

Minutes of January 15, 2024 Zoom Meeting  
of Present and Immediate Past Officers  
of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association

The meeting commenced at 1000 AM with new President Bill Jean, KK7LGE, and Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, on the call. New Secretary Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, joined the call at 1010, and Immediate Past Secretary Rod Rosenbarger, KI6FH, joined shortly thereafter. Rod taped the remainder of the call on a voice recorder.

The group discussion commenced with questions raised by incoming club Secretary Tim Sullivan about the logistics of fulfilling the role of VVARA Secretary. Rod Rosenbarger generously immediately gifted the club with the Sony voice recorder that Rod has used to record prior club meetings. Tim was able to pick up this voice recorder at Rod's home later that afternoon. The voice recorder is used to record the business sessions of club meetings, not guest speaker presentations. Using the recorder makes preparing the minutes easier.

Don Sears, K7PLL indicated that he posts the proposed minutes of club meetings on the VVARA website prior to the next meeting when minutes can be approved. The typical procedure is that the Secretary prepares the minutes and they are posted by Don, VVARA's webmaster and Treasurer, on the website without prior review by any other officers of the club. The minutes are up for edits and approval at the next regular meeting.

The discussion then moved onto a round table discussion of various other topics including: advance scheduling of VVARA club meetings in 2024; the history of videotaping club meetings over the past couple of years; the club's financial position; where the club stands regarding ordinary maintenance and improvements for its two repeater sites; what is an appropriate sum of reserve funds VVARA should keep for maintenance and capital improvements for the repeater sites; guest speakers for upcoming meetings, the insurance needs of VVARA; and are there any other initiatives that VVARA wishes to take in in 2024.

There was a consensus that the club would like to adopt a clear meeting schedule early in 2024 for all club meetings for the year. The two locations that we are currently using for club meetings --- the Prescott Golf Club in Dewey and the meeting room at El Toreo Mexican Restaurant in Cottonwood --- were discussed. Both are viewed as acceptable locations. There was a discussion about food service at El Toreo and a suggestion was made that we encourage the restaurant to take orders promptly after club members arrive so that food is served prior to the commencement of the regular meeting to avoid disrupting the meeting.

Don Sears discussed his experience digitally recording club meetings over the past couple of years. Don indicated that it takes about 45 minutes to set up the equipment to video a club meeting and that he spent about eight hours editing the recording before posting them on You Tube. Don is also able to see how many times a recording of a club meeting was viewed after it is posted on the website. Given the significant amount of time that Don has to put into preparing video recordings of meetings and the few number of times that a posted recording has been streamed from the website, encouraging club members to attend club meetings in person rather than relying on video recordings of meetings seems appropriate.

There was also a brief discussion about the current financial position of the club and given that position whether the club wishes to consider giving a scholarship, consider improvements for the repeater sites or adopt any new roles or programs. The discussion was general in nature with no decisions made. Are members satisfied with the traditional meeting schedule of alternating meetings on both sides of the mountain in Dewey and Cottonwood with nine regular meetings, two months off in the summer, a summer field day and a December holiday banquet? The consensus was that until we hear otherwise from club members, we will stay the course. These topics are likely to be revisited at another Board meetings when more Board members are in attendance.

The discussion of the two club repeater sites involved what outstanding projects, if any, need to be completed at each site; what equipment might need to be replaced or upgraded and what the expected capital needs might be to fund replacement and upgrades at the repeater sites. Possibly increasing the height of the tower on Mingus Mountain was mentioned. Further discussions between the Board and the Technical Committee will occur to guide any future decision making. In the interim, the participants on the January 15 call expressed an interest in visiting both repeater sites at a convenient future date.

Upcoming guest speakers were discussed. Bob Shipton, K8EQC, has graciously arranged for the guest speakers for the first three club meetings for 2024. New Vice President Ron Rosson, N6XT, will be taking over the recruiting of guest speakers thereafter. Rod Rosenbarger noted that the ARRL has several presentations that we may want to use at club meetings. The consensus was that having a canned presentation is helpful, especially when a scheduled guest speaker is delayed or unable to attend. Live presentations by guest speakers who can address technical topics of interest to ham radio operators, however, are preferred.

Club Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, mentioned that the Club has an insurance policy through the ARRL. We need to review the policy to determine what coverage the ARRL policy provides and whether the Club should consider any additional insurance coverage.

The meeting ended at about 1100 AM when first Rod, and then Tim, had to leave the meeting due to other commitments.

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted January 23, 2024.

Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, Secretary