



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



CARA Membership Meeting Minutes

May 5th, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President KX6X. Vice President AA7RH, Treasurer K4AFN and Secretary KD7OED were also present. Member at Large KF7PDV was absent.

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

- a. The club is seeking still donation of additional laptop computers for the club to support Field Day.
- b. AirNem Tower Service is scheduled to begin work on the club's towers on May 15, 2014. The work will include repairing guy wires and servicing all three of the large towers, removing the old 40-meter beam and the top 40 feet of the center tower, and installing the new rotator on the north tower. The club needs a couple of volunteers to be present on the 15th of May when this work occurs.
- c. KX6X also thanked K4AFN for doing an outstanding job on the hamfest – which was better attended than any in recent memory.

Vice-President's Report: AA7RH reported that the Stepp-IR antenna motor has been re-installed, but the antenna performance is still not up to part on 30 and 40 meters. The missing trap from the Wilson System 40 antenna on the north tower has been located and repaired. The club is in need of an antenna analyzer that covers the 440 band – he will make a recommendation for purchase next month.

Secretary's Report: KD7OED reported that we have 51 lapsed members who will be dropped from the membership roster per the club bylaws if they have not renewed their membership prior to the end of July. An email will be sent to all members who have not renewed by the end of May reminding them that their membership has lapsed. Of the remaining 69 members, 16

are life members, leaving 53 regular, associate, or family members. 39 of them have already renewed for 2014-2015 membership – leaving only 14 of our 2013-2014 members who have not yet renewed. KD7OED will stay after the meeting for those members who want to renew tonight. KD7OED also apologized for not having the draft April meeting minutes posted (he missed that meeting due to extended travel and is still consolidating input from other board members who did attend). The draft minutes for both the April and May meetings will be posted on the web by the end of the week.

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. He also stated that new CARA name badges have been delayed because of hamfest activity. If you haven't already requested a new badge, contact him at k4afn@arrl.net. The cost of new name badges is \$8 (or free for new club members).

Hamfest Report: Hamfest chair K4AFN reported that the hamfest was an overall success –and thanked the many members who helped make it so. The prizes went to club members K7GHB and KD7YOZ (Baofeng HTs), former club member and current Florida resident KB7BNR (FT-7900 dual-band mobile) and AF7FT from Tucson (IC-719 HF rig). The overall profit was approximately \$650 after expenses were deducted. Special thanks was given to N7BIL who donated almost \$200 in supplies for the breakfast and lunch service as this represents more than 25% of the event profit. As part of the open house activities – the club also participated in the 7th Area Communications Exercise. K7DTB reported that the club station made 193 total contacts (6 single-sideband, 118 CW, and 69 PSK-321) to all states in the 7th call area except Nevada, as well as 33 other states, Japan, South Korea, Canada, England, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, and Russia. K4AFN reminded everyone that this event requires lots of prior planning and almost didn't occur this year – NOW is the time to appoint a volunteer to start planning for next year's event!

RACES Report: N7INK gave a short history lesson about the evolution of our emergency communication vehicles over the past 20 years, and reported on RACES/ARES activity since the last club meeting:

- a. 4/26 Brown Canyon Ranch Display: the RACES team deployed the Mobile Communications Unit (MCU) in support of the annual Brown

Canyon Ranch Activity Day. A number of other public service and first responder organizations also participated. It was a good opportunity to help inform the community about our capabilities, but unfortunately the high winds and dust kept the turnout quite low.

- b. 4/30 Chiricahua National Monument Display: The MCU also deployed to support National Park Service personnel from all over the western states in training on basic search and rescue procedures. The RACES group provided a basic familiarization on the MCU and its capabilities, as well as the role that amateur radio can play in a wide variety of emergency scenarios.
- c. 4/13 to 4/16 Brown Canyon Fire: The MCU also deployed to support the Type 1 interagency wildland fire crew. The MCU provided critical ability to scan multiple different frequencies used by different agency fire teams to keep the fire management team informed
- d. RACES activity is up about 25% compared to this time last year (526 hours this year compared to 423 for last year).

ARCA Report: KC7GTY reported that the next scheduled Arizona hamfest is the Kachina Hamfest (AKA White Mountain Hamfest) in Show Low on June 7th. There will not be an ARCA meeting at that hamfest – the next ARCA meeting will be at the Arizona State Convention/Williams Hamfest in July. KD7OED reported that ARCA is now in the planning stages to support another “Prepperfest” in the Phoenix area on October 26th.

Past President’s Report: WB6OTS reported that planning for Field Day continues on track. A sign-up roster was circulated during the meeting soliciting volunteers to help with either setup/teardown or operating (or both!). The club has reserved space in Veterans Memorial Park for a true community outreach this year and will operate 4 different stations (CW, digital, SSB and “Get-On-The Air”).

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

Old Business:

- a. HF improvement plan: After much discussion, the board elected to defer purchase of a new HF antenna at this time because the Air-Nem contract doesn’t include the crane time that would be required to mount the

antenna on the north tower. Instead, the board has purchased a new Yaesu GX-2800DXA rotator that is strong enough to handle the wind load of the Wilson System 40 antenna currently mounted on the north tower. This is the same rotator that has turned the much larger 20M beam on the south tower for the past 10 years. This upgrade was considered more important than a new antenna because the current rotator cannot handle that much wind load, and the rotator is currently stuck with the antenna pointing to the northeast. The board will continue planning for other mid-term and long-term improvements for future consideration.

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.

c. There has been no decision on the potential of increasing the number of VE testing sessions to quarterly vice semi-annually.

d. K4AFN, N7NYG, KG7IHO supported the annual Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) expo at Cochise College on April 25th. The event was attended by 1165 students – many of them had a tour of the MCU and some of the actually talked on the radio!

e. KD7HAB reminded the members of the upcoming Armed Forces Day Crossband Test that will occur on May 10th. The Fort Huachuca MARS station will participate - more information including a list of active stations, times and frequencies can be found on the Army MARS website.

New Business:

a. K7DTB made a motion to amend the current club bylaws to permit email voting as an option to get club consensus when there are time-critical decisions that must be made. WB6OTS seconded the motion. KD7OED stated that the motion must include specific language that should be changed in the bylaws – and that current bylaws require written notification of all club members at least 15 days prior to any meeting that a change to the bylaws will be voted on. K7DTB stated that he would stay after the meeting to work out the specific language.

c. K7DTB also made a motion to amend the standing rules to provide a free one-year membership to any new ham who takes a class with CARA and passes the test at a CARA VE session. N7BIL seconded the motion. Specific language to affect this change will be drafted in conjunction with the other ongoing review of club standing rules.

50/50 Raffle: KE4ZZS won - \$22 to him and \$22 back to the club treasury.

Next Club Meeting: The next meeting will be June 2nd at 7:00 PM.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:19p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED
CARA Secretary