



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



CARA Membership Meeting Minutes

April 7th, 2014

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

Presentation: The meeting began with a presentation by special guest Charles Darrow/KG7LC. Charles is one of the former owners of Dentron Corporation – a manufacturer of HF amplifiers and transceivers. He presented some interesting history about the Dentron product line that included the Clipperton, GTR, DTR, and GLA amplifiers, and the MLX-mini transceiver. Charles is now retired in Sierra Vista and can answer questions about older Dentron products.

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

- a. The club is seeking donation of laptop computers for the club.
- b. AirNem Tower Service is scheduled to begin work on the club's towers on May 15, 2014.
- c. W7JL is moving his tower from Sierra Vista to Tucson – please contact him if you can help with removal (he has a crane lined up but needs assistance with tag lines during removal).
- d. The club is considering increasing the frequency of administering license exams from twice a year to quarterly.

Vice-President's Report: AA7RH reported that the controller for the south tower beam has been reinstalled, and is now working again. The antenna performance leaves something to be desired, however – being resonant at approximately 15MHz. The broken motor on the Stepp-IR has been repaired and returned from the manufacturer, and will be reinstalled shortly. AA7RH and AA7JB removed the Kendecom transceiver from the 146.76 repeater and temporarily replaced it with the spare Vertex unit. The Vertex

unit is quite sensitive to over-deviation, so users are requested not to “swallow the mic” while transmitting and keep the mic several inches away from their mouths to avoid this problem. The Kendecom unit will be returned to the manufacturer for service.

Secretary’s Report: KD7OED was absent due to business travel so no report was presented.

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. He also passed around a sign-up for CARA Name Badges. If you need one contact K4AFN - k4afn@arri.net. The cost of new name badges is \$8 or free for new members (cost included in initiation fee).

Hamfest Report: Hamfest chair K4AFN reported that the hamfest is on track and all the main prizes are on hand. A sponsor board has been created and is ready to receive sponsors input. Sponsors can be businesses, organizations, or individuals. Cash donations received will be applied to the cost of purchased prizes, and tickets are on sale here tonight. Thanks to AB4LE Wendell and XYL Yvonne for their great support! Tickets will be mailed out on request. We still have a few positions to fill on our volunteer staff. Contact k4afn@arri.net with questions or to volunteer.

RACES Report: N7INK reported on RACES/ARES activity since the last club meeting:

- a. 3/27 Montezuma Pass Search/Rescue – RACES responded to assist Search and Rescue for the report of a 29 year old man overdue from hiking the Arizona Trail. The individual was located by a Border Patrol helicopter and assisted out of the area by a SAR ground team.
- b. 3/29 Bisbee Search – RACES with County Mobile Communications Unit to assist a search for 2 missing kids ages 5 & 7. The multi-agency search effort included, Bisbee Police and Fire, Cochise County Sheriff & SAR unit, Border Patrol ground & helicopter, Arizona Department of Corrections Dog Team, & Arizona Rangers. The kids were located safely at relative’s house.

- c. N7INK met with Cochise County Emergency Services Director Norm Sturm on March 12th concerning the plan to relocate the County EOC to the IT Learn Lab. The plan includes moving the radios (HF/VHF/800) and antennas from the Sheriff's Office and should be completed by the end of the year.

N7INK was recognized as a worthy recipient of the 13th Annual Arizona Governor's Volunteer Service Award. He will be presented with a Lifetime Achievement award on April 25th in Mesa. N7INK also distributed T-shirts to volunteers from the March Old Pueblo 50 event who had not yet received them, and gave a short demonstration of his new Gator Box portable HF/VHF/UHF kit that includes dual transceivers, a power supply, an HF tuner, and a Signalink interface for digital communications.

ARCA Report: There was an ARCA meeting at the Scottsdale Hamfest on March 15th. ARCA will assist the Arizona Amateur Radio Club with the DeVry hamfest on April 12th. Plans for the 2014 Arizona State Convention at Williams re well underway with several changes/additions this year.

- a. The grounds will open at noon on Thursday July 17th instead of the traditional 5:00 PM opening.
- b. Tentative planning is underway for a special hoe down at the Wild West Junction with food, drinks and live music on Thursday evening. Confirmation with the owner is pending – watch the ARCA web site for future developments.
- c. ARCA has procured an additional tent for seminars and forums during the day on Friday and Saturday –a schedule will be posted on the ARCA website. Volunteers are needed to present topics of general or special information.
- d. Friday night will include a special \$9.95 Prime Rib Dinner at Doc Holiday's for those attending the Ham Fest.
- e. Friday night will also include a star party at the Ramada (former Holiday Inn) parking lot. W7LUX will bring his 14" telescope – the moon goes down after 10:00 PM. Others are encouraged to bring telescopes or binoculars.
- f. Saturday will again include a balloon launch by the Arizona Near Space Research group as well as the ARRL forum and ARCA annual meeting. The traditional Saturday Night ARCA Barbecue with presentation of the Ham of the Year award will be held at

Railside RV Resort, and the Sunday train ride to the Grand Canyon will also be available again.

Past President's Report: WB6OTS reported that planning for Field Day continues – the club has reserved space in Veterans Memorial Park for a true community outreach this year. Sign-up sheets will be available at the May General Membership meeting. He also reported on CARA support to the Boy Scout District Scout Show held March 22nd at Berean Academy. CARA provided 2 stations and instruction: 9 Scouts earned the Radio Merit Badge and reports from Scout leaders indicate that Scouts had great fun talking on the radio. The VHF link (via EAARS network) to the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix was a huge success. Those participating were KG7IHO, AB4LE, N7INK, K4AFN, KF7PDV, and WB6OTS.

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

Old Business:

a. The board continues to explore options on upgrades to the HF towers and antennas. A list of near-term and long-term options will be presented to the club at the May meeting prior to the AirNem tower service work beginning.

b. No additional 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:

a. CARA Support to Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM). Each spring, Cochise College invites fourth- through eighth-grade students from all Cochise County school districts to participate in activities related to STEM. Businesses, educational institutions and organizations from throughout Southern Arizona set up exhibits, demonstrations and workshops so students can see how math and science are fun and exciting to learn in everyday life. This year, N7NYG will be developing a power point about radio history and theory. KG7IHO will be setting up his VHF portable station and making arrangements for contacts with W7ASC, "The Ham Shack" in the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix. CARA/RACES

displayed the MCU last year - many children visited our displays and a few made some radio contacts. Additional help is needed for this year's event to be held on April 25th - contact k4afn@arrl.net if you can assist.

b. 7QP Plaque Sponsorship: K7DTB made a motion for CARA to sponsor a plaque for the upcoming 7QP event. The motion was seconded by KF7PDV and passed on a voice vote.

c. Armed Forces Day Crossband Test: KF7PDV reported that the Fort Huachuca Army MARS station will again participate in this event. Although Armed Forces Day falls on May 17th, by tradition the test is conducted a week prior (this year on Saturday May 10th) to avoid conflict with the Dayton Hamvention. More information including a list of active stations, times and frequencies can be found on the Army MARS website at <https://www.sites.google.com/site/armymarsportal/home/announcements>

50/50 Raffle: AA7RH won, and donated \$15 back to the club treasury.

Next Club Meeting: The next meeting will be May 5th at 7:00 PM.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED
CARA Secretary