

## Web Master

This report covers the period ending March 30, 2008.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> I received an email from Antonio Guillen of Uniserve advising me that as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 our account with Uniserve would change from a 'sponsorship' status to that of 'regular'. That means we will begin receiving monthly bills of \$35 (plus taxes) to pay for having Uniserve host our website; up to this point we'd been billed nothing. Over the past several years we have experienced problems with Uniserve's email service, primarily due to our email being rejected by Shaw recipients because Shaw treats them as spam. This usually happens when an email service provider has clients when create an excessive amount of spam.

As I mentioned in my report to our last DCM, CPS National has announced that it will host websites for Squadrons. I contacted National (Alain Brière and Michael Dunn) and discovered that they are prepared to invite our District to participate in the early deployment of this service. As far as I can tell, this service will cost us nothing other than the time to learn how to use it and to migrate our website.

However, this service does not include email. If we choose to migrate our website to National's service, we will still need to find an email service. To be useful for us, the email service must allow us to create descriptive addresses and to set up distribution lists and auto-forward accounts. Most popular inexpensive email-only services such as Hotmail, Yahoo, or Gmail do not fit that description. I have contacted Shaw and Islandnet, neither who offer an email-only service. I intend to continue looking, however it appears email is a major cost factor that differentiates different levels of Internet related services. Currently, we use 42 email addresses and this may grow as new uses for email are proposed in the future.

Recommendation:

1. **<Motion>** Approve interim expenditure of \$35/month + taxes, to be reviewed in 6 months if necessary. This means approval to spend up to \$240.
2. Determine our best option for going forward -
  - a) Stay with Uniserve (status quo + \$35/month)
  - b) Move our website to National's website hosting service (if suitable) and also subscribe to an email service, or
  - c) Move our website (and email) to a different (yet to be selected) Service Provider.
3. Approve the budget required to support the above decision.
4. Implement the option that we decide on.

Respectfully submitted by

S/Lt Mike Baker