

VVARA Meeting September 21, 2016 Nate's Cowboy Cafe, Cottonwood, AZ

The meeting was called to order by President Wayne Gilbertson, WA7IGI at 7:08 p m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors and recent upgrades: 23 members present, no new members present, no upgrades, one guest.

Secretary's Report: Bob, K8EQC read the minutes of 20 July 2016 meeting. Motion to accept as read by Mike, KF7KXL. Seconded by Carol, KA7LKW. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was given by Wayne, WA7IGI. Savings \$3989.69. Withdrawals \$0, Balance \$3989.69 Checking \$3687.28, Withdrawals \$423.78. Deposits \$0.00. Balance \$3263.50. Total Checking and Savings, \$7253.19. Motion to accept as read by Bob, K8EQC. Seconded by Mel, N6BDC. Motion carried.

Repeater Technical Committee Report: Bob, KC8BOB reported that the mountain top repeater inspection passed with no demerits. Matt N7YIO, and Tim, KF7GCO were also present for the inspection. Bob stated that Mike, WA7LSE has the backup repeater at his house and will match its programming up with the one presently at the Mingus site. Mike requested purchase of a new programming cable for that matchup. No issues with trees near the tower or antennas, other than a few branches that may need trimming. Slash piles within 200 ft. need burning but pose no problem.

Membership Chairman report: Bob, KC8BOB reported the club has five new members. The new members are as follows: Art Brigida, AB7FB; Cathy Etheredge, N7HVN; Doug Theriault, N0UD; Mike Rhodes, KG7LMJ; and Ted Bishop, KI7FWZ. Total membership 160, 94 ARRL members, which is 62% of total membership.

Amateur Radio Parity Act: Wayne WA7IGI reported that HR 1501 passed on a voice vote and is out of the U.S. House Energy Committee and now in the Senate as S-1685. Ed, KL7DU mentioned PRB-1 as being similar to the proposed Parity Act. Mike WA7ARK explained that PRB-1 is about reasonable accommodation of amateur radio antennas.

Old Business: Wayne asked about reports of the ongoing NPOTA special event. Jack, W7JLC reported that he has worked 290 parks with 263 confirmed. Norm, N7VF reported he is doing the opposite by putting Montezuma Castle National Monument on the air with over 4000 contacts, and also operated from Navajo National Monument with another amateur. He stated Navajo NM was more rare and had pileups like on a DX expedition.

Wayne, WA7IGI asked for further input on a storage unit for club property. WB7RRQ volunteered to explore securing a unit but was out of town. After much discussion by various members, such as how much equipment do we really have and where the cheapest rental units are, it was deferred to the board for further consideration. Wayne said he would e-mail the membership to create an accurate inventory of what equipment the club has.

Wayne, WA7IGI mentioned the Oath keepers group's continued use of the clubs 147.220 repeater for their Sunday night net. Bob, KC8BOB mentioned that the group is made up of retired law enforcement, military and first responders. Bob, K8EQC discussed their operating procedures, and that some instruction to them on using our repeater might be helpful. Carol, KA7LKW said she would contact the group regarding their net.

New Business: Mel, N6BDC stated that the club might consider putting out some PR such as a newspaper ad telling the public about the VVARA and who we are. There was agreement among several members that the idea was worth consideration by the membership.

After the business meeting Matt, N7YIO gave a video and slide presentation of his work with CenturyLink at various northern Arizona mountain top microwave and telecom sites, and sites in the Grand Canyon. Matt had various pieces of test equipment he uses on display.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Robert Shipton, K8EQC
VVARA Secretary