

VVARA Meeting. January 18, 2017, Embry- Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ.

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Gilbertson, WA7IGI, 7:03 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS AND RECENT UPGRADES:

26 members present. No new members. No upgrades. Two guests were present: Kathy Laing, KJ6KMK, President of YARC and Bud Semon, N7CW, Yavapai County Radio Officer for ARES/ RACES.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bob, KC8BOB, read the minutes of 16 November, 2016 meeting. Motion to accept by Bob WB6ODR, seconded by Art, AE7KQ. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's report was given by Tim, KF7GCO.

Savings \$3,989.80. Withdrawals \$0. Deposits \$.11. Ending balance \$3,989.91.

Checking beginning balance \$3,312.61. Withdrawals \$1,567.77. Deposits \$1,349.50. Ending balance \$3103.34.

Total checking and savings \$7,093.25.

Motion to accept by Ron, KG7TTH. Seconded by Bryan, W7BNW. Motion carried.

Tim mentioned that 2017 dues can be paid now; or by using Pay-Pal; or can be sent to the club's P.O. Box in Cornville. Mel mentioned to Tim that dues were sent to him by Bill and Helen Spokes for several years and he thought giving them a life time membership would be appropriate. Wayne, WA7IGI said that would be considered by the Board and Membership Chairman.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Bob, KC8BOB reported that the 147.220 repeater is working fine. Jack, W7JLC reported that the Squaw Peak repeater is not working. Bob said when weather improves a tech committee member will go up to the site to check it out.

Bob, KC8BOB reported that Mike Wingate, WA6LSE, passed away on the 3rd of January. He will be sorely missed by the club, and was the lifeblood of the technical committee. Bob showed slides from Mike's past, and an overview of his work at both of our mountain top sites. Bob, KC8BOB asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mike, WA6LSE.

Dan, K7RUF talked about Mike and his work with the National Forest Service at various repeater sites in California.

Rex, N7NGM said that Mike and Dan were helpful in assisting Rex with his 6 meter repeater installation in the Prescott area.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Bob, KC8BOB stated that we have 163 club members, of which 59% are ARRL members.

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT:

Wayne, WA7IGI reported that the Parity Act died in the Senate by one vote. The bill will be reintroduced to the legislature in January, 2017.

NATIONAL PARKS ON THE AIR REPORT:

Jack stated that out of 487 total National entities possible he work 310 and that another operator had worked a total of 440.

OLD BUSINESS:

Carol, KA7LKW gave a report on the Christmas dinner, and said everyone had a good time, the food was good, and the service was very good, and there were nice decorations. Stoneridge was a good place to have our Christmas dinner in the future.

Wayne, WA7IGI stated that as of January 2nd Nate's Cowboy Cafe closed for business. Wayne said we have no new meeting place at this time. Wayne and Becky checked out Stromboli's in Cottonwood, and the conclusion was the room is quite small, 23 by 23 feet, and that Rod KI6FH said his Good Sam group met there and they could add 10 more chairs to hold a total of 30 people. Will, K7RUF suggested Black Bear Diner which is not open yet. Jack, W7JLC will check for meeting back at Embry-Riddle in February. Later in this meeting Jack was able to secure the room for February if needed. Carol, KA7LKW suggested we checked with the City of Cottonwood for the building in Old Town. Wayne suggested Cliff Castle. Wayne tabled the meeting location until additional options are explored.

Wayne, WA7IGI mentioned that the club inventory has been finished, and there's not enough equipment on the list to secure a public storage unit at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bud Semon, N7CW presented his proposal from ARES/ RACES for a Winlink Gateway to be installed in our Squaw Peak repeater building. The installation will use packet radio in conjunction with the Winlink operating system which will be used to send e-mail into and out of the Verde Valley, and on to the Internet. The county now has nine Winlink sites, one of which is on Bill Williams Mountain that does not sufficiently cover the Verde Valley. This would be an

open user Winlink gateway, but would be used during times of emergencies or drills to handle traffic. Bud said they would contribute two 400 AH batteries to the site, and add an additional solar panel if needed. The system will use the standard allocated two meter packet frequencies. ARES/RACES will furnish the two meter transceiver and laptop computer. The supplied modem will be linked to a Verizon site on Squaw for access to the Internet. Bud said he would do a site survey and work closely with our technical committee if the proposal is approved.

Bryan, W7BNW made a motion that ARES/RACES will work with our technical committee to bring the Winlink gateway proposal to completion at the VVARA Squaw Peak site. Seconded by Carol, KA7LKW. Motion carried.

Kathy Laing, KJ6KMK gave a talk on the upcoming Prescott Hamfest at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The hamfest is in conjunction with the YARC club and the Eagle Amateur Radio Club at the school. The Hamfest is June 9th and 10th. Kathy invited the VVARA to the hamfest. Friday admission will be free and there will be seminars Friday afternoon. Saturday will have tailgating and commercial vendors. Club booths are free and you can register online at the YARC website. There will be hourly prize drawings. Bob, KC8BOB made a motion to have a booth at the hamfest on Saturday. Brian, W7BNW seconded the motion. The motion passed.

After the break two movies on "Ask Dave Casler" were presented.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Robert Shipton, K8EQC
VVARA Secretary