

Minutes of the VVARA November 18th 2009 General Meeting.

The November 18th 2009 VVARA meeting was held at the Cottonwood Public Safety Bldg. conference room.

The meeting was called to order by President, Mel Boreham, N6BDC, at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carol Hills, KA7LKW.

Guests, new members, recent upgrades, new hams and visitors:

Sherry Herring KF7FVZ, John Herring AB7LT, were welcomed as new members and Jack Stapleton & Tom Shumaker were welcomed as guests.

Jason Shultz, KE7WWQ, Secretary read the minutes of the October 21st meeting. Motion to approve minutes was made by Carol Hills KA7LKW and seconded by John Gross, W5VJH. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Norman Vandiver, N7VF, gave the Treasurer's report. Our current bank balance according to Statement ending Oct. 30th was \$5,389.68 and our current bank book balance was \$5475.62. Expenditures included \$185.92 Alinco DR-135 T Mk III, 2-meter radio for Echo Link system, \$138.61 plus shipping for TallyCom power supply & charger for VVARA repeater. Income from Tech manual sales came to \$300.00 which made up for cost from ARRL through Jack Crabtree, W7JLC. There were no outstanding bills.

Election of 2010 VVARA Officers:

Dr. David Drown, WN7L, John Gross, W5GVH, and Craig Dible, WB6LAK served on our Nominating Committee this year.

David Drown, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the list of candidates and called for any nominations from the floor. None were made. The entire slate of officers was voted in by voice vote.

The newly elected VVARA Officers for 2010 are:

Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN President

Jack Crabtree, W7JLC Vice President

Jason Shultz, KE7WWQ Secretary

Mel Boreham, N6BDC Treasurer

Newly elected officers will be installed as the first order of business at the January 2010 meeting of the VVARA.

Presentations

Presentation was given by Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, who made a nice Power Point show of photos taken during our club sponsored excursion on the Verde Canyon Rail Road which took place on Oct. 25th. We had a total of 38 members and guests on the rail trip. Steve also gave a short video of the trip that he put together. The photos are from Steve, Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, and Bruce Davis, KK6QT. Steve also showed us some photos Bruce took at this year's road rally and some photos of Fall foliage provided by Al Crook, KD7MTJ.

Ten minute break to congratulate our new officers and to sell 50/50 tickets for the raffle and the meeting reconvened at 8:30pm.

VVARA Repeater:

Mike Wingate, WA6LSE, reported on the November 11th trip to install two 135 amp-hour batteries and a new DC control panel for the club repeater. Mike made a short Power Point presentation on the Repeater site on Mingus Mountain showing the newly installed equipment.

The main repeater malfunctioned and required re-programming and the backup repeater required bench work to get the audio output working. Both units were taken back to Mike's workshop and Mike drove up to install the original machine the following day. The Knobby Knee Net was operated via simplex that morning which gave folks an opportunity to get to know their radios better. The repeater is now operates solely on DC power and sounds great!

Verde Valley Ham Radio License Class:

Jack Crabtree reported on the Technician License Class held at the Cottonwood Public Safety Building on Saturday, October 31st. Out of pre-registered 17 students for the class, two couldn't come, but we had two student walk-ins on the day of the class. Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, Al Barber, AA7OV, Norm Vandiver, N7VF, Jack Burton, WA6TDU, and Ken Weisberg, WA9OJA volunteered to be instructors for this first class for the Verde Valley side of the mountain.

Testing was carried out at the Verde Valley Fire Station 31 on November 7th by Mary Vince, AB7NK, Jim Ball, WB7UZV, Pete

Morrison, K6VVR and Bob Thompson, KC8BOB. All of the students who took the test passed and one went on to pass his General exam that day. Another VE Test was done at the Rim Rock Fire Station on Nov. 13th and all students from the class who decided to take their test at Rim Rock also passed. One student who had passed the Tech exam the previous Saturday went on to pass his General Class exam this time around. So the class was very successful. Another VE test session is scheduled for the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University on November 21st so others from the class may have decided to take their test at that time.

Jack will give a morning 2-hour orientation class to help the newly licensed hams, "Now that I have a ham license, what do I do?", on Saturday, Dec. 5th at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and on Dec. 12th at the Verde Valley Station 31 on the Verde Valley side. These classes will start at 9 a.m.

NRA Special Event:

A special event celebrating the 138th birthday of the NRA was held at the Gunsite, training center west of Highway 89 near Paulden, yesterday from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. A special event station using the call K7NRA was operated during the event and certificates will be sent out to those making contact.

New Business:

Motion: It was proposed that the VVARA offer a free one-year membership, from January through December 2010, to all new hams in the Verde Valley or the Prescott area, brought to our attention, who have recently passed their FCC license. These persons would then pay regular dues if they wish to continue their membership in the VVARA. The above motion was made by Richard Munson, W2GAS, and seconded by Carol Hills, KA7LKW. Following a brief discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Echo Link:

The club purchased an Alinco DR 135 T (Mark III) 2-meter base station radio to be used by our Echo Link manager Stuart Pratt, N7NEO, who lives in Cottonwood. It is planned that the radio will be kept on the club inventory for insurance purposes, but will be installed at Stuart's home

for use with the VVARA Echo Link system. This radio is especially adapted for use as a link radio.

VVARA Christmas Luncheon:

This year's Christmas Party (luncheon) will be held at the Grasshopper Grill in Cornville. They have agreed to reserve the entire restaurant for our party from 11:30 a.m. until about 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 12th. The choices for entrees will be Chicken Cordon Bleu, Macadamia Nut Encrusted Halibut, Grilled Top-sirloin Steak, Prime Rib and a Vegetarian Fettuccini Alfredo. Prices range from \$20 to \$24 including tax and tip for dinner including salad, vegetable, baked potato, entrée of your choice and dessert plus a non-alcoholic drink of coffee, tea or soda.

Raffle

The 50/50 raffle was run and the winner was John Gross for \$13.50
One dozen eggs donated by Carol Hills were won by Charles Laughlin, KE7WOU

Call for a Motion to Close Meeting. Motion made by Al Barber, AA70V, and seconded by Steve Pearson, KC7TIL. A voice vote was taken & motion passed.

Meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.