350 range.

Citizen's Patrol: Rick KB0YBA stated that there is a desire to begin a Citizen's Patrol in neighborhoods where they don't exist. Local law enforcement would appreciate some additional assistance from Hams to serve as a resource with more communications training than an average individual often possesses.

Wolf Track Classic: This March 2, 2008 race runs from Ely to Tower. It's a one-day race that starts at 9:00 AM on the snowmobile Taconite Trail with both a mid-distance and round trip races (32 miles) that was popular in the 1950s -- 1960s. Anyone interested in volunteering should talk with Randy (KC0RTX)

Brochures for BARC? Ben Ramler (K0BLR) from St. Cloud area wondering what was available to promote BARC. He volunteered to distribute what we had available in his area to promote the race and volunteering.

ART: – Accumulated Rest Times: Anticipation of a formal request from Beargrease officials to pass details regarding Accumulated Rest Times over the BARC net did not materialize. Beargrease officials opted to handle that aspect of the race themselves.

Repeater Remuneration: Discussion regarding gifts given to repeater owners each year. Rick (KB0YBA) made a motion to gift the same amounts as last year. Those gifts are:

Randy (N0BZZ) -- \$300

Dick (KC0FTN) -- \$25

Bill (KC0ZZL) seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Donation to LCA for use of their space? An idea suggested by Tim Davich at a previous board meeting; Matt (KB0KQA) moved to give LCA a \$30 gift. Fred seconded. Group discussion following the motion prompted Matt to amend his motion to increase the gift to \$50. Cory seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Volunteer Training: Group discussion regarding training requirements for new volunteers. Should it be mandatory? Should an apprenticeship be required? Attendance at training a requirement before participation? Board members will discuss, and welcome input from the larger group.

Passing Official Times: Group discussed obtaining a release of liability from Beargrease regarding BARC transmission of this information. While times are communicated by both Beargrease personnel and BARC members, group expressed concern BARC could be liable in a dispute regarding individual musher stats.

Matt (KB0KQA) moved to mandate board to review possible liability/need for release from Beargrease. Jean (KC0ZEX) indicated additional possible liabilities, advocated covering all contingencies one release. Rick (KB0YBA) seconded.

Old Business

Years of Service: Thanks to Brendan (W0KTX) for compiling the list of those who have served BARC over the years. Please notify him of any discrepancies. These will be reviewed by Brendan, Loren and Fred; any necessary announcements will be placed on the list serve.

Maps & Trail Distance Accuracy: Randy is working with Rick (KB0BDN) to get GPS coordinates for entire course. Expectation is to have a superbly accurate map for next year's race.

Change of List Server? Discussion around changing list server hosting and control of list maintenance. Undelivered or missing email, despite assistance from Yahoo, was cited as the reason for exploring other group list server options. The Board will be moving their list serve to Google to investigate reliability of a different provider. Matt (KB0KQA) volunteered to establish a home-grown list server for the group. This option will be held in reserve until Google's reliability can be determined.

Visit to ANG Trailer: Nice trailer!

Race Critique:

Not enough sleep for volunteers: Original comment made in email forum regarding judgment capabilities of sleep-deprived volunteers. While everyone is in agreement, people are needed to do the job. Ultimately decided *not* to legislate common sense and to emphasize individuals realize their own limitations, self-police, and not receive condemnation for needing rest. Each individual's threshold is different.

Training: Jeff requested group input regarding training program. Is it adequate? Needs improvement? What are your suggestions? Road crossings volunteers may sometimes need to request name/bib number from Beargrease officials present due to low light conditions or a number accidentally covered by other clothing. A reminder that offering assistance before a musher requests it is against regulations. Spectators present may be unaware of protocol, and BARC members may be pressed into helping beyond their normal duties. It also will be reiterated in training to preface call to Net Control with location *and* purpose of call (calling with a team arrival, departure, etc.) to reduce the number of transmissions.

Road Crossings: No signage at Pleasant View & Zimmerman Roads, which Jeff brought to the attention of Beargrease board. Unfortunately, motorists frequently ignore signs, regardless of how much is there.

Info Packets: Thanks to Randy & Tim for their information compilation. Recommendation to include some additional copies of maps, etc., for those having difficulty locating a particular crossing.

Maps: Several requests expressed for better maps with greater accuracy.

Magnetic Board: Magnetic board used at Net Control greatly simplified responses to the "Where's _____?" questions that were called in.

Individual Member Critiques (not in attendance at meeting):

Net Control: Request to have the NC operator repeat what's transmitted rather than simply a "QSL" to verify information transmitted, particularly as volunteers tire and pace slows a bit. Was there a Roll Call? The first one done was not heard by all. Recommendation to do a safety Roll Call later in the race. Seemed there was a slow response from Net Control at times, 35-45 seconds. Their proximity to Beargrease HQ operations causes additional confusion and interruptions for Net Control operators.

Departure Times/Bib Numbers Announced at Race Start: Needed for Beargrease officials to determine 'differential time,' enabling Beargrease officials to make accurate assessments.

Request for Weather Reports: Some reports given, particularly forecasts, but could use additional information more frequently as conditions change. Suggestion to have weather reports every 2 hours.

Sleep Deprivation: Reference to earlier comments regarding sleep deprived volunteers and their ability to function -- question regarding difficulty of enforcement of a mandatory sleep schedule if one is instituted.

Meeting Space: Request to book a place for the pre-race meeting well in advance; June was suggested.

Overall Volunteer Atmosphere: Lack of levity in volunteers/BARC chairs; important to keep fun in the mix because of cost and commitment that comes with participation; still mindful of greater purpose of communication, however.

Road Crossings Naming Conventions: Recommendation to name road crossings shorter more recognizable names. Ex: "Cramer Rd. on Cty. Rd. 7" would become "Cty. Rd. 7"

Team Locations Updates Hourly? Perhaps due to tired volunteers, a lot of calls to Net Control asking where teams were, what their last crossing was. Would an hourly update of teams out and their last reported location be feasible?

Finland Hot Tub Leak Thanks to Wayne and Bob for help starting the truck! As for the hot tub...

Radio Operation: Reminder to key up, wait for 1-2 seconds, then begin transmission -- important identifying information was cut off in the beginning of too many calls.

Beargrease Officials Location: Would be helpful for Beargrease officials to check in with the Ham operators upon arrival, avoiding time spent tracking them down at a given location. (several similar requests)

Beargrease/BARC Interaction: Some ham operators not a part of BARC were functioning on behalf of Beargrease and that caused confusion, plus typical BARC protocols were unknown and not followed. Overall, relationship with Beargrease people was good.

Thank-yous from BARC Members, Other Participants: Thank yous from several individuals for a well-run race, professional demeanor under challenging and often brutal weather conditions.

Brendan (W0KTX) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rick (KB0YBA) seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1826.