

VVARA Meeting April 19, 2017, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Gilbertson, WA7IGI, at 7:01p.m, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS AND RECENT UPGRADES:

Twenty eight members present and two student guests from Embry-Riddle, Dakota, KI7JTE and Michael.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bob, K8EQC, read the minutes of March 2017 meeting. Motion to accept by Ernie, K7IOG, seconded by Greg, N6WCD. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Savings \$3,989.91. Withdrawals \$0. Interest \$.10. Ending balance \$3,990.01

Checking beginning balance \$3,956.13 Withdrawals \$114.84. Ending balance \$3841.29

Total checking and savings, \$7831.30

Motion to accept by Marnie, KF7QVK Seconded by Carol, KA7LKW. Motion passed.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Bob, KC8BOB stated that he would like to give Tim a hand for travel up to the Squaw Peak repeater site to check the status of the batteries. Tim pulled the batteries, recharged them and installed them back up at the site. Repeaters are working well.

A local ham was causing bleed over from the MMRG, 147.000 machine to the 147.220 repeater. It was discovered that he was running 100 watts with a new radio, and was located in Camp Verde. Once his power was lowered the issue was resolved. He since has checked into the morning net and was welcomed by net control operators.

The Win system project has not been started yet with ARES/RACES, which will be coming up. The batteries at Squaw Peak are working with a date code of 2008. When AREA/RACES installs two new 6 volt batteries the club may replace the original 2008 batteries at that time. The technical committee will review the issue, which may include load testing on the batteries.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Bob, KC8BOB reported that we have 160 members. He is waiting for late comers to pay their dues for a final count. ARRL membership is at 60 percent. Permit for use of PNF parking lot on Mingus is in place for the upcoming ARRL Field Day. We will have a picnic on that Saturday.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wayne, WA7IGI said that club organizational booth number three is ours for the Prescott Hamfest. Bob, WB7RRQ has the materials for manning the booth. A signup sheet for working at the booth will be available. The club will reimburse the entrance fee to members who work the booth in one hour or two hour shifts.

2017 ARRL field day is June 24th and 25th.

Signup sheets for duties, and further discussion will take place at the May meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob, K8EQC mentioned that Jack, W7JLC has had issues with UPS failures. The UPS provides support to his echo link node computer, and transceiver during APS power interruptions. This setup is used for communication from the internet to the VVARA repeater by club members who are out of RF range. Bob, K8EQC suggested the club replace his UPS. Jon, KJ7ON stated that the UPS, SLA batteries can be replaced to fix the problem in Jacks UPS. Dakota, KI7JTC said he would do the work of replacing the old batteries. WB6ODR made a motion to purchase new batteries, seconded by Carol, KA7LKW. Motion passed

Bob, K8EQC asked for a hand from membership to thank Jack, W7JLC and Bob, WB6ODR for all the work of hosting the echo link nodes over the last several years.

Jack mentioned he has hosted the node and link for the last eight years and was travelling the second half of the year, and would like someone to take over the echo link setup temporarily or permanently. Jon, KJ7ON volunteered to check on relocating the setup at his place of employment with permission of the business owner. It is close to where, Jack lives and would have a clear RF path to Mingus. The building has a reliable backup power system, and fiber optics coming into the building. It is in an industrial park.

The 50/50 was won by Tim, KF7GCO.

A talk and slide presentation on the upcoming Solar eclipse Balloon flight was given by Jack, W7JLC, Dakota, KI7JTE, and two other Embry-Riddle students. Some of the tracking instrumentation and a microwave dish was shown.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Robert Shipton, K8EQC
VVARA Secretary