

VVARA Meeting June 20, 2018 - Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Cottonwood, AZ

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Robert Shipton, K8EQC at 7:00 p m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

VISITORS, RECENT UPGRADES:

Visitors were Steve Harris, no call and Ky Micill, no call. No recent upgrades. 23 members present.

SECRETARY REPORT:

Bob, K8EQC read the minutes from the May 16, 2018 meeting. Motion to accept by Carol, KA7LKW, second by Steve, KC7TIL. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

The treasurer's report was given by Bob, K8EQC. Savings account beginning balance: \$3,990.43. Ending balance: \$3,990.43.
Checking account beginning balance: \$1946.75.
Total withdrawals \$255.52. Ending balance \$1691.23. Total of checking and savings: \$5681.66.
Audit in process. Motion to accept by Bob, KC8BOB, second by Judy, KC7MTY. Motion carried.

REPEATER TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Bob, KC8BOB stated that the 7.2220 and 147,100 repeaters are working well. Since it has been a few years since any test and measurements have been made the committee has decided to use an outside, company to do the work. No mileage to be charged to hold down costs, licensed, bonded, insured, and does tower climbing. The company does this type of work on a regular basis. The BATF antenna which is no longer used will be taken down. Any comments regarding the repeater should be sent to me via e-mail. I will review them with the team. Bob said there is no urgency to the work at the site, and we will get to it when we can. I recently looked at a coverage map done in 2014 that Mike, WA6LSE gave me, and it covers almost to I-40. Matt, N7YIO worked the repeater from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Bob, KC8BOB said you may have heard some of the chatter on the repeater, and over the air some very disconcerting and upsetting comments, there has been denigrating remarks and name calling on members, referring to people being babblers, a grease monkey, tower climbers referred to as pole baboons and pole monkeys, this has to stop or we will take action.

Matt Dutton added to Bob's report that the committee is looking into the inter mod interference which is heard on weaker signals into our repeater when another repeater comes on the air. The company we will be using has major government contracts, and commercial customers, they will help us when they can. Matt said our repeater number # 1 was recently checked at a radio shop in Payson, and they reported it up to spec. He said the YCSO repeater when keyed up is a party to the interference which is being investigated. Matt has the contact person at YCSO if we need to contact them after we check out our system.

Bob, K8EQC said that when the club began searching for a new Tech Committee head to replace Mike, WA6LSE, he suggested a fine young man who is mature and will grow into the job. He is excited about the challenge, has mountain top experience and contacts. That was Matt Dutton and the board and committee asked him does he want the job. He said yes. Let's give Matt a big hand (applause).

Bob, K8EQC said a few years ago that Mike, WA6LSE received a complaint about coverage, from the same party who recently complained about coverage in his area. That party along with another asked Mike to address the issue. I'm not sure how that was handled. I seconded a motion at our last meeting in May that recommended making some basic measurements that may address that issue.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Bob, KC8BOB said we added three more members last month. We have around 150 members. 36% on the Verde side of Mingus and 57% on the Prescott side. Bob, K8EQC several years ago suggested we have meetings on the Prescott side to help the club grow and ease the driving over the hill for our Prescott area members

Old Business: ARES/RACES assistant coordinator for the Verde Valley Tom Cloonan stated that the Winlink system slated for our Squaw Peak site is being tested at the Yavapai County Public works complex in Camp Verde, they will use there antenna site to test the TNC and radio for a few weeks before moving it up to our Squaw Peak site. Tom said two new 6 volt, 400 AH batteries will replace what the club has up there now. Bob, K8EQC said we want thank ARES/RACES for providing an additional digipeater gateway out of the Verde Valley for emergency comm and general amateur use. The members thanked Tom for their contribution. Matt said we will gain 40 additional AH hours with the new batteries on Squaw Peak.

Jack, W7JLC presented Bob, K8EQC with a Certificate of Life Membership in Arizona Near Space Research for contributions made to High Altitude Ballooning, STEM Education and Amateur Radio. Bob thanked Jack.

Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ updated the members on the Prescott Hamfest. At the VVARA booth the club added three new members. Sales of equipment thru YARC went well. Tailgaters did well. Bob, KC8BOB said the hamfest cleared approx. \$3800.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve Pearson, KC7TIL said we need help with setup on Friday afternoon for Field Day. Bob, WB6ODR will use his bow to get the antenna support cords up in two pine trees. Steve stated the hours of ops and night operators are needed. Sub Sandwiches will be provide due to no cooking fire restrictions and members can bring potluck dishes. Bob, K8EQC detailed what the purpose of field day was. Bob, KC8BOB talked about scoring extra points for use of emergency power. Steve, KC7TIL encouraged new operators to try operating HF.
Break and 50/50 Drawing.

Program: "Voyager 1 and 2 The ultimate DX" by Wayne Gilbertson, WA7IGI.

Submitted by

Bob Shipton, K8EQC
VVARA Vice President