

# HRSC Website manager's report for period ending February 28, 2024

## SUMMARY

- A few routine website maintenance tasks were performed; there were no major website issues.
- Progress was made on notification emails and website merge aspects of the club merger. The current direction is to use the AAC site as the basis for the merged site, but it will be more costly.
- The February eBridge was distributed.
- As in December and January, a complimentary eBridge was sent to retirees who might be candidates for membership.

## DETAILS

### (1) Website Maintenance and Updates

I updated the event schedule page to keep the information current.

### (2) AAC website merge

The website merge subcommittee of Keith Hughes, PJ Hughes, Kirk Anderson and myself has looked through the pages on each site, and we have largely agreed what to do with them—keep as-is, merge with a page on the other site, or discard part or all of the page.

We have also looked at ways of porting part or all of each site to the other, but more work is needed here.

We have discussed the pros and cons of each current website as the basis for the merged site. Although work remains to check some possible problems will not be an issue, we are currently heading towards using the AAC site, partly because I have had difficulty in keeping up with website and Bridge distribution work over the last couple of years, and despite two requests for volunteers to step up, no one has, so there is no succession plan. (Tom Sparks is a good consultant, who could easily fill in on an interim basis if needed, but he has made it clear that he does not want to be the main or assistant website manager.) Barbara Brocket has now said that she will provide mailing lists from the merged member database to the newsletter editor so that I would not need to be involved in PDF newsletter distribution. Given this I would be willing to do continue managing the HRSC website if it were the basis for the merged website.

If we do base the merged site on the AAC one, it will cost a lot more due to GoDaddy fees being higher than Newtek's, and the need to pay PJ Hughes an unknown amount; it was \$700 last year, but could be significantly more for 2024 due to website merge work. My estimate of annual costs is:

Newtek site

\$191.39

GoDaddy site

\$1,077.61, assuming \$700 for PJ pay as in 2023, but there would be more pay for PJ site merge work, and there is no estimate for this.

The website would probably look much like AAC's today; we would lose the familiar Honeywell red header and left-side buttons, which were introduced in 2005, but the logos of all the Honeywell companies would be retained in the header, and the dated white text on black background would be given a more modern look. We'd probably lose much of the archives, keeping maybe the last three months, although I have pushed for three years, as some people have occasionally found it very useful to refer to documents such as board minutes. There may be a way to preserve the older archives somewhere else; otherwise they'll be gone, although they could be linked from the AAC site until the Newtek hosting fee expires in November. Regardless of where we base the merged website, we will probably be recommending [HRACAZ.ORG](http://HRACAZ.ORG) as the url, to align with the new club name.

Because it would cause a large increase in GoDaddy fees to have GoDaddy server-based email addresses, such as [hotline@hrcaz.org](mailto:hotline@hrcaz.org), [bridge\\_editor@hrcaz.org](mailto:bridge_editor@hrcaz.org), [treasurer@hrcaz.org](mailto:treasurer@hrcaz.org), etc., which are included in our Newtek plan, these would become gmail addresses, and the owner of each address would need to set up auto-forward to other recipients.

As an example, today, email sent to [treasurer@hrcaz.org](mailto:treasurer@hrcaz.org) is automatically forwarded to to Doug Metzger, Ted Rees and me. In the GoDaddy environment, Doug would create a new gmail account called something like [hrcaz\\_treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:hrcaz_treasurer@gmail.com), and Doug would set that up to auto-forward to himself, Ted, and me.

The authenticated [emadmin@hrcaz.org](mailto:emadmin@hrcaz.org) used to send the eBridge from would be replaced by an address such as [hrcaz@gmail.com](mailto:hrcaz@gmail.com) that the newsletter editor would set up.

There would be no board mailing list, unless we find a third-party solution that is free and easy to use. (Not found last time I looked; only free but complicated.) The current one is included in our Newtek plan.

### **(3) eBridge Distribution**

I distributed the February eBridge and one delivery failure was reported—the same member that I reported last month said she had not received the eBridge for months. I again sent her detailed information on how to find it and offered to help by phone, but as before, she gave no indication she had done anything, and she did not call me.

#### **(4) Distribution of renewal/joining solicitations**

As in December, and January, I sent out a complimentary eBridge with an informational cover message about HRSC to a list of 163 addresses generated by Ted Rees with input from Mary Barkl and Kay Nye. Only two new members have enrolled since this went out, compared to five in December and six in January, so the law of diminishing returns appears to be setting in.

Kevin