

VVARA Meeting May 17, 2017, Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Cottonwood, AZ

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mike Rhodes, KG7LMJ, at 7:01p.m, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS AND RECENT UPGRADES:

Eighteen members present, no visitors, one upgrade Martin, KI7OIY recently passed his general. New member Led Hennes, KI7NFH was welcomed by the members present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bob, K8EQC, read the minutes of April 2017 meeting. Motion to accept by Marnie, KF7QVK seconded by Tony, K6PSR Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Savings \$3,990.01. Withdrawals \$0. Ending balance \$3,990.01

Checking beginning balance \$3841.29 Withdrawals \$763.09 Deposits \$437.00. Ending balance \$3,515.20.

Total checking and savings, \$7,505.21.

Tim explained that the \$763.09 expenditures were on our insurance policies. \$200.00 for liability and \$500 for the club repeaters equipment, and around \$50.00 per month for APS power to the Mingus repeater site. The \$437.00 were from paid members club dues.

Motion to accept by Art, AE7KQ. Seconded by Marnie, KF7QVK. Motion passed.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Bob, K8EQC gave the technical committee report received from Bob, KC8BOB. The repeaters continue to work normally. We have not made the trips to the repeater sites to inventory our storage batteries for, age, make, type, capacity, including all other equipment. We will be up to the site next month. Field Day is June 24 and 25th. We have the signed special use permit for the usual parking lot with permission for three RV'S from Friday to Sunday. We need volunteers and night operators. We will ask Carol, KA7LKW to borrow her solar trailer and I will bring it up to the site. We need to line up cooks and food purchase for the Saturday picnic. We usually get 30 to 40 people at the picnic. Steve, KC7TIL has the radio equipment, and I will bring up the screened canopy to cover the radio area.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Bob, K8EQC reported for Bob, KC8BOB that we have 161 members with one new member, Lee Hennes, KI7NFH.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mike, KG7LMJ stated that the Prescott Hamfest is June 9th and 10th, and asked Bob, WB7RRQ if he had his volunteers to man the club booth. Bob replied as it gets closer he will ask for volunteers, and talk with Wayne, WA7IGI to work out any other details.

Mike, KG7LMJ mentioned that he and members of the technical committee will soon go up to the Mingus site for the equipment inventory.

Mike, KG7LMJ asked about the status of the Winlink Digipeater proposal for the Squaw Peak site that Bud, N7CW recently made to the club. Bob, KC8BOB told Mike that he had not heard from Bud recently. Bob, K8EQC explained to the members that weren't at Bud's Embry-Riddle, VVARA presentation what the Winlink ARES/ RACES Digipeater consisted of, and it's use in moving data via packet radio out of the Verde Valley in an emergency. It will also be an open two meter Digipeater for anyone to use. Bob explained what ARES/RACES is supplying such as the transceiver, batteries, power supply, computer, antenna, solar panel and internet connection. Mention was made that the batteries at the Squaw Peak site had a date code of 2008 and should be replaced when ARES/RACES in talks their batteries.

Mike, KG7LMJ asked if Dakota had replaced the batteries in the UPS that Jack W7JLC has at his house that is used to support the echo-link VVARA node when APS is down. Tim, KF7GCO said he had not received any invoices for that cost. Jack said they would work it out. Bob, K8EQC said that Jack, W7JLC wanted to transfer the VVARA echo-link node responsibility to someone else. He has sponsored it for several years. Mike, KG7LMJ wondered what happened with the proposal from John, KJ7ON that his company would sponsor the link at his place of work, and had heard that Bob, WB6ODR was going to meet with John regarding this?

The 50/50 was won by Bob, WB7RRQ.

After the break Mike, KG7LMJ gave a very informative presentation on some railroad history along with his personal experiences using radio and written communication on the railroads. Mike passed around photos and a paper detailing the introduction of wireless on the nation's railroads.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47p.m.

Robert Shipton, K8EQC
VVARA Secretary