



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



CARA Meeting Minutes  
February 6th, 2017

President KX6X called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Vice President KI7EKT, Secretary KD7OED, and Member-at-Large KE4ZZS were also present. Treasurer KI7FRU and Past President WB6OTS were absent.

**Program:** KE4ZZS gave a short presentation on home-made antennas, demonstrating a vertical 2M antenna, a foldable 3-element 2M antenna, and a means to build HF dipoles. KG7IHO also passed around a Vulcan brand cowboy shaped hard hat that meets ANSI Z89.1 standards for protection from objects impacting the top of the hat.

**President's report:** KX6X reported on preparations for Field Day. The club has agreed to compete with two other clubs as a Class A (portable) station. Unfortunately, the City of Sierra Vista will not allow us to use Veteran's Memorial Park this year due to a conflict with Movies in the Park scheduled for that weekend. The board has investigated other parks and school locations, but none of them appear conducive to a good event. The membership recommended we investigate Cochise College as a possible site, and N7DQS volunteered to talk to the college president. WB6OTS will also assist KG7TPI with organizing the event.

**Vice-President's Report:** KI7EKT reported that the VE testing conducted last Friday resulted in 9 members passing exams. One individual went from no license to Extra in one sitting.

**Treasurer's Report:** KI7FRU was home sick, so KD7OED reviewed activity in the club's finances since the January meeting. The major expense this month was renewal of the club's ARRL liability insurance. A copy of the report is posted in the back of Larson Hall for member review. Finally, he is still working on the overdue IRS report with KI7FRU.

**Secretary's Report:** KD7OED reported that minutes from the January meeting were posted on the club website for more than a month. There were no corrections or additions noted by members. Motion by AF7HZ seconded by W7OL to accept the minutes as published; the motion passed on a voice vote. While going through NJ7C's records, he also found a certificate where CARA placed first in the ARRL November Sweepstakes back in 2014 – the certificate is now mounted in a frame. Finally, he reported that the SteppIR antenna guy supporting the 30/40M trombone element was repaired last Saturday.

**Member at Large Report:** KE4ZZS reported that the Civil Air Patrol was involved in searching for a lost Shadow drone from Fort Huachuca.

**Past President's Report:** Past president WB6OTS was absent, but the Technician license class is underway on Saturdays through February 11<sup>th</sup>, with a VE session scheduled for Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be followed by a General license class meeting from Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> through Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> with the VE testing session on Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>. Start time for all classes is 11:00 AM, but the start time for both VE sessions is 9:30 AM. More information is listed on the CARA web page.

**Technical Report:** AA7JB reported that the 146.76 repeater is temporarily turned off pending resolution of the interference problem that has been occurring for the past several months. The Vertex repeater has been repaired, and will be re-installed on Saturday in an attempt to resolve the problem.

**Public Service Report:** N7INK reported on activity since December.

1/29/2017 – SAR Mission Scott Peak, Huachuca Mountains – N7INK supported this mission from his home station. The SAR team searched for two ladies who had wandered off trail. AZ DPS Helicopter located the ladies and transported them safely off the mountain.

1/30/2017 – SAR Mission, Whetstone. A 74-year-old male Alzheimer's subject walked away from his home in Presidential Estates and had been missing several hours before SAR/ARES-RACES teams were called. The subject was located by family shortly after the MCU departed Green Acres.

Upcoming events include:

2/21-2/23           IS-300 Course in Sierra Vista  
3/18, 19 and 25   COML Class in Tucson  
09/30/2017        NAMI Bicycle Ride in Sierra Vista

N7INK also reported that the RACES page-out system will be changed over from the Arizona state notification system to the Cochise County Wireless Emergency Notification (WEN) system sometime in the next couple of weeks. This is the same system that is used to pass county emergency notification to individuals who have signed up for emergency notifications.

**ARCA Report:** KC7GTY was absent so KD7OED reported that an Arizona House of Representatives committee recently approved a bill that would provide \$17 of the \$25 amateur radio license plate fee to ARCA. The bill now moves to the floor for house approval (which is anticipated) and then on to the Senate (where approval is also hoped for as the Senate majority leader helped author the bill). Upcoming hamfests include the Yuma section convention February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, the Scottsdale Hamfest on March 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Tucson spring hamfest on March 25<sup>th</sup>. ARCA also plans to vote on a revision to the ARCA bylaws to allow the summer hamfest to occur in June, July or August (the current rules do not provide for a June event) at the March meeting in Scottsdale.

**CARA NET Report:** AF7HZ reported that the club always welcomes new net control stations as it is a great way for hams to hone their operating procedures. This coming week the net will be conducted on the 147.02 repeater because the 146.76 repeater is off the air.

### **Old Business:**

- Repeater Linking: No update due to priority of repairing the existing repeaters and potential Mule Mountain upgrades.
- Discussion of proposed changes to the CARA standing rules was deferred to the next meeting.

**New Business:** Representatives (W4CRN, K3RFC, and KE0GIF) from the Butterfield RV Resort in Benson were in attendance and advised that the resort has a tower and 4-element beam. Unfortunately, the antenna is in poor condition and nobody seems to know how long it has even been at the location. If anyone can help them with repair they would appreciate it; if no repairs are made it will likely be removed soon. They also advised that the RV resort has a very nice 16" telescope and observation sessions are schedule most nights throughout the winter.

**50/50 Raffle:** KG7DJY and KC7LCI both won \$10 Applebees gift certificates. KC7LCE also won the 50/50 raffle, with \$20 going to her and \$20 going to the club.

**Next Club Meeting:** The next meeting will be March 6th at 7:00 PM.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED  
CARA Secretary