

Minutes of March 15, 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 29 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 12:55 PM. All members rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill Jean then called out for new members and guests. Ed Loesche, KG7NLH, and Mark Napier, KK7YDL, introduced themselves and both received a round of applause. Guest Matt Borja, K7INI, introduced himself. He brought three of his kids with him. Matt received a round of applause.

Guest Speaker:

Fred Pierce, K7FWP, began his presentation on Parks on the Air (POTA) at 12:59 PM. Fred had also spoken at the October 2024 Regular Meeting at El Toreo Restaurant in Clarkdale. Fred spoke until 1:42 PM. Fred responded to multiple questions during his presentation.

VVARA Treasurer and Webmaster Don Sears, N7PLL, video recorded Fred's POTA presentation and posted a video link to the presentation on the VVARA website. Please check out the weblink if you wish more information about Fred's presentation. Fred received an enthusiastic round of applause at the conclusion of his talk.

Bob Thompson, KD6DYR, a guest at the VVARA membership meeting mentioned that he has access to Parks on the Air T-Shirts that had been designed by a fellow ham radio operator. Anyone interested in getting a personalized POTA T-Shirt should reach out to Bob Thompson.

Secretary Report:

At 1:43 PM President Bill Jean, KK7LGE, asked for the Secretary's Report. Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, Secretary, informed Bill Jean that a motion to approve the minutes for both the January 18 membership meeting at the Prescott Gold Club in Dewey and the February 15 membership meeting at El Toreo in Clarkdale was needed. President Bill Jean called for a motion. Vice President Toby Payne, K7ABP so moved. Ron Rosson, N6XT, seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

At 1:45 PM, President Bill Jean called for the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, gave the Treasurer's report summarizing the current receipts and expenditures of the Club and showed the current club bank account balance. President Bill Jean called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. There were multiple movers and seconds to the motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Membership Report:

At 1:47 PM President Bill Jean called for the Membership Committee Report. Treasurer Don Sears, N7PLL, reported that there were 166 paid members and that 15 members had not yet renewed their membership for 2025. Don reminded members that dues must be paid by the end of March. Those members who do not pay their renewal fee by March 31, 2025 are deleted from the membership roll.

Technical Committee Report:

At 1:48 PM Vice President Toby Payne, K7ABP, gave a brief technical committee report about efforts to incorporate newer back up batteries at the Club's two repeater sites. He also reported that some of the current backup batteries were in good operating condition and would be donated to the Mingus Mountain Repeater Group for back-up power at their repeater site.

Field Day:

At 1:49 PM President Bill Jean reminded members that Field Day 2025 will occur on June 28-29, the fourth weekend in June. Volunteers are needed for the Saturday luncheon as well as to set up and take down the Field Day operations site and operators are needed to keep the Club's Field Day station on the air.

Membership Suggestion:

At 1:50 PM, VVARA member Marc Gosik, W7MRG, addressed the meeting. He suggested that the Board approve an expenditure of about \$300 to purchase a set of specialized ham bands transmitters so that the Club can conduct Fox Hunts (using directional antennas to locate hidden amateur radio transmitters). Marc expressed an interest in organizing Fox hunts on the Verde Valley side (the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club already conducts regular Fox Hunts on the Prescott side of the Black Hills). There was interest expressed at the meeting in supporting Marc's suggestion.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

At 1:52 PM, President Bill Jean reminded members that the next VVARA Membership meeting is scheduled at the El Toreo Restaurant in Clarkdale on Saturday April 19, 2025. Bill then called for a motion to adjourn. By acclamation, the meeting was adjourned.

Draft minutes respectfully submitted on March 31, 2025

Tim Sullivan, AC7TB, Secretary