

Information on Bylaw Change Proposals – November 15, 2024

Dear Member,

We will be conducting a special vote at our next General Club Meeting on November 15, 2024 to propose a change in the bylaws.

Overview:

The Board of directors are submitting three proposals for approval of the membership. The current bylaws can be read in their entirety at <https://sbarc.org/Documents/ByLaws.pdf>.

Proposal 1:

Raise annual dues from \$35.00 to \$40.00

Background:

After much discussion, the Board of Directors is recommending that we raise the annual club dues from \$35.00 to \$40.00. The dues have not been raised in over 7 years, and the modest increase we are recommending helps us keep our revenues more in line with the costs of inflation.

Proposal 2:

Change the legal name of the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club to Santa Barbara Wireless Foundation.

Existing Bylaws:

ARTICLE I. NAME

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the name of this organization shall be SANTA BARBARA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, hereinafter referred to as the "Club" or "SBARC."

Proposed Bylaws Change:

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be SANTA BARBARA WIRELESS FOUNDATION, hereinafter referred to as the "Club" or "SBWF."

Section 1: The Chief Financial Officer shall maintain a Fictitious Name Statement for the SANTA BARBARA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ("SBARC") with the County of Santa Barbara.

Section 2: The name SANTA BARBARA WIRELESS FOUNDATION shall be used for tax reporting, official correspondence, and other official purposes.

Section 3: Unless otherwise indicated, the names SANTA BARBARA WIRELESS FOUNDATION and SANTA BARBARA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB may be used interchangeably and will be considered to be the same organization.

Discussion:

This has been talked about for many years. The idea was put forward by Bill Talanian W1UUQ. It has been widely thought that having the words “amateur” and “club” in our name has worked to our detriment when engaging other entities such as non-profit organizations and government agencies. We are already using the name Santa Barbara Wireless Foundation as a fictitious name. The change we are proposing is to swap legal and fictitious names.

What won't change:

This will not affect your membership in any way. The Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club will still be the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club (SBARC), and club activities will still be SBARC activities. Our Standing Rules will remain the same and apply to either organization name.

What will change:

Tax filings, state corporation filings, memorandums of understanding and agreements with outside groups and agencies, and applications for grants and other instruments.

What may change:

Accounts for services and supplies, new bank and investment accounts, advertising and promotions, printing and literature.

Proposal 3:

Amend our Mission Statement to more accurately reflect our club mission.

Discussion:

Our club Mission Statement has not changed since 1998. The scope of our activities has changed somewhat over the last 25 years. Specifically, occurrences of SBARC should be changed to SBWF. Also, language needs to be added to reflect our support of other non-profits with communications assistance.

Original SBARC Mission Statement (c. 1998)

SBARC is a non-profit public benefit corporation organized and operated to promote education for persons interested in telecommunications, to disseminate information about scientific discoveries and progress in the field, and to train communicators for public service and emergency communications.

SBARC also encourages and sponsors experiments in electronics and promotes the highest standards of practice and ethics in the conduct of communications. Our success is shown by a progressive increase in involved membership, by public recognition and support, by members' advancement in the technology and by acquisition and utilization of assets.

SBARC assures success by having an organization with a focus on its goals, a system of leadership development, prudent financial management and a vision toward and dedication to public service. It supports an organized and comprehensive educational program and publicizes its activities and services to the community.

SBWF Mission Statement as stated on the front page of the SBWF website. (c. 2021)

Our mission is to advise and assist other non-profit groups with communications related challenges by leveraging our wide area of expertise. We serve organizations engaged in services that benefit the public such as first responders, animal rescue, event communications, scientific research, aviation safety, and emergency preparedness.

Merged and updated version. Changes and additions in RED – Removals in STRIKEOUT

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Best regards,

Brian Milburn, President
Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club