

Minutes of the VVARA General Meeting, May 20th, 2009

The meeting was held at the Cottonwood Public Safety Bldg. conference room on Wednesday May 20th.

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by President, Mel Boreham, N6BDC.

Welcome – Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. By Frank Funk, N7EBT.

Visitors: Bruce Davis KK6QT from Rim Rock was our only visitor. He had originally lived in Huntington Beach, CA. He will be joining the VVARA.

Secretary's Report: Jason Shultz, KE7WWQ, Secretary read the minutes of our last meeting held in Prescott at the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University on April 15 2009. A motion to approve minutes was made by Ernie Cummings, K6XF. The motion was seconded by Norm Vandiver N7VF. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: – Norman Vandiver, N7VF, gave the Treasurer's report. Current balance according to the bank statement ending April 30th was \$6,613.71 and our current bank book balance is \$5,661.00. Food for the 7 Area QSO party, off of Perkinsville Road above Paulden, came to \$92.59 and the cost of the new order of two hundred 3" club patches came to \$248.00. Norman announced that patches and club caps are available for purchase now.

Presentation:

Dr. David Drown, WN7L, gave a Power Point presentation titled: "Watch out for Yourself" which covered various hazards in the ham shack, safe soldering, RF exposure and other allied topics. This was an excellent talk and provided all hams with guidelines on how to be safety conscious when building and operating their rigs and antennas and in working around the ham shack.

BREAK: Coffee and Cookies at 8:08pm. We thank Peggy Funk, N7DDR, for her excellent cookies and brownies and for preparing the coffee for the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:30p.m.

Old Business:

2009 Prescott Ham Fest:

Mel reminded the members that the 3rd Annual Joint VVARA/YARC Prescott Ham Fest will be held on Sat., May 30th at the Granite Mountain Middle School ball courts, the same location where the past two joint ham fests have been held. He said that he had recently modified the Prescott Ham Fest sign for this year's event and displayed the sign on the wall of the meeting room.

David Drown WN7L, chairman of the Ham Fest coordinating committee, asked for help with the various Ham Fest set-ups and for help in cooking the hot dogs and selling the coffee and doughnuts. There will be four tail gate spaces which must be reserved in advance. A sign-up list was circulated to the members present. Bob Thompson said that his wife Starla and the two Thompson girls would help with the food at the Ham Fest. Mel asked everyone to gather together their used ham equipment, antennas, etc and bring them to the Ham Fest.

Field Day 2009: Mel also mentioned the VVARA Field Day that will return to the top of Mingus Mountain at the summit parking lot on June 27th. Steve Pearson, KC7TIL is heading up the planning committee for this club event. The club will host a Field Day pot-luck picnic as we have done in past years. We will provide the meat for BBQ and refreshments and members are asked to bring side dishes, salads and desserts. We will need a team to put up the G5RV wire antenna the day before the event. The club has two HF transceivers, a Kenwood 570 with antenna tuner and a Kenwood 120 HF transceiver which should be available. One is currently on loan but will be turned back for this event. Bob Rosevear WB7RRQ, will be our Field Day Picnic chairman. Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, has submitted the request for the permit.

50/50 Raffle Drawing. Ernie De Leon, K7IOG, won \$11.50.

New Business:

The 7 Area QSO party and picnic was mentioned and Ernie De Leon, K7IOG, said the QSO party was a lot of fun and that the VVARA group, including Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, Mel Boreham, N6BDC, Tony Jackson, KI6AHH, and several others built up about 20,000 points and made over 290 contacts. Ernie said that he made about 60 of those contacts. Peter Fish, KA7FEB, was there with Bob Shipton, K8EQC, and Peter took photos which are now on our club website. Ted Hartson, WAULG, brought his 93 year old father, who provided a nice birthday cake for the picnic to celebrate Ted's birthday.

Mel said that the upcoming testing on May 30th for All Classes of FCC License will be at 9 a.m. sharp at the Prescott Ham Fest at the Granite Mountain Middle School, in the Technology class room. Contact Mary Vince, AB7NK, before the test.

Other New Business: President, Mel Boreham, said that he is assigning a committee to study the club's By-Laws and to see if any changes might be needed. Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, David Drown, WN7L, Al Barber, AA7OV, Mike Wingate, WA6LSE, and Mel, N6BDC, will serve on this committee. Mel's suggested we should include sections on our VVARA Repeater and club policies on its use and to describe the responsibilities of our Repeater Trustee and Technical Committee.

In that we now have an Echo Link interface with the repeater, our policy on its use should be stated in black and white. We house our repeater in an Army MARS building on Mingus Mountain under a written Memorandum of Understanding between our club and Army MARS. This relationship should also be outlined in our By-Laws in addition to that of our relationship to the Mingus Mountain Improvement Association. Our annual inspections will take place this week with Mike Wingate coordinating the inspections.

We also need to note our coordination of frequency pairs with ARCA, the Arizona umbrella repeater group. It is also suggested to have a section to cover our Web Site and our club sponsored 2 meter nets, The Knobby Knee Net, the Golden Girls Net and the Young Hams Net. In that it has been several years since this was done, it is time to take a look at the By-Laws again. Mel added that he thought the subject of term limits for club officers should also be considered.

AMATEUR RADIO; STRUCTURES; ACCOMMODATION Arizona HB2514

Mel announced that the Bill had passed the House and is now being sent to the Senate for consideration.

Verde Valley Ham Radio License Classes:

Mel mentioned that a Technician Class will be held in Cottonwood this fall. There may also be some interest in this class by Yavapai College students. Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, will help in organizing and teaching the class.

June Meeting:

At this time, we are considering having a June meeting in Cottonwood, which would be on Wed. June 17th. This would be to report on the Ham Fest and to coordinate the Mingus Mountain Field Day set-up and operation and to hear from our By-Laws committee. We will try to use this same room for the June meeting. A program has not yet been determined.

Call for a Motion to Close Meeting. A motion was made by Ernie Cummings, K6XF to close the meeting, which was seconded by Rodney Rosenbarger, KI6FH. A voice vote was made and the motion passed. The meeting was closed at 9:00p.m.