

**VVARA Meeting October 17, 2018**  
**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**

President Mike Rhodes, K7LMJ at 7:00 p m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, called the meeting to order

**VISITORS, RECENT UPGRADES:**

Visitors were Ed Post, KA7GSQ, Joann Newman, Bud Semon, N7CW, Clyde Snyder, WB7RXK, and Tom Pifer, 23 members present

**SECRETARY REPORT:**

Bob, K8EQC, Vice President read the minutes from the September 2018 meeting. Motion to accept by Carol, KA7LKW, second by Bob, KC8BOB. Motion carried.

**TREASURER REPORT:**

Tim Hendrickson gave the Treasurer's report.

**Savings Account Beginning Balance:** \$3,990.53

**Savings Account Deposits:** \$0.11

**Savings Account Ending Balance:** \$3,990.64

**Checking Account Beginning Balance Ending 09/30/2018:** \$1,141.85

**Checking Account Withdrawals:** \$293.89

**Checking Account Deposits:** \$207.00

**Checking Account Ending Balance:** \$1054.96

**Checking Account Total and Savings Account Total:** \$5,045.60

**Audit in process:** Motion to accept by Wayne, WA7IGI KC8BOB, second by Bob, WB6ODR. Motion carried.

**REPEATER TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Steve, KC7TIL stated that Matt, N7YIO has been a great resource in obtaining donated items for our repeater such as new ground rods, Cad-welds, and back up batteries from Century Link. Two batteries were placed in the Mingus site and the others at Steve's QTH for the W7EI echo-link node. Steve thanked Jack, W7JLC for help in setting up the echo link node at his house.

Steve KC7TIL, and Bob, KC8BOB took the 7.220 repeater cavities to Niles Radio in Flagstaff where they were checked and a small adjustment was made to the receive side only. Steve KC7TIL then described the club's new Yaseu DRX-2 repeater, which he had on display at the meeting. Steve stated the radio is normally \$1695 and we were able to obtain it on a special deal for \$650 including free shipping. The purchase included the LAN feature for \$200 extra, for future possible use. Steve KC7TIL stated anyone could go to the Yaseu website and download the manual.

Steve KC7TIL stated that the club was able to obtain the new Commander 2m antenna that is similar to the old one from Tally at a discounted price. He also said with Matt's N7YIO relationship at Niles Radio two certified techs had volunteered to install the new antenna. He stated that the BATF antenna had been removed off the tower and the Army Mars antenna was also coming down, and that a new 220 MHz antenna was going up to replace the old one for Rod's KI6FH repeater.

Matt N7YIO, unable to make the meeting, asked Bob, K8EQC to read the report that Lance Hale KW7LH had sent to Matt.

Bob K8EQC stated that Lance, KW7LH technical lead from ARA (Arizona Repeater Association) and their team had made a visit to the 7.220 site in late September. Lance KW7LH had two climbers remove the BATF antenna, which had been on the tower for over 25 years. Lance in his report stated, "We found many ground connections that need to be addressed. Some loose and or dis-similar metals" (They tightened those on the way up). "The tower is noisy. Tap on it or any other antenna and it produces noise on the Rx when the Tx is active. Probably some loose grounds or a bad antenna. The VHF stick seemed the most sensitive. We did find and tighten the pigtail connections at the base of your antenna. We also noticed that the hardline had been wrapped with braid and that clamped to the tower at the antenna. Remember we want a single point ground where it leaves the tower and again just before it enters the building".

"Radio performance seemed very good. Almost no degradation of sensitivity by the site noise floor. With the antenna connected I was seeing about a .25uv (-119dbm) sensitivity. That was for about 12db Sinad figure. I ran the YCSO and 7.220 frequencies. No interfering mix, so another frequency involved. I asked how far away their tower was" We thanked their team for working on the clubs site.

Bob, K8EQC and Jack, W7JLC discussed the sudden change from 11 to 13 db in signal strength as possibly being the amplifier or antenna. That issue occurred regardless of which of our two repeaters were online. Bob, WB6ODR asked if the hardline had been checked. Bob, KC8BOB stated that Niles Radio had done that recently and it was okay.

Bob, KC8BOB gave the WinLink report, and the team is about ready to go up on Squaw Peak and install the system. The new batteries are charged and they expect to be up there in the next few weeks. Bud, N7CW did not know what frequency the digipeater would be on yet.

#### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Bob, KC8BOB stated we had three new members at last month's meeting, and membership is around 150 total. Mike, K7LMJ, stated that we are at 65% ARRL membership.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Carol KA7LKW gave a report on the Christmas dinner and results of the menu survey that was sent to the membership. The two items will be pan-seared wild salmon and slow-roasted prime rib along with Red blissed potatoes. Vegetarians can select what they want. It will be a sit down planned arrangement, everything included in the price. Carol had on display an old photo album of her Dad's ham radio and flying history, and some original photos with Charles Lindberg and Amelia Earnhardt.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mike, K7LMJ had tickets on sale for a dual band 2m/70 cm BaoFeng UV-5R radio that will be raffled off at our November meeting. Mike K7LMJ appointed Bob, WB7RRQ to be Nominating Committee Chairman for the club officer's 2019 election in November.

Bob, K8EQC gave a short talk expressing the need for other members to consider running for board positions.

Break and 50/50 drawing.

Presentation by Bud Semon N7CW on the recent Baker Island DX expedition he participated in.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Robert Shipton, K8EQC  
VVARA Vice President.