

Minutes of March 18, 2024 Zoom Board Meeting  
of the Officers and Director  
of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association

**CONVENING THE BOARD MEETING:** Pursuant to an email invitation sent on March 16, 2025 at 6:25 AM from VVARA Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, inviting the Officers and Director to a VVARA Board Meeting via Zoom on Tuesday March 18 at 7:00 PM, the Board convened for a Board Meeting.

Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, opened the Zoom call at 7:00 PM. Director at Large Steve Pearson, KC7TIL and Secretary Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, joined the meeting at 7:00 PM. Steve Pearson reached out via a telephone call to Vice President, Toby Payne, K7ABP, who joined the Board Meeting about 7:03 PM. Tim Sullivan, reached out to President, Bill Jean, KK7LGE, via both a telephone call and a voice mail message at 7:04 PM and a text message to him at 7:06 PM asking Bill to join the Zoom Board member. Receiving no response from President Bill Jean, the Board meeting convened at 7:10 PM.

**DRAFT AGENDA:** A draft agenda for the VVARA Board Meeting had been distributed earlier in the day to all Officers and Directors. The agenda items were:

Should we place a limit on how long guest speakers can talk at Regular Membership Meetings?

Should we present guest speakers with a written guideline of our presentation expectations when signing up the guest speaker?

Should we conduct a short business meeting before the Guest Speaker presents?

Will we still be able to hold membership meetings at both the Prescott Golf Club and El Toreo Restaurant?

Should we change the location of one future 2025 membership meeting from the Atlantic (Verde Valley) side of the Black Hills to the Pacific (Prescott) side?

How can we encourage more Board and membership involvement in the recruitment and selection of guest speakers and guest speaker topics?

Can we mail membership badges to our new members rather than requiring new members to show up for a meeting to get their membership badge?

Should we follow up on the suggestion of Mark Gosic, W7MRG, at our March 15 meeting that the Club purchase some new transmitting equipment to conduct transmitter hunts on a regular basis in the Verde Valley?

Is there still interest in the Club funding a GMRS or FRS repeater?

Status of membership of KA7FEB, Peter Fish? He recently raised on the Knobby Knee Network that he did not know his membership status?

## **Board Discussions of Agenda Items**

Each of the Officers and Director present at the Board meeting discussed all of the agenda items. By a consensus the Board decided to advise guest speakers to keep their presentations to 30 minutes and encourage questions and answers for an additional 15 minutes.

The Board agreed that no written guidance would be given to speakers in advance but that they would clearly advise guest speakers of the overall 45 minute presentation time limit of 45 minutes, inclusive of questions and answers.

The Board discussed whether to put the Business meeting before or after the Speaker Presentation. There was a consensus that attending members are more likely to be interested in the speaker presentation than the business section of the meeting.

The Board decided to move the time of the Regular meeting up to 12:45 PM, with a 15 minute time limit to conclude the business session. Speakers will begin presentations at 1:00 PM, The Board's expectation that wrapping up both the business meeting and a speaker presentation within one hour will be easier for members.

The Board considered several aspects of how to encourage and solicit member input into the selection of guest speakers and topics for future topics that will be of interest to members. Vice President Toby Payne, K7ABP, suggested that in addition to the member sign up sheet that we have a sign-up sheet that will be passed around to members at the membership meetings. This sign-up sheet will encourage members to suggest possible speakers and presentation topics for future membership meetings. This suggestion will be implemented starting at the April meeting.

Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, suggested that the ratio of membership meetings be changed from five meetings on the Verde Valley (Pacific) side and four meetings on the Prescott, Prescott Valley, Dewey, Humboldt and Mayer (Atlantic) side, to five meetings on the Pacific side and four meetings (and the Holiday Banquet) on the Atlantic side. This slight change to the meeting schedule was adopted by consensus.

Treasurer Don Sears indicated that he had met with the current manager of the Prescott Golf Club and based on that discussion Don believed that we would continue to be able to meet at the Prescott Golf Club.

The Board then decided to ask the Membership Committee to mail membership badges to new members rather than continuing the current practice of bringing new members badges to membership meetings. Several laudatory comments were made about the dedication and effort that Starla and Bob Thompson have been making to get membership badges to new members including in some cases driving to new members' homes and personally delivering badges to new members. There was a Board consensus that the previous practice of passing out new members badges at regular meetings was too restrictive and that the Board wanted to make it easier on the Membership Committee and for new members to get their badges promptly by authorizing a regular practice of mailing badges to new members.

Vice President Toby Payne, K7ABP, suggested that the new member badges be mailed out with a cover letter from the VVARA President, welcoming the new member to the club, including information about

upcoming club activities, and asking new members to indicate activities that they would be interested in participating in.

This topic of encouraging more membership interest in club activities included whether VVARA should post some membership short bios on the website, encouraging members to post bios on QRZ.com, and other ways that VVARA can help current members meet new members. There was a recognition that protecting the privacy interests of club members is important and that no one should feel pressured to provide information to the club that the member felt uncomfortable with. This topic will be discussed at a future meeting so that we can get comments and ideas from members.

The Board then turned to the question raised by Marc Gosik, W7MRG, about conducting Fox Hunts for hidden transmitters on the Verde Valley side. (YARC conducts regular foxhunts on the Prescott side.) A decision was made to authorize the purchase of two transmitters as outlined in Marc Gosik's letter to the Board. The amount authorized was \$305. Marc Gosik was encouraged to immediately begin encouraging VVARA members and others to participate in this activity. Keep tuned to the VVARA website for additional updates.

Director at Large Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, indicated that he had further investigated General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) repeater availability on Mingus Mountain. Steve reported that there is an active GMRS repeater group meeting regularly through a Minus Mountain located repeater. Steve felt that there was no need for any VVARA involvement at this time.

Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, indicated that Peter Fish, KA7FEB, was a life member, and that Don would reach out to Peter to answer his membership question.

After opening up for any additional agenda topics, hearing no further suggestions, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2025

Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, Secretary