



COCHISE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1855, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636



CARA Membership Meeting Minutes March 3, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President KX6X. Vice President AA7RH, Secretary KD7OED, Treasurer K4AFN and Member at Large KF7PDV were also present.

Presentation: The meeting began with a presentation by special guest KD6XH who covered his recent DXpedition to T33A/Banaba Island. The event was two years in the planning in order to reach one of the most remote islands in the Pacific Ocean and required a tremendous logistical effort to bring all of the supplies required for 18 men to operate for 16 days. Contacts were made via SSB, CW and RTTY on all bands except 160M which was CW and SSB only. The nearly 300 indigenous people on the island live in extremely primitive conditions (e.g.; there are no chairs on the island, so while not standing or walking the locals sit and sleep on grass mats that are carried with them everywhere they go). The team included a doctor and a dentist who spent the majority of their time attending to the needs of the locals who have no doctor or dentist of their own. Upon departure, the team also left supplies of medicine and fuel that will assist the locals in maintaining improved hygiene and living conditions.

President's report: President KX6X provided an overview of tonight's board of directors meeting:

- a. The board discussed the critical need for a hamfest chair.
- b. KF7PDV discussed some ideas about membership cards.
- c. CARA received 1st place in the Arizona section Multi-Op Low Power category during the 2012 ARRL November Sweepstakes contest. Participants included KD7OED, K4AFN, and AA7RH.

Vice-President's Report: AA7RH Reported that the controller for the south tower beam has been repaired at a cost of approximately \$240, but has not yet been re-installed and tested. The broken motor on the Stepp-IR has been returned to the manufacturer for service. The tech team has tested a 4-bay antenna that will be used to replace the current Isopole antenna on the 146.76 repeater. The Kendecom transceiver on that repeater is well over 10 years old and experiencing a 60Hz hum and lack of sensitivity. AA7JB will assist in reprogramming the spare Vertex repeater to 146.76 so that the Kendecom unit can be taken down and serviced.

Secretary's Report: KD7OED noted that the minutes from the January and February meeting were posted on the CARA web page for review. The only change to the draft minutes is that the January minutes now reflect that N7INK provided an overview of all ARES/RACES activities for calendar year 2013. Motion by WB6OTS seconded by W7OL to approve the draft minutes as corrected – the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: K4AFN reported that a copy of the current treasurer's report is posted on the Larson Hall bulletin board for review, and provided a brief summary of recent activity. The bank statements have all been reconciled with club records with no discrepancies noted.

RACES Report: N7INK reported:

a. CARA support to the Old Pueblo 50 footrace this past weekend was critical. Due to the intense rain, it was difficult to keep track of runners who frequently had their numbers posted underneath rain gear, and several runners dropped out of the race without notifying race officials or other support teams. Several runners experienced symptoms of hypothermia and one was transported to a Tucson hospital for treatment. Although accountability was eventually established for all runners, three runners and eleven support personnel were forced to spend the night out on the course due to flooding of washes, but all returned home safely by noon the following day. A few minor glitches were noted with radio programming in the MCU, but the use of amateur antennas instead of the public service band antenna was a big improvement over previous years.

b. The SAR team will conduct overnight training this coming weekend and MCU augmentation is desired. If you would like to participate, please contact N7INK ASAP.

ARCA Report: KC7GTY was absent so no report was presented. The next ARCA meeting will be at the Scottsdale Hamfest on March 15th.

Past President's Report: WB6OTS reported that preparations for ARRL Field Day are in full swing – more will be discussed next month.

CARA NET Report: KC7GNM was absent so no report was presented.

Old Business:

a. KX6X noted that the annual hamfest is only two months away and we really need a volunteer to chair the event. K4AFN selflessly volunteered to take the helm; he will be assisted by N7BIL coordinating food service and KF7PDV coordinating equipment and Junque sales.

b. No decision has been made on upgrades to the HF towers and antennas pending completion of repairs on the South tower rotator controller and the Stepp-IR antenna.

c. Only limited progress has been made since last month on the review of CARA Bylaws and Standing Rules, and in the creation of a set of club standard operating procedures. Members who want to provide input on any of these topics should contact any board member.

New Business: The club welcomed new members: KG7IHO and KG7IHP.

50/50 Raffle: New club member KG7IHP won \$17, with the other \$17 going to the club treasury.

Next Club Meeting: The next meeting will be April 7th at 7:00 PM.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:29p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED
CARA Secretary

