

VVARA MEETING 19 MARCH 2014, NATE'S COWBOY CAFE

Meeting called to order by President Eric Lash W6RIJ, at 7:07 pm, followed by Pledge Of Allegiance.

Visitors and recent upgrades: 23 Club members present. Also in attendance: Craig KD7LAK, Kathy Borham.

Secretary Report: Leo Zuercher KF7KXH read the minutes from the 19 February 2014 meeting. Motion to accept by N6WCD Greg, second by KF7KXL Mike, passed.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report was given by Mike Covey KF7KXL, beginning balance at Credit Union West checking as of 01 Feb 14: \$5408.61.

Ending balance as of 28 Feb 14: \$6089.43.

Savings account beginning balance 01 Feb 14: \$1128.04.

Ending balance 28 Feb 14: \$1128.04.

Ending Total: \$7217.47.

Move to accept subject to audit by KG7ERK Mary Jo, second by W7BJ Dave, passed.

Repeater Technical Committee Report: All good, monthly electrical cost less than \$50.00.

Membership: Bob Thompson KC8BOB reported two new members: John Higley KE7EYV, and John Gessel KB7JJG. Eric W6RIJ mentioned Ken Dahl K7TAG, already on the roster.

Old Business: We still have three VVARA hats available, see Mike KF7KXL.

Norm N7VF not present, no report on previously offered antenna towers.

W7JLC Jack reported we provided communications support for a balloon flight out of Flagstaff with four more scheduled in the next month. Schools involved: Embry-Riddle, Denai College on the Navajo reservation, University of Texas, and the Chandler School District.

On the 29th there will be a flight involving six colleges and universities around the state. 200 or so students involved.

A visitor from Australia was studying the balloon flight program with an eye toward starting a similar program there.

Field Day planning: Steve KC7TIL will mentor.

New Business: Discussion of suitability of Nate's as meeting venue. Mike KF7KXL will coordinate with the owner for future dates.

Sign-up sheets for MS150 bicycle event on May 17 and 18. Verde Valley event, need VVARA volunteers. Also for Chino Valley Grinder, 106 mile race to ski resort near Williams and back, and Whiskey Row Marathon, both on 3 May. Coordinate with Carol for conflict with Knobby Knee Net. Also need volunteers for the Desert Storm Rally, first Saturday in April.

Bill Burkett has had a stroke, now in physical therapy and doing well.

KF7QVK Marny volunteered to be Sunshine Lady for the club.

Letter Of Appreciation for Marsha for her 15 years in the position, KC8BOB will write it.

Mel N6BDC Proposed a \$50.00 gift certificate for Marsha, motion by Bryan W7BNW, second by Bob KC8BOB, passed. Turned over to treasurer Mike KF7KXL for action.

Show and Tell: N6WCD Greg demonstrated the back pack radio he built using 897 radio, (Ant) Tuner and “Bug Catcher” antenna for 6-80 meter use.

Discussed Elecraft KX3 software defined radio. 6-160 Meter, two meter model due out soon.

Discussed new “Rig Expert” antenna tuning measuring equipment.

100 Years Of ARRL: JackW7JLC reported 941 W1AW/7 contacts over 12 hours with assistance from Forrest WH6EAL. 4 hr on 20 meter SSB 471 contacts

4 hr on 17 meter SSB 342 contacts

4 hr on 17meter RTTY 128 contacts

Ray KF7CYG and Norm also noted contacts made. First experience as focus of a pile up.

60% DX contacts: Russia, Germany, Greece. Hawaii Through Canary Islands

Sign up with Bud N7CW to participate in the Fall session; August 27 through September 2

Break at 7:58. 50/50 drawing \$25.00 won by Mary Jo KG7ERK. Return to meeting at 8:09.

Program: Bob KC8BOB introduced three video presentations by Dr. James Grime, Cambridge University on the German Enigma encryption machine and English code breaking methods and machines. Considerable discussion engendered by videos.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted Leo A. Zuercher KF7KXH, secretary.