

Minutes of June 15, 2024  
Regular Membership Meeting  
of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association

Location: El Toreo Restaurant, Clarkdale, AZ  
Scheduled Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

An informal luncheon was available commencing at 11:00 AM. Most of the 21 VVARA members and several guests who attended the regular meeting also participated in the informal luncheon.

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 PM by Ron Rosson, N6XT, VVARA Vice President, as Bill Jean, KK7LGE, VVARA President was travelling out of state.

Ron began the meeting with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Ron then introduced newly licensed (April 2024) amateur radio operators Mark Swarbrick, KK7SPO and his daughter, Chloe, KK7SQE, age 11. They presently reside in Cottonwood and reported that they are up and operating with both UHF/VHF mobile and fixed base HF amateur radio equipment. Per VVARA policy newly licensed amateur radio operators in the area are awarded one-year complimentary membership in the club.

Also introduced was newly licensed Marc Gosik, KK7TMK [now W7MRG]. Marc is the brother of well-Prescott Valley ham radio operator, Keith Gosik, KJ7GTX. Marc was first licensed as a technician class amateur radio operator in May, 2024. He passed the General Class license test two weeks later and then his Extra Class license test in July, 2024 --- an extraordinary fast rise from the beginners to the highest class of amateur radio operator license. Mark applied for and received a vanity call sign, W7MRG, and operates from his home in Rimrock. Mark is active on the Knobby Knee Network and the HF bands.

A hearty round of applause from the membership was given to these newly licensed and our newest club members!

Ron Rosson, N6XT, then introduced the first of several presentations. First presentation was made by Toby Payne, K7ABP, who discussed InfoComm 2024, which he recently attended in Las Vegas. Toby presented an interesting presentation including both slides and videos about new technological gadgets introduced at this national convention which alternates annual meetings between Las Vegas and Orlando, NV. While Toby indicated that many of these new gadgets were immediately geared for commercial users, he said that major consumer electronics manufacturers like Samsung and LG were already working on developing systems for in home use, including modular very light weight video devices that can be linked together to create huge home television screen. Stay tuned to InfoComm and Toby for the latest developments in home entertainment systems!

Ron then opened a round-table presentation about VVARA's upcoming Field Day operations on Mingus Mountain. Unfortunately, Club President, Bill Jean, KK7LGE, who had taken the lead in getting the club ready for the June 22-23 Field Day, was unable to attend the meeting but the contributions which Bill was making were duly-noted by other club members who spoke up during the round table discussion about the upcoming Field Day.

VVARA Director Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, a seasoned veteran of many VVARA Field Day operations, discussed the box of Field Day radio equipment which he had turned over to Bill Jean so that Bill could test it all and make sure that it was fully functioning, including FT8 and FT4 operations, for Field Day.

Steve discussed contributions made by other club members including Bob Smith, WB6ODR, who helps get the club's modified G5RV, HF dipole antenna, mounted on branches of trees near the operating site at Field Day. Carolyn Hills, KA7LKW, allows the Club to use her solar cell and storage battery trailer to allow the Club to operate from an emergency back-up power supply at the Field Day site. Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, volunteers to get the federal permits needed to operate adjacent to the Mingus Mountain top parking lot during Field Day. Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, again graciously volunteered to coordinate the Saturday June 22 potluck up at the Field Day operating site which is usually a well-attended and well-enjoyed meal for club members and guests at Field Day. Starla reminded everyone to bring a food item to share, your own personal chair and your own beverage to drink to Field Day. Chairs are needed as the Field Day site does not have enough seating to accommodate the number of hams and their guests at the Field Day potluck. Ron Rosson, N6XT, discussed the need for more volunteer operators to sign up for time slots to keep the site operational throughout the night. Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, recruited members to sign up for Field Day operating timeslots after the meeting adjourned.

#### Old Business

Secretary's Report. Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, VVARA Secretary, passed out printed copies of the minutes of the May 18, 2024 regular meeting. On a motion to approve the May 18 minutes called for by Toby Payne, K7ABP, and seconded by Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ, the motion passed by unanimous consent and the May 18 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report. Don Sears, N7PLL, VVARA Treasurer, Former President, and Webmaster, gave the Treasurer's Report. Don itemized the monthly debits and credits, including membership dues and current bills that had been paid from the Club's checking account and posted a slide showing the Club's current account balance. On a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, and seconded by Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ, the Treasurer's Report was approved by unanimous consent.

Membership Report. Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, provided the Membership Report and stated that the Club now had 140 paid family members.

Technical Committee Report. Many of the Technical Committee members were in attendance. Matt Dutton, N7YIO, Technical Committee Chair, lead the discussion about improvements which the committee was making at the Porcupine Mountain repeater site, including swapping out Yaesu transceivers, a new two-meter antenna, trying to eliminate a buzzing sound on one of the radios, etc.

Ron Rosson, N6XT, reminded everyone to sign the Field Day sign-up sheet on the way out. He reminded everyone that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 14 at El Toreo Restaurant in Clarkdale with an informal luncheon beginning at 11:30 AM with the regular meeting at 1:00 PM.

Ron then moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 PM. Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ, seconded the motion. By unanimous consent the motion to adjourn was granted.

Respectfully submitted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024

Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, VVARA Secretary.