

Minutes of the VVARA General Meeting, Sept. 16, 2009

The meeting was held at the Cottonwood Public Safety Bldg. conference room on Wednesday Sept. 16, 2009.

Some members had dinner before the meeting at the Casa Bonita restaurant in Cottonwood.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Mel Boreham, N6BDC, who welcomed all members, visitors and guests in attendance.

Frank Funk, N7EBT, led the meeting in reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Visitors and guests: Our newest member, Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN, was introduced. Jeff lives in Cordes Junction and is employed as an Emergency Medical Tech and is also an instructor in this field.

Secretary's Report: Jason Shultz, KE7WWQ, Secretary, read the minutes of our last meeting held in Cottonwood, on June 17, 2009. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Carol Hills, KA7LKW and was seconded by Bob Shipton, K8EQC. Voice vote taken & motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: – Norman Vandiver, N7VF, gave the Treasurer's report. The current bank balance, according to the bank statement ending August 31st was \$6,420.96 and our current bank book balance is \$6,074.00 pending clearances of some of the checks.

A check for \$316.02 was sent to the Granite Mountain Middle School related to holding the Prescott Ham Fest activity on their school property in May this year. The club also purchased 15 ARRL Technician manuals for use in the upcoming Tech. class scheduled for October 31st, and \$45 was allotted to pay for the VVARA portion of the joint YARC/VVARA ham radio booth at the Yavapai County Fair which will be held Oct. 1 – 4.

Speaker's Presentations:

The presentation for the evening was given by **Jack Crabtree, W7JLC** and an Embry Riddle Aeronautical University student, **Elijah Brown, AD7ZJ**. The **Perseus** software-defined radio was demonstrated by Jack and Elijah discussed on their work monitoring spacecraft using a 6.3 Billion Watt

narrow-beam radar. Both were very interesting presentations enjoyed by everyone. Jack also showed some photos of the new radio tower and beam antenna he and his students recently installed on the roof of the AXFAB lab building on the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University campus.

In thanks for his participation and excellent talk, **Elijah Brown, AD7ZJ** was made an honorary student member of the VVARA for 2 years and was presented two club patches. We will be ordering him a club name tag as well.

BREAK: A ten minutes break was taken for coffee and cookies. Our thanks go to Peggy Funk, N7DDR, for her excellent homemade goodies. We also thank Al Barber, AA7OV, for handling the sale of the 50/50 raffle tickets.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:25p.m.

Old Business:

Field Day 2009: The VVARA Field Day and picnic took place at the parking lot on top of Mingus Mountain on June 27th. Steve Pearson, KC7TIL and Norman Vandiver, N7VF were in charge of putting up the G5RV wire antenna and a vertical antenna array for this annual summer event. Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ, was the chief BBQ hotdog and hamburger cook. Lots of delicious side dishes contributed by our members made for a great picnic. Norm and Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, report that a score of 2,034 points was accumulated during Field Day over the 24 hour operating period. Norm thanked all those who worked on Field Day, and made special note of help by Bill Boyle, KE7NI, Bruce Davis, KK6QT and Ernie De Leon K7IOG. Ernie worked for many night-time hours and made lots of radio contacts.

By-Laws Study: A study of the club's By-Laws is still ongoing to see if any changes might be needed. Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, David Drown, WN7L, Al Barber, AA7OV, Mike Wingate, WA6LSE, and myself will continue to serve on this committee, however any specific changes in the By-Laws are essentially tabled at this time and will be taken up at a later date.

New Business:

VVARA Repeater. Mike Wingate gave a report at today's Board meeting on his work to keep the repeater on the air and the current electrical work being done at the repeater facility. This work will continue for another month or so before permanent AC power will be restored to the repeater site. A new advanced battery charger and new batteries will be installed in the near future. Bob Thompson and Steve Pearson were thanked their efforts to keep the club repeater on the air this summer using batteries and several trips to the site to do so. We now have a temporary power cord to the repeater from a nearby building. Mike said that we will also need an "ice bridge" constructed from the tower to the repeater to protect the coax during severe winter weather. This will cost us about \$1,000 in materials. Additional costs will also involve the professional removal of eight (40 ft.) pine trees that present a hazard to the tower guys and coax run. These can not be delayed and will involve a significant outlay of club funds in the coming year. A motion was made to pay Mike Wingate \$200 to cover some of his fuel and personal vehicle costs for his many trips to the top of Mingus Mountain to service the club's repeater and to coordinate the new electrical panel, AC connections, etc. The motion was entertained by President, Mel Boreham and was seconded by Norm Vandiver N7VF. Voice vote taken & motion passed.

Verde Valley Technician License Class:

A Technician License Class will be held at the Cottonwood Public Safety Building on Saturday, October 31st. However, at this time we have only had two students register to attend the class. Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, Al Barber, AA7OV, Norm Vandiver, N7VF, Jack Burton, WA6TDU, and Ken Weisberg, WA9OJA have all volunteered to be instructors along with Jack Crabtree, who is coordinating the one-day course. Please pass along this opportunity to take the class for the Tech license to other groups who might have an interest in getting their Ham Radio ticket.

Route 66 Special Event Station: Norm Vandiver, N7VF, reported on his participation in the week-long "Old Route 66 on-the-air" in commemoration of this famous interstate highway. Norm and Ray Peterson, KF7CYG, a new VVARA member, operated at a remote site for two days and three nights using "N7VF Mobile 66" as their call sign beginning September 17th. Jack Crabtree. W7JLC handed out fliers about the Route 66 ham radio event.

Prescott Ham Fest. President, Mel Boreham reported that in July, he had received a letter from Mr. Bob Erdmann, Pres. of the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) indicating that their Board of Directors and the membership had voted to change the VVARA's relationship with YARC and the Prescott Ham Fest. VVARA would no longer be an equal partner and our club would no longer share in the profits from future Prescott Ham Fests. It was their feeling that only a few VVARA members helped at this year's ham fest, so they decided to drop us as a partner and co-host for all future Prescott Ham Fests.

Our Board of Directors and others helped draft a reply, a copy of which was sent out to all of our members via e-mail along with a copy of the Erdmann letter.

Mr. Erdmann did not reply to this letter. However, later Mel did receive a letter from Mr. Terry Pemberton, past president of YARC. He unfortunately felt that he had to resign his membership of over 10 years in VVARA. Both Dave Drown, WN7L, and Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, had noted that more than twenty VVARA members, several of whom were also members of YARC, were seen working to help set up the Ham Fest, helped sell hotdogs, doughnuts, coffee, etc. and who assisted with the clean-up and tear down. The statistics quoted in his letter do not jibe with our observations. Apparently, a VVARA member only counted if they lived in the Verde Valley!

In that YARC has decided to eliminate VVARA from sharing in the profits from the Ham Fest in the future, our Board decided we should go ahead and send a check for our share of the profits for this year's ham fest to the Granite Mountain Middle School for their use as they saw fit (we had already deposited the check that was included with Bob Erdmann's letter, for a total of \$316.02). Our check for this amount was hand delivered to Mr. Pemberton for transmittal to the school's Principal. A letter of thanks for this money was later received by David Drown, Vice President, VVARA, from the Principal of Granite Mountain Middle School.

Prior to this, several members of our Board and other concerned VVARA members who were also members of YARC spoke to the YARC Board of Directors before their August 6, 2009 meeting. Their President, Bob Erdmann, said that the vote that was taken was legitimate and that VVARA was out and that YARC "owned" the Prescott Ham Fest.

As a side note, Mr. Bob Erdmann recently resigned as President of YARC and has also dropped his membership in YARC club. Mr. Pete Morrison, K6VVR, has assumed the duties of President of YARC and Mr. Jim Ball, WB7UZV is the new Vice President of YARC.

The status of our relationship with YARC and the Prescott Ham Fest is little changed at this time, however there may be an opportunity to have a joint VVARA/YARC Board meeting in the near future to discuss the terms of our relationship regarding YARC and any future Prescott Ham Fests.

As a sign of goodwill, VVARA members are invited to join YARC members at a joint booth at the Yavapai County Fair from Oct. 1 through 4. We have shared in the cost of the booth (\$90) and will hand out flyers about our respective clubs and also advertize our upcoming ham radio Technician Classes.

Both, Bob Shipton, K8EQC, and Bob Smith, WB6ODR, rose to address the membership regarding the current rift between the YARC and VVARA club expressing their feelings that attempts to discriminate between members of each club and joint members of both clubs was truly unfortunate and will just lead to problems of having joint events now and in the future. It was hoped that the leadership of both clubs could work to resolve this and go on working together.

At this point, President, Mel Boreham, read the last paragraph from his letter to YARC sent to Bob Erdmann this summer, "Speaking for our Board and the VVARA membership, I see nothing to keep us from joining in on future Prescott Ham Fests, and sharing the expenses, work and profits as we agreed to when the idea of a mutual "swap meet" was conceived of back in January, 2007. I believe that any misunderstanding between the VVARA and the YARC club regarding our continuing partnership with YARC and the Prescott Ham Fest can be resolved through mutual good will and the cooperation that both clubs have enjoyed over the past three years as Co-Hosts and Co-founders of this ARRL sanctioned event."

Other New Business:

A special event celebrating the 138th birthday of the NRA will be celebrated at Gunsite west of Highway 89 near Paulden, November 17, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All are invited to attend. Again this year, the VVARA will make its repeater available as the 2 meter talk-in frequency.

Election of VVARA Officers for the coming year: We need to start thinking about coming up with a slate of officers for the VVARA for 2010. Our nominating committee will be assigned in October with elections taking place on Nov. 18th. We will need someone to run for President as this will be my last year in this office. So give it some thought and consider putting in your name for one of the club offices for next year.

The 50/50 Raffle drawing took place and Mrs. Kathy Boreham won the \$21.32 prize.

Mel called for a motion to close the meeting. A motion was made by Carol Hills, KA7LKW and was seconded by Al Barber, AA70V. Voice vote taken & motion passed. The meeting closed at 8:55 p.m.