

VVARA Meeting June 21, 2017, Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church Cottonwood, 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 members present and one guest John Black and new member Terry Gillespie, KI7FXA.

No new upgrades.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bob Thompson read the minutes of the May 2017 meeting in lieu of Bob, K8EQC's absence. Motion to accept by Leo, KF7KXH seconded by Mike, WA7ARK. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's report was given by Wayne, WA7IGI in lieu of Tim, KF7GCO's absence.

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

Checking beginning balance \$3,515.20. Withdrawals \$118.60. Deposits \$ 0. Ending balance \$3396.60.

Total checking and savings, \$7386.61.

Motion to accept by Greg, N6WCD. Seconded by Marne, KF6QVK. Motion passed.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Bob, KC8BOB stated that the 147.220 repeater was working normally in spite of the hot weather. Bob discussed the Squaw Peak Winlink project with ARES/RACES Yavapai County radio officer Bud, N7CW. Bud said he was in technical discussions with another member regarding the install. He said they were in no hurry and were not ready yet to move forward. Bob said he completed the inventory of all equipment at the Mingus site. Bob said he attended the recent meeting of the Mingus Mountain Improvement Association. Attending the meeting with him were Tim, KF7GCO, Mike KG7LMJ and Bob, K8EQC. Nothing of importance came out of the meeting. Steve, KC7TIL was also at the site making some preliminary power measurements of the 147.220 repeater.

There was no further status on any replacement of the Squaw Peak backup batteries. Mike, WA7ARK said new 12V 100AH AGM batteries are available locally from Batteries Plus in PV for \$150 each. The club may replace the old batteries for the repeater when ARES/RACES provides

two new batteries at the Squaw Peak site for Winlink Digipeater installation.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Bob, KC8BOB reported that we have 162 members. Ray Coleman has recently become a new member.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wayne, WA7IGI asked if there were anything to report from the Prescott Hamfest. Mike, WA7ARK said that the four technical seminars that were all scheduled at 1 p.m. could have been spread out in time slots so individuals could attend more than just one. He said the VVARA booth was in an air conditioned room.

Wayne, WA7IGI said that Jack, W7JLC wants a new home for his Echolink node. Mike, WA7ARK mentioned that his internet connection was too slow to host the node. Rod, KI6FH said his Century Link connection was good for Echolink on his 220 machine at the Mingus VVARA site.

Bob, KC8BOB suggested running a speed test to see if a volunteer has enough speed to host the node. Matt, N7YIO suggested using qwst.net for a speed test. Wayne, WA7IGI said we need to follow up with John, KJ7ON to see if we have approval to relocate the node to the building where he works.

Wayne, WA7IGI asked for an update on the ARRL Field Day preparations. Bob, WB7RRQ said we will put the antennas and canopies around 5 p.m. this coming Friday. Will need help around noon Sunday for takedown, and to bring up ice if you are planning to come.

Bob, KC8BOB said he has Carol's solar trailer. Greg, N6WCD asked if new batteries were installed in the trailer, since last year they died at 2 a.m. in the morning. Leo, KF7KXH asked if the club can replace the four 6 volt batteries. Greg, N6WCD suggested that we don't use the inverter to run the 110 volt power supply for the HF radio, and instead run a cable to carry the 12 V directly to the radio which would save energy. It would require a properly sized cable for a longer run since the trailer cannot be backed up to the Ramada due to boulders in the way.

NEW BUSINESS:

Matt, N7YIO mentioned that he has a reel of Belden 9913 coax in his truck, and members can have the length they need at no cost.

50/50 Drawing winner?

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Robert Shipton, K8EQC

VVARA Secretary