



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



September 14, 2015

President KX6X called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Vice-President N5OV, Treasurer NJ7C, Secretary KD7OED, Member at Large KF7PDV, and Past President WB6OTS and were present.

Program: WB6OTS and K7DTB presented a demonstration of FSQCall, a new digital mode that is designed for management of stations in an emergency, exercise or to support sports events. It is similar in some ways to text messaging and also includes a message relay capability for station B to relay a message from station A to station C if station C is unable to copy station A. It is based on weak-signal modes and incorporates many of the features of ALE without requiring expensive hardware – the demonstration was conducted using CARA HF radios and Signalink sound card interfaces, but it can also be used on VHF or UHF.

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

a. The board recommends dismantling of the north tower due to corrosion at the base of the tower. It has been in service at CARA for 30 years, but was acquired used from a commercial station in California and is probably more than 50 years old so the corrosion is not surprising. The antenna on top of the tower is also about 30 years old, and is missing a trap, so it is not economical to try to save the antenna. Motion by AD7HZ seconded by KC7GTY to approve destruction of the tower – the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. The actual date will be announced later this fall (likely after the ARRL November Sweepstakes) after complete plans for its safe destruction are completed.

b. South and Center Tower Certification. The board recommends that we initiate inspection of the anchors on the center and south tower rather than paying for the commercial operator to dig up and replace those

anchors. The initial phase will consist of digging down approximately 3 feet to inspect the anchor rods for signs of corrosion or stress. No final decision on way-ahead for those towers will be taken until this inspection is completed. .

Vice President's Report: N5OV had no additional comments.

Treasurer's Report: NJ7C reported that a copy of the current treasurer's report is posted on the Larson Hall bulletin board. He also proved a summary of the report.

Secretary's Report: KD7OED reported that minutes from the July meeting have been posted on the web for some time. Motion by W7OL seconded by KC7GTU to approve the minutes as posted – the motion passed on a voice vote. KD7OED reported that KX6X had taken notes during the August meeting and they will be posted on the web soon. He also noted that he still has many membership badges for distribution so please see him after the meeting if you are still waiting for your badge. Finally, KD7OED mentioned that the CARA fall swapfest will be held on Saturday November 7th. The Oro Valley club has also scheduled a hamfest for that day without prior coordination with either ARCA or the ARRL, but will ensure that next year they move their event to the following weekend so as not to conflict with our swapfest.

Technical Report: AA7RH reported that a special cable is required to program the new Yaesu repeater, and that will be on hand soon. The UHF antenna mounted at Morgan Manor is showing very high SWR, so the repeater will not be placed in operation until that problem is resolved.

Member At Large: KF7PDV reported that AB7AA will present a program on RMS express during the October club meeting.

Public Service Report: N7INK reported on four August missions:

8/3/2015 French Joe Canyon Search: The ARES/RACES unit deployed the County MCU to support the SAR team in an attempt to locate an individual purportedly suffering from dehydration and a snake bite in the French Joe Canyon east of SR 90. After approximately six hours the search was suspended overnight. The subject was located early the next morning walking near Kartchner Caverns.

8/16/2015 Douglas Search: The ARES/RACES unit deployed the County MCU to support the SAR team in an attempt to locate a missing 82 year old man and his dog near Douglas. The search was hampered by a series of thunderstorms and suspended at approximately 3:30 in the morning. A second day search was implemented with air support, but was not successful in locating the individual. Subject was entered into national registry as a missing person.

8/20/2015 Sierra Vista Search: The ARES/RACES unit deployed the County MCU to support the SAR team assisting Sierra Vista Police Department in locating a missing eight year old runaway in Sierra Vista about six in evening. The search was suspended at approximately 2:15 in the morning. The subject was found at approximately 9:30 the next morning.

8/23/2015 Carr Canyon Rescue – One member of the RACES unit provided communications relay between the SAR team and Pima County Sheriff's Office Air Rescue unit and ground teams in the rescue of a young man who had fallen and broken his Tibula/Fibula while climbing near the Carr Canyon Waterfall. The patient was transported by helicopter to the hospital for treatment.

Upcoming events include: The Cochise County Cycling Classic Race (October 10th), the Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb (October 17th), an Arizona Statewide Communications Exercise (November 4th), and the Colossal Cave 50/50 Footrace (November 14th).

ARCA Report: KC7GTY gave a reported that the next ARCA meeting will be held at the COPA hamfest on October 17th in Maricopa. The 2015 Arizona State Convention will be held in Kingman sponsored by the Mohave Amateur Radio Club on October 23rd and 24th.

CARA NET Report: KG7IHO reported that we are always in need of additional net control operators. It is a great way to hone your operating skills and lots of fun. If you are interested in become a net control operator, please contact him for further information.

Old Business: See President's report

New Business:

- a. AB4LE reported that he will be using the CARA facility on October 17th and 18th to support the Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air. A number of Boy and Girl Scout troops will participate.
- b. KG7IHO reported that the "Convoy On the Air" of historic military vehicles will pass through Cochise County on October 12th and 13th as part of their trek from Virginia to California commemorating the 1920 Bankhead Highway convoy. The convoy will spend the night at the Douglas Armory on October 12th and pass through Bisbee, Tombstone, St. David, and Benson before stopping in Tucson the night of the 13th. CARA has been assigned a special call sign to support this event, for more information please contact KG7DGY at guadalupee@yahoo.com.

50/50 Raffle: W7OL won a Yaesu shirt that was provided with the purchase of the new digital repeater. George (new club member – no call yet) won \$15 with the remaining \$15 going to the HF antenna improvement fund.

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

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED
CARA Secretary