Minutes of September 14, 2024
Regular Membership Meeting
of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association

Location: El Toreo Restaurant, Clarkdale, AZ
Scheduled Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

An informal luncheon was available commencing at 11:30 AM. Most of the 21 VVARA members and several guests who attended the regular meeting also participated in the informal luncheon.

Bill Jean, KK7LGE, VVARA President, convened the meeting at 1:00 PM. All members rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Jean then welcomed new members and several new members were identified and welcomed to the Club.

Speaker Presentation: Bill then introduced the PowerPoint presentation on Grounding and Bonding for Amateur Radio Operators. Bill Stock, WA0A, who prepared the presentation, was unable to attend the meeting, so Bill Jean filled in and went through the slide presentation, explained the grounding and bonding situation for the antennas at his home QTH, and answered questions from participants at the meeting. Bill received a generous round of applause at the end of the presentation. Members thanked Bill for filling in so ably on short notice when the featured presenter was unable to attend.

Secretary's Report: Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, then distributed copies of the Minutes of the June 15 Regular Meeting. Upon a motion made by Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, VVARA Director, and seconded by Leo Zuercher, KF7KFH, the motion to approve the minutes for the June 15, 2024 Regular Meeting was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Don Sears, N7PLL, VVARA Treasurer and Webmaster, then gave his report which included a slide showing the current month account balance of the VVARA checking account and denoting credits and debits to the account balance due to transactions during the last month. Don invited any questions from members about the current status of VVARA finances. Upon a call for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report from VVARA President, Bill Jean, KK7LGE, Toby Payne, K7ABP, made a motion to approve. Peter Belanus, KI7ZWP, seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Membership Committee Report: Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, gave the Membership Committee Report. She noted that VVARA has 156 paid individual and family members. She reported that VVARA has added 20 new members thus far in 2024.

Special Membership Recognition: Don Sears, N7PLL, shared a photo of a special membership presentation made to a long time active VVARA member, Jack Crabtree, W7JLC. Jack has been awarded lifetime membership by the VVARA Board of Directors and a plaque, designating this award and honoring the many wonderful contributions Jack has made to VVARA and the amateur radio community in North Central Arizona, was presented to Jack at a Crabtree family gathering this summer when Jack's brothers and sisters, sons and daughters and numerous other Crabtree family members were able to attend and able to celebrate with Jack his long history of distinguished amateur radio operations.

Don's comments about the special presentation to Jack Crabtree prompted an enthusiastic round of applause from VVARA members.

Technical Committee Report: Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, VVARA Director, gave a brief Technical Committee report on behalf of Matt Dutton, N7YIO. Steve mentioned improvements which the Technical Committee was making to the repeaters at both the Mingus and Porcupine Mountain repeater sites and noted that the sale of VVARA equipment originally procured to enhance the Mingus Mountain repeater site, resulted in a significant financial bonus for VVARA because the surplus equipment sold for higher than the cost the Club paid to acquire the equipment in the first place – a great result.

New Business: Prompted no doubt by the Speaker Presentation about grounding and bonding, which are done primarily for electrical safety and lightning protection, several participants at the meeting discussed their experience with nearby lightning. Ken Knaus, KK6ZHK, told a particularly harrowing story about driving a rental vehicle on I-17 northbound to Flagstaff when the vehicle was hit by lightning. This fried the instrument panel on the dashboard of the vehicle and made the trip harrowing, but certainly memorable.

Bill Jean, KK7LGE, reminded members that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 2024 at El Toreo Restaurant in Clarkdale. The regular meeting convenes at 1:00 PM and the informal luncheon is at 11:30 AM.

Bill called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil Gardner, W9KKR, made a motion to adjourn. Bill Jackson, W7ILX, seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously shortly after 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of October, 2024

Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, VVARA Secretary

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