

Minutes of October 21st VVARA Meeting based on notes taken by Vice Pres. David Drown, WN7L, and recollections of Pres. Mel Boreham, N6BDC. These minutes were read and approved at the November 18th, 2009 VVARA meeting.

The October Meeting of the VVARA was held at the Casa Bonita Restaurant in Prescott, AZ. Approximately 50 members and guests were in attendance for dinner and the meeting that followed.

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm by President, Mel Boreham, N6BDC, who welcomed all in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by our new member, Jeff Swiggers N7ZZN. Jeff then introduced his father, Art as his guest. He and another visitor, Mark Pansing, KF7CYE, were welcomed to the meeting.

Our Secretary, Jason Shultz, KE7WWQ, could not attend, so Mel Boreham, N6BDC, read the minutes from our last meeting held in Cottonwood on Sept. 16, 2009.

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Ernie De Leon K7IOG and was seconded by Carol Hills, KA7LKW. Approval was passed by voice vote.

Our Treasurer, Norm Vandiver, N7VF, said that **the current Bank Book balance as of Sept. 20, 2009 was \$5,478.32** The checkbook balance was not given. Expenses: \$155.22 for flyers and posters for County Fair; \$200.00 was sent to Mike Wingate, WA6LSE, in consideration of his fuel and vehicle use during his many trips to the top of Mingus Mtn. to service and maintain our club repeater.

Presentation: An excellent presentation was given by author and public speaker, Mr. Steve Coe from Congress, AZ, on basic Astronomy and some of his star gazing experiences in Arizona which included showing of several of his astrophotographs and field shots of various comets and nebulae.

The meeting reconvened at 8:10 PM following a short break. No 50/50 raffle was made this month.

Comments made by Mel Boreham during the meeting:

* Echo link was down for a while due to home improvements at Stuart Pratt's home.

* **The Nominating Committee, David Drown, WN7L, Chairman, John Gross, W5VJH, and Craig Dible, WB6LAK, are looking for volunteers or recommendations for President and other officers for the VVARA for next year.**

* The Yavapai County Fair participation by both VVARA and YARC clubs was a success, but we need a more visible location to draw in people next year. Handouts about both clubs were available and a code practice key generated interest by several younger visitors. Mel suggested that we might try using a large screen TV with a software defined radio as was demonstrated by Jack Crabtree at our September meeting. This would preclude the need for coax hookups as the determining factor for the location of the booth at the Fair.

* The VVARA Repeater was recently cleaned and winterized by Mike Wingate, WA6LSE.

* Mike installed a new battery tender charger at the repeater site.

* Mike has decided on the eight pine trees near the tower that should be removed sometime next spring.

* Ice bridge: Mike had reported to the Board that a metal structure called an "ice bridge" was recommended to protect the coax run from the tower to the repeater during winter weather. This might require an expenditure of about \$1,000 by the club.

* Mel announced the Oct. 31st VVARA sponsored Tech license class at the Cottonwood Public Safety Bldg. He has distributed notices to the local news media and radio stations in hopes of having a good response to our first Verde Valley area class.

* Mel announced the upcoming 138th anniversary of the NRA to be held at the Gunsite training site, west of Highway 89 near Paulden on November 17, 2009. The VVARA Repeater will be used for "talk-in" on that date. Buz Mills, K7GST, a VVARA member, owns the Gunsite training facility.

* Mel said that the VVARA Christmas party (luncheon) is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec 12th at the Grasshopper Grill restaurant in Cornville, AZ. Mel went over the meal entrees that will be offered.

* A General Class license course may be considered for Feb. or March by Jack Crabtree and his volunteer instructors.

* Mel entertained a motion to close the meeting. The motion was made by Carol Hills KA7LKW, and seconded by Walter Schuman, KF6SPS. Motion passed by voice vote.

* After the close of the meeting, a "Fox Hunting" discussion and show-and-tell was led by Jack Crabtree W7JLC and Bob Smith WB6ODR. Both Jack and Bob brought home built 2-meter Yagi antennas using signal attenuators to assist in their direction finding characteristics. Fox Hunting (for a hidden transmitter) has become a popular radio-sport in the Prescott area by several VVARA and YARC members.