

VVARA MEMBERSHIP MEETING - January 19, 2011

The meeting at the Cottonwood Public Safety Building was called to order by President Jeff Swiggers, N7ZZN, at 7:01 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors and recent upgrades:

Larry Jauch, KB7LCJ, and his wife Donna were in from Montana after being away for 45 years. Art Swiggers, KF7FPB/AE7KQ, upgraded to Amateur Extra.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Jason Shultz, KE7WWQ, read the minutes from the November 17, 2010 membership meeting. Mike Covey, KF7KXL, made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Bob Kiekenapp, K0CKE, and the motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was given by Mel Boreham, N6BDC,; the current balance is \$5,405.99 with a few outstanding items not included.

Old Business:

Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, reported that 150 lbs. of food donated at our annual X-mas luncheon was delivered to the food bank.

Mel reported that Bob Shipton's, K8EQC, brother's wife thanked the club for sending flowers to the funeral.

Jeff thanked the past club officers for their service over the last year, thanked Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, for his help and mentoring, and Jason for his work as Secretary.

New Business:

Jeff installed the new club officers: VP, Bob Kiekenapp, Secretary, Mike Covey, Treasurer, Mel Boreham, Director at Large, Bob Thompson and President, Jeff Swiggers.

Jeff reported that the VVARA is responsible for stewardship of the County owned ARES/RACES van parked behind the Cottonwood Public Safety Building. The Club has been requested to identify specific members who will maintain and operate it. Jeff, Mike Covey and Bob Kiekenapp have volunteered to maintain it. Jeff asked for additional volunteers who will take the County driving class, be ARES/RACES members and be available as van operators during emergencies. Jeff discussed the benefits of ARES/RACES membership and encouraged Club members to join. Al Barber, AA7OV, reported that he has a key for the van and is qualified to operate it.

Jeff reviewed ARRL membership issues and reported the Club needs to have a minimum of 51% of the membership in the ARRL. If we are non-compliant, the club will lose important ARRL benefits including their insurance coverage for club events such as the Field Day. Mel reported that our membership level is currently at 53%. Jeff reviewed the benefits of ARRL membership and encouraged members to join to insure we will have an adequate membership safety margin.

Jeff discussed ham-fest issues and reported that the Board reviewed this at their January meeting and recommended that the club not sponsor a ham-fest. Jeff also discussed combining a swap meet

with our Field Day and asked for volunteers to put together a proposal for a swap meet separate from our Field Day.

Mike Wingate, WA6LSE, reported on the needs for annual maintenance and repairs on our repeater tower and asked for volunteers to conduct the maintenance work as his certification for tower climbing will expire this year. There was a discussion on various solutions to this problem and estimates on costs of hiring the job out. Mike also needs additional people to help on the technical committee.

Jeff mentioned that profanity has been heard on our repeater and asked members to report infractions of the rules to him.

The meeting paused for refreshments at 7:39 and started up 15 minutes later with the 50/50 drawing and Jeff thanking Cheryl Henriksen, KF7GCN, for the cookies.

Bob Kiekenapp introduced our speaker, Mike Wingate, who gave a presentation on the software and hardware used in FCC's DF and monitoring systems, with a short overview of real world DF practices and how they can be applied to amateur radio.

Bob Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, Greg Allen, N6WCD, seconded, meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Mike Covey, Secretary