

Minutes of January 18, 2025  
Regular Membership Meeting  
of the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association

Location: Prescott Golf Club, Dewey, WA  
Scheduled Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

An informal luncheon was available commencing at 11:30 AM. Most of the 24 VVARA members and five guests who attended the 1:00 PM regular meeting also attended the informal luncheon.

**Introduction & Welcome to Guests:**

Bill Jean, KK7LGE, VVARA President, convened the meeting at 12:49 PM. All members rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill Jean congratulated and welcomed each of his fellow Officers and Directors elected at the November, 2024 to serve during 2025 including Vice President Toby Payne, K7ABP, Secretary Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL and Steve Pearson, KC7TIL, who was reappointed as Director-at-Large

Bill Jean then welcomed all members and recognized Dr. Gary Stouder, K9SG, and his wife, Joy, who reside now principally in Indiana but had traveled up to attend this meeting. Bill Jean and Toby Payne then recognized two guests, Dave Abbott, WB6BIL, and Levi Dutton, son of Matt Dutton, N7YIO, VVARA'S Technical Committee Chair

**Guest Speaker:** Vice President Toby Payne, K7ABP, who is also a member of the Board of Directors for Yavapai College, introduced the Speaker, John Morgan, Associate Vice President Career and Technical Education at Yavapai College at 12:55 PM. John Morgan gave an interesting and dynamic presentation about Yavapai College's Career & Technical Education Center many programs including those housed at the 108,000 square feet building owned by Yavapai College at 220 Ruger Road, Prescott.

Don Sears, VVARA'S Treasurer and Webmaster, has posted a video of John Morgan's full presentation on YouTube and provided a link on VVARA's website. Therefore, these minutes will summarize just some of the points that John Morgan, a very engaging and dynamic speaker, made. Yavapai College awards Bachelor of Science Degrees in Business and Nursing. It awards Associate Degrees in six fields and Associate of Applied Sciences Degrees (AAS) in twenty two fields. Yavapai College also awards certificates of proficiency in over 80 areas stretching from Early Childhood Education, Community Health/Critical Care Paramedic, 3D Printing and Manufacturing, Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Machining, Commercial Driver Training, Pilot Training and Air Traffic Control, Viticulture and Welding.

John Morgan is an animated and knowledgeable presenter and he was peppered with questions from the membership. John spoke eloquently about the advantages that students receive by beginning with the type of hands on training that Yavapai College gives to students pursuing technical education programs. While there is plenty of classroom work provided, requiring students to master actual projects in the multiple lab areas at the CTEC center in Prescott, encourages students to figure out mathematical solutions based on real life engineering and manufacturing problems and projects.

John is especially proud of the career success rates for students who obtain industry recognized proficiency certificates from Yavapai College. He spoke about the number of job openings each year in a

career field such as Electronics and Electrical Instrument Technicians. The demand from industry, as measured by the number of new job openings paying good wages for new technicians qualified in electronics and electrical instrumentation, is far outstripping the ability of colleges and universities in Arizona to produce enough graduates. Yavapai College CTEC graduates and certificate holders are heavily recruited by industry.

John received a great round of applause after his talk. For further information about the Career and Technical Education opportunities at Yavapai College, check out their website at [yc.edu/ctec](http://yc.edu/ctec)

At 2:00 PM, Vice President Toby Payne, K7ABP, reconvened the meeting with Old and New Business. He called for the Secretary's Report. Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, noted that the Minutes for the November 16, 2024 Regular Meeting had been posted on the VVARA website and copies were on the tables at the current meeting. Vice-President called for a motion to approve the minutes for the November 16, 2024 meeting. Ernie DeLeon, K7IOG, made the motion. Bob Smith, WB6ODR, seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the minutes were approved.

At 2:02 PM, Vice President Payne called for the Treasurer's Report. VVARA Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, gave his oral report and posted a slide showing the latest debits and credits to VVARA's bank account, including the current balance. Don noted that 2025 membership dues were currently due and he was sending out a reminder email to members who had not yet paid their 2025 dues.

Vice-President Payne called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Carl Lubisich, KE6NOP, seconded the motion. On an oral vote, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Vice-President Payne called for a Membership Committee report. Bob Thompson, KC8BOB, gave the report. Bob indicated that currently VVARA has 161 members.

Vice President Payne then asked for a report from the Technical Committee. Matt Dutton, N7YIO, gave the report. Matt discussed how he diagnosed and fixed an Echolink/AllStar connection problem with the Mingus Mountain two-meter repeater. Several hams had been unable to connect to the Knobby Knee Network for several days due to this problem. Several hams thanked Matt and others who helped in solving this problem quickly despite the need to make a special trip up Mingus Mountain to do it.

Matt then discussed the surplus batteries that had recently been donated to VVARA. The Technical Committee was installing them as the backup power supplies at VVARA's Mingus Mountain and as the primary power supply for the Porcupine Peak repeater site.

Matt also discussed an upcoming effort to upgrade the duplexers at Porcupine Peak due to some interference on the signals. He hoped installing six cavity duplexers would solve the issue. He noted that a volunteer work party trip up to Porcupine Peak was being organized to complete this work.

Vice President Payne indicated that he was organizing a tour of the Yavapai College CTEC center and that anyone who was interested in attending this tour should send an email to either Don Sears or himself so that they could inform the college of the number of VVARA members who will take the tour.

At 2:10 PM President Bill Jean then called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made and passed.