Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association
Regular Membership Meeting
Minutes of September 26, 2026

Location: Calaveras Mexican Restaurant, Cottonwood, AZ
Attendance: 22
Voting Members: 21, constituting a quorum

President Bill Jean KK7LGE started the meeting at 12:40 p.m. by leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

New member, Mike Huttinger WA5NLE was asked to introduce himself to the group. There were no new guests at the meeting.

Officer and Committee Reports

Secretary Report:
Prior minutes were posted on the VVARA website. Needed correction to prior minutes noted by Starla Thompson KE7DTS stating that the call sign shown for Fred Pierce K7FWP in the presentation section of the minutes was incorrect. A motion was made by Toby Payne K7ABP and seconded by Dean Gain KG7KJX to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was passed by show of hands.

Treasurer Report:
Larry Johnston KJ7GTY stated that during the summer months he submitted the monthly financial review to the Board. The only non-recurring expense was a $200 donation to support the AllStar system. A motion was made by John James KK7FZM and seconded by Carl Lubisich KE6NOP to approve the report. The motion was passed by show of hands.

Membership Report:
Starla Thompson KE7DTS reported that we currently have 175 members. Year to date, there have been 17 new members, 7 of those joined over the Summer break.

Technical Committee:
Dan Wills K7RUF reported that the annual Forest Service site inspection at the Mingus Mountain repeater location had been completed and that there were only a couple of minor issues (grounding) to review.

Larry Johnston KJ7GTY shared that he received a notice from the US Forest Service in Washington, DC, stating that an annual inventory report for both Mingus Mountain and Porcupine Mountain locations is due October 15th and that he has spoken to Matt Dutton N7YIO, Chair of the Technical Committee, and confirmed that Matt will handle the reporting.

Old Business:
Short review of how successful this year's Field Day was with a large number of attendees and lots of contacts made.

New Business:
50th Anniversary/Christmas Party
Starla Thompson KE7DTS stated that the committee, consisting of her, Bill Jean, John James and Tammy Spetz, had worked to make the following plans:
WHAT – 50th Anniversary/Christmas Party
WHEN – 12/5/2026 Noon to 3 pm
WHERE – Highland Center for Natural History
WHY – Celebrate VVARA
HOW - Buffet menu, entertainment by Tommy Ross plus raffle and goodies
WHO – Everyone – Invitations via email approximately 10/1 with links to purchase dinner tickets ($25/person) and raffle tickets. Also link for dropping pictures, videos, etc. of club memories. Cut-off for purchase of dinner tickets will be the latter part of November. Larry Johnston KJ7GTY reminded members that all checks should be made out to VVARA.

By-Laws update
Starla Thompson KE7DTS stated that the updated By-Laws and Policy and Procedures had been available on the website for more than 30 days. The floor was opened for questions or discussion. Since there were none, a motion was made by Kurt Roth W9ERT and seconded by Ron Rosson N6XT to approve the updated By-Laws and Policy and Procedures guide. The motion was passed by show of hands with 15 members voting Yes and 0 members voting No, thus making them effective as of the date of the vote.

President Bill Jean reminded the group that the next meeting would be held on October 24, 2026 at Calavera Bar and Grill in Cottonwood.

Presentation:
Dan Wills K7RUF gave an interesting presentation by sharing photos and memories from being at Ground Zero with the emergency team immediately after 9/11. He shared some of the lessons learned during that time and some of the difficulties of establishing communications at the site.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Submitted by Penny Johnston KK7FBE
On behalf of Mark Napier