

Minutes of April 17, 2024
Regular Membership Meeting
of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association

Location: El Toreo Restaurant, Clarkdale, AZ

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM A pre-meeting informal luncheon was available commencing at 11:00 AM.

Many of the members attended both the pre-meeting lunch and the regular meeting.

Present: Twenty members of VVARA attended the regular membership meeting.

President Bill Jean, KK7LGE, called the regular meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Bill then lead the membership in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Jean then invited all members to standup and introduce themselves. Several of the members were funny in their self-introductions and all appeared to have a good time learning a bit more about one-another.

Video Presentation: A YouTube video about FT8, a digital weak signal propagation method was played. Hayden Harwood, VK7HH, a ham radio operator living in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia posted the video. Hayden has developed a well-regarded YouTube channel, HRDX, with over 56,000 subscribers. Hayden regularly posts videos on YouTube covering a wide range of amateur radio topics. The weblink for this video is: [Get Started with FT8 - An Introduction for Beginners | WSJT-X Ham Radio \(youtube.com\)](#).

A general discussion about using FT8 then ensued with both President Bill Jean and Vice President, Ron Rosson, N6XT, offering comments. Bill Jean noted that he was working on making it possible for operators at our Field Day site on Mingus Mountain to operating the station using FT8 if they wished to. Bill Jean also noted that he finds that occasionally it is easier to make contacts using FT4, rather than FT8, if the bands are crowded with signals.

At 1:40 PM, President Bill Jean moved the meeting onto regular business.

Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, VVARA Secretary, made available hard copies of the meeting minutes for the March 16, Regular Meeting at the Prescott Golf Club in Dewey and two Joint Meetings of the Board of Directors and the Technical Committee which took place via Zoom calls on April 3 and April 10, 2024. President Jean, KK7LGE, then called for a motion to approve the three sets of minutes. Don Sears, N7PLL, moved to approve the three sets of meeting minutes. Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ, seconded the motion. The Motion was approved by acclamation.

Don Sears, N7PLL, then gave the Treasurer's Report. Don noted that we had a few regular bills and had received annual dues from several members. Bill Jean called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Bob Shipton, K8EQC, so moved and Ron Rosson, N6XT, seconded the motion. By acclamation the membership approved the Treasurer's Report.

Bob Shipton K8EQC gave the Technical Committee report. He discussed the May 3, 2024 planned trip to Porcupine Peak where several improvements, including replacing the antennas for the 70 cm repeater and APRS system are planned. He also noted that several federal officials were planning to inspect all wireless facilities on Porcupine Peak.

Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, Membership Committee Chair, gave the Membership report. The Club presently has 147 members. We have added 11 new members this year.

Bob Shipton, K8EQC, asked for the floor again and spoke briefly about Peter Fish, KA7FEB. Bob alerted the members at the meeting that the Board had decided at the April 10, 2024 Board meeting to keep Peter as an active member by awarding him an honorary membership. Bob mentioned that he has known Peter since Bob joined VVARA back in the 1990s. Bob praised Peter as a hardworking and active member of the Club for more than 30 years. Peter now has some transportation issues that make it difficult for him to attend Club meetings but Peter still regularly checks in with the Knobby Knee Network. Bob indicated that he had spoken to Peter about being awarded Honorary membership and that that Peter is grateful for this honor. Bob led the group in a well-deserved round of applause for Peter.

A variety of other topics were then discussed including some of the features of the new weather station and camera that the Club put up at the Mingus Mountain Repeater site. Don Sears, N7PLL, answered the technical questions about the weather station and its capabilities.

Field Day was discussed and Ron Rosson, N6XT, reiterated the urgency of getting volunteers to sign up for a shift to operate station set up at the Field Day site. There was a discussion of several aspects of Field Day including the G5RV antenna which Bob Smith, WB6ODR, usually erects on the morning of Field Day. Ron Rosson, N6XT, noted that there was trouble loading this antenna up on the 15-meter band last year and urged that a test of this antenna be conducted. A member indicated that Mike Mladejofsky, WA7ARK, a well-recognized antenna expert had worked on that antenna and perhaps he should be consulted on any necessary changes to it.

Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, is coordinating the food for Field Day. She noted that the club will provide the main dish, beverages, and tableware. Attendees should please bring something to share: a side dish, salad or dessert. An email will go out next month with further details. She also urged all attendees to bring their own lawn chair to sit in as there are not enough benches at the Field Day site.

The meeting concluded with a reminder about the upcoming Prescott Hamfest on Saturday morning April 20th.

The meeting ended with a Motion to adjourn at 2:13 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted on May 17, 2024 by Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, Secretary.