

Minutes of May 18, 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 21 VVARA members and six guests in attendance also participated in the pre-meeting informal luncheon.

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

President Bill Jean, KK7LGE, was away out of state, and unable to attend, so Ron Rosson, N6XT, VVARA Vice-President, called the regular meeting to order at 12:54 PM. Ron led the membership in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Ron Rosson then invited all members and guests to introduce themselves. It was nice to hear the self-introduction by members, and by several non-member ham radio operators who attended as guests and several aspiring hams to be and other non-members.

Ron Rosson then introduced a slide show presentation, A DXpedition Adventure, about his trip in 2012 with John Kennon, N7CQQ, to American Samoa, a US Territory and Samoa (formerly known as Western Samoa). Samoa, is a Polynesian island sovereign state which declared independence from Germany in 1962 and was admitted to the United Nations in 1976.

Ron and John embarked from the US to American Samoa by airplane bringing along radio equipment and two Steppir Big Verticals to operate from both American Samoa and Samoa. In American Samoa, Ron operated with call sign KH8/N6XT, while John Kennon, operated with call sign KH8/N7CQQ. In Samoa Ron operated with call sign 5WOXT while John Kennon operated as 5WOQQ. During their travels they also operated from the ham shacks of local hams. In American Samoa, they operated from the ham shack of Larry Gandy, AH8LG, (SK). While in Samoa they operate from the ham shack of Atsua Akuma, 5WISA.

While Ron and John achieved their goals and logged over a thousand QSOs from both American Samoa and Samoa, they were not able to get out to the Tokelau Island group, due to the sporadic sailing schedule of the boat that could take them out to this remote set of three coral atolls, comprising about one and a quarter square mile with a population of about 1,500 people. This remote island chain, a dependency of New Zealand, has ZK3 call signs.

Ron Rosson is happy to share a copy of his well-illustrated and interesting PowerPoint presentation. You can get further information from QRZ at [5WOQQ - Callsign Lookup by QRZ Ham Radio](#). John Kennon posted notes about this DXpedition.

Ron fielded several questions about his presentation and received a well-deserved round of applause.

Ron then moved onto regular business at 1:09 PM and Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, VVARA Secretary, gave the Secretary's Report. Three sets of meeting minutes were moved and seconded and voted for approval at this meeting.

Don Sears, N7PLL, then gave the Treasurer's Report. Approval of the Treasurer's Report was moved and seconded. It was approved by acclamation.

In the absence of Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, Membership Committee Chair, due to family travel with Bob, KC8BOB, a few remarks were made by current officers about the current membership numbers for VVARA.

Matt Dutton, N7YIO, assisted by VVARA trustee and former President, Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, gave the Technical Committee report about their efforts to install new antennas at the Porcupine Mountain repeater site. This repeater site has been successfully updated due to the excellent efforts of the Technical Committee as well as several other VVARA members who took several trips up to Porcupine Peak to install antennas, two Yaesu Fusion repeaters, capable of both regular FM as well as System Fusion, Yaesu's digital repeater operating systems. Slides of the Porcupine Mountain site and the new Yaesu repeater equipment were shown. Members present at the May 18 meeting expressed their appreciation to all who assisted in updating this repeater. A big shout out to the Technical Committee!

Ron returned to ongoing business and urged all present to sign up for the upcoming Field Day. We need more operators. Club Secretary Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, encouraged volunteers to sign up on the attendance sheet on the way out after the meeting was adjourned.

Ron Rosson, N6XT, adjourned the meeting by acclamation of the members present at about 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of June, 2024 by Tim Sullivan, AC7TB.