Minutes of May 17, 2025
Regular Membership Meeting
of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association

Location: Calavera Restaurant, Cottonwood, AZ

Business Meeting Time: 12:45 PM Speaker Presentation: 1:00 PM

A pre-meeting informal luncheon was available at Calavera Restaurant commencing at 11:30 AM. Most of the members attended both the pre-meeting lunch and the regular meeting.

Present: Twenty-two members of VVARA and one guest ham radio operator, Curt Czarsty, KA1BDG, attended the meeting.

Treasurer, Don Sears, N7PLL, called the business meeting to order at 12:51 PM. Don then lead the membership in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Don announced that President Bill Jean, KK7LGE, and Vice-President, Toby Payne, K7ABP, were both out of state and unable to attend today's meeting.

Secretary Report. Treasurer Sears asked VVARA Secretary Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, to give the Secretary's Report. Tim indicated that he had been out of state and unable to attend the April 19 meeting. In his absence, Anita Colebrooke, AC7AL, a new ham and new VVARA member, had graciously agreed to act as Club Secretary at the April meeting. Anita prepared written minutes of the April 19 meeting which needed to be approved. Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2025, meeting. Ron Rosson, N6XT, made the motion. Larry Johnston, KJ7GTY, seconded the motion. Don called for a vote and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Don Sears then gave the Treasurer's Report. He noted that he had just paid the $100 annual dues for the Mingus Mountain Improvement Association, an organization that VVARA supports due to our repeater site on Mingus Mountain. Don mentioned the current balance in the VVARA checking account and asked if there were any questions or comments about the Treasurer's Report. Bill Jackson, KC7ILX, noted that the club's finances appeared healthy. Don called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Marny Zuercher, KF7QVK, made the motion. There were numerous seconds. Don Sears called for a vote and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Membership Committee Report: Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, gave the Membership Committee report. Starla indicated that there are 162 paid members and that that four new members had joined VVARA recently. One of the new members, John Krebs, KM7ABC, introduced himself and explained that he had recently gone from being licensed as a Technician Class operator up to the top-of-the-line Extra Class licensed operator prompting a round of applause from the audience.

Technical Committee Report: Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, gave the Technical Committee report. Bob reported that VVARA's repeaters were all working well and there was not much else of recent note to report. He asked if there were any questions from the members. There being no questions, Bob completed his report.

Old Business: Don mentioned two items. First, the upcoming Prescott Hamfest scheduled for Saturday, May 31. Don noted that the Prescott Hamfest has moved to a new location and pointed members to www.prescotthamfest.com for further details. Second, he stated that the Yavapai Amateur Radio Emergency Services (Yavapai ARES) organization is looking for ham radio operators to join to provide public service communications during emergencies. Don is a member and if anyone is interested in joining ARES, Don will be happy to assist.

Guest Speaker Presentation: Field Day June 2025 Treasurer Sears then introduced our guest speaker, Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, VVARA's Director at Large, to speak about the upcoming Field Day. Steve began his presentation with a short slide show set to music to highlight pictures taken at the 2024 Field Day. Steve explained that VVARA's 2025 Field Day operations are scheduled for Saturday June 28 and Sunday June 29 up in the parking lot at the top of Mingus Mountain. VVARA sets up a field day station in conjunction with the American Radio Relay Leagues (ARRL) annual Field Day event.

Steve explained the equipment that the club would operate on Mingus Mountain was pursuant to a permit issued to the Club by the National Park Service. VVARA will have radio equipment capable of operating on SSB, CW and FT8. Field Daily operations will commence at 11:00 AM on Saturday the 28th and continue through 11:00 AM on Sunday, the 29th. VVARA may need members to help set up the station ahead of time, possibly as early as Friday June 27. Volunteers are also needed to help take down the station and clean up the site on Sunday morning June 29.

VVARA has Park Service permission for three overnight RV sites in the Mingus Mountain Summit parking areas. The Club generally borrows a trailer from member, Carolyn Hills, KA7LKW, which allows the club to power the transceivers with battery power. This allows the Club to earn a higher point score in the national Field Day event.

Steve encouraged everyone at the meeting to participate in Field Day. A sign-up sheet is available on the VVARA.ORG website. Steve noted that there will be several extra class operators present at the Club's Field Day operating station and this gives hams with more restrictive FCC license privileges to operate in conjunction with an Extra Class license on new frequencies and modes.

Steve noted the ongoing involvement of multiple VVARA members in the continuing success of the Club's Field Day Operations, including but not limited to, Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, who gets the Park Service permits, Carolyn Hills, KA7LKW, who donates use of her trailer, Bob Smith, WB6ODR, who helps get the Club's G5RV HF dipole antenna strung up over tree limbs, Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, who organizes the Saturday Luncheon Potluck at Field Day and Ernie De Leon, K7IOG, the Resident Grill Master for Field Day.

Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, spoke about FT8 operations at Field Day. He indicated that he had a laptop that the Club could use for FT8 operations. He indicated that it would be best to link this laptop to a newer transceiver such as an Icom 7300 to enable the club operators to use FT8 at Field Day. Dan Wills, K7RUF, generously offered to allow the Club to use his Icom 7300 at the Field Day site. Steve Pearson and Toby Payne have been coordinating a small group of VVARA members to make the 2025 Field Day a big success.

The meeting was adjourned about 1:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of June 2025, Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, Secretary