

Minutes of October 19, 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 11:30 AM. Most of the 20 VVARA members and one guest who attended the regular meeting also participated in the informal luncheon.

Bill Jean, KK7LGE, VVARA President, convened the meeting at 1:00 PM. All members rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Jean then introduced VVARA member & guest speaker Fred Pierce, K7FWP, who made a presentation about Parks on the Air (POTA). Fred's interesting slide show and video presentation was fact filled, engaging and interesting & Fred was peppered with questions from members. Fred's presentation began with an 8 minute video about the basics of how to participate in Parks on the Air and Fred supplemented the presentation with a slide show and his own experience activating a POTA station at various parks and wilderness areas in Yavapai County as well as other areas of the state.

Fred explained the essential role of an Activator who sets up a up a mobile station at a park site, call CQ and engages in QSOs with Hunters, who are hams interested in working a Parks on the Air site. At the conclusion of the activation, the Activator uploads a QSO log in .ADI file format to the POTA website and and all Hunters who had a QSO with the Activator get credit for their conversation. POTA issues award certificates of all types that Hunters can work for. Bob Smith, WB6ODR, passed around his colorful POTA certificate for completing more than 100 POTA QSOs.

Fred's presentation included a handout of weblinks that members can access to get more information about getting involved in POTA. Fred received an enthusiastic round of applause at the completion of his presentation.

At 1:42 PM, President Bill Jean, moved to Old Business and asked for the Secretary' Report. Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, VVARA Secretary, passed out minutes for the September 14, Regular Meeting. He noted that there was one correction necessary to correct the name of the guest speaker who was unable to attend and make his presentation at the September 14 meeting. President Bill Jean called for a motion to approve the corrected minutes. Bob Smith, WB6ODR, moved to approve. John Black, K7IIA, seconded the motion. President Bill Jean, KK7LGE, called for a vote and the corrected September 14 regular meeting minutes were approved.

At 1:48, Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, gave the Treasurer's Report. Don noted in his report both income and expenditures since his last report and noted that his latest financial statement included the cost for a new 2 Meter antenna mounted at the Porcupine Mountain site. The cost for purchasing and shipping a commercial grade antenna was so high that the club opted to install a residential grade antenna on Porcupine peak at a significant saving for the club. President Bill Jean called for a motion to approve the approve the Treasurer's Report. Toby Payne, K7ABP, moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Bob Smith, WB6ODR, seconded the motion. Bill Jean called for a vote and the motion was approved by acclamation.

President Bill Jean next called for the Secretary's Report and Membership Committee Chair Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, noted that the Club has 156 members.

Bill Jean, then called for the Technical Committee report. VVARA Trustee at Large, Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, gave the Technical Committee Report in place of Matt Dutton, N7YIO, who was unable to attend the Club meeting. Steve indicated that the Club had been donated a pallet of back-up power supply batteries that were perfectly suitable for use at VVARA Mingus Mountain and Porcupine Mountain Repeater sites. Steve and Don Sears drove down to the Valley and brought back this pallet of batteries back from Mesa. Steve indicated that any batteries in excess of VVARA's back up battery needs at our repeater sites would be re-donated to other ham radio clubs in the area. These back up power supply batteries weigh 140#s each and it would have cost the Club about \$500 each to purchase these batteries. On motion, a big round of applause was given to Steve Pearson, Don Sears and Matt Dutton who were all involved in securing this donation and transporting this pallet of batteries back from Mesa up to the Club.

President Bill Jean then turned to New Business and noted that the Nominations Committee, Bob Rosevear, WB7RRQ, and Bob Shipton, K8EQC, were working on nominations for Officers for 2025. Bill noted that the election of 2025 officers would take place at the November 16 Regular Meeting at the Prescott Golf Course in Dewey.

Among the new business discussed was the AZ QSO Party. Several members of the Club participated in this event. VVARA member Jack Crabtree, W7JLC, hosted an operating party at his home and a group of club members joined Jack in making and logging QSOs in the 2024 AZ QSO Party. Congratulations to Jack and all other members who participated!

President Bill Jean, KK7LGE, then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Starla Thompson, KE7DTS, so moved. Ron Rosson, N6XT, seconded the motion. Bill Jean called for a vote and the motion to adjourn passed by acclamation.

Next Meeting: Saturday, November 16, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Prescott Golf Club in Dewey, WA

Minutes Respectfully submitted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024 by Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, VVARA Secretary