



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



CARA Meeting Minutes  
March 6th, 2017

President KX6X called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Vice President KI7EKT, Treasurer KI7FRU, Secretary KD7OED, and Past President WB6OTS were also present. Member-at-Large KE4ZZS was absent.

**Program:** AA7JB gave a presentation on how he built a home-made HF dipole antenna similar to a Buddipole™ using PVC plumbing pipe and a few other odds and ends for less than \$50. The antenna covers 20M and up, but could also be modified to cover 40M. It also includes an option to covert it to a vertical dipole for 2M operation. Information about building one for yourself can be found here <https://sites.google.com/site/w3ffhomepage/>. N7DQS also demonstrated a 3-element yagi antenna he built out of copper tubing for use in fox-hunting using plans from the ARRL handbook.

**President's report:** KX6X reported that the Oro Valley Amateur Radio Club (OVARC) is now conducting what is essentially a mini-Field Day exercise once a month. On Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> they will be operating from the Fairbank town site (by the San Pedro along highway 80 between Tombstone and Whetstone) and have invited CARA members to come out, observe and get to know each other. The RST point of contact is W8TK.

**Vice-President's Report:** KI7EKT asked that all members observe a moment of silence in remembrance club member KE7DLH who recently became a Silent Key after suffering from cancer. Several club members then offered short stories about Bob and noted that he will be sadly missed not only by CARA, but also by the local car club where he and his XYL were also active members. KI7EKT then thanked AA7JB and N7DQS for their presentations this evening, and noted that next month we will have presentations from KB5IM on a home-made vertical antenna, and from K7YSV on antenna modeling.

**Treasurer's Report:** KI7FRU reported on club expenses since the February meeting. Due to juggling schedules for her daughters, she inadvertently left her hard copies of the report at home, but a copy of the report will be posted in the back of Larson Hall this coming Saturday.

**Secretary's Report:** KD7OED reported that minutes from the February meeting were posted on the club website, and KI7AWE actually read them and sent him some corrections this month. There were other no corrections or additions noted by members. Motion by W7YNR seconded by W7WRJ to accept the minutes as published; the motion passed on a voice vote. KD7OED also reported that we have a newly updated and signed MOA between CARA and Arizona MARS for use of the Mule Mountain MARS shelter in exchange for performing maintenance on the MARS repeater, and that a new MOA with the Army Electronic Proving Ground is also in the works and expected to be signed later this month. Finally, he is still working on the overdue IRS report with KI7FRU.

**Member at Large Report:** KE4ZZS was absent so no report was given.

**Past President's Report:** Past president WB6OTS reported that there are 10 students in the General license class meeting Saturdays through March 18<sup>th</sup> with the VE testing session on Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>. Start time for the classes is 11:00 AM, but the start time for the VE sessions is 9:30 AM. A class syllabus is listed on the CARA web page. WB6OTS also reported that he will be working with KG7TPI to organize Field Day, and plans to have some classes on how to become a proficient contest operator later in the spring (after the General Class is complete).

**Technical Report:** AA7JB reported that the problems with 146.76 repeater were caused by a battery charger trying to charge 9-year old wet cell batteries that were 9 years old and had failed. He recommended that the club purchase two new AGM batteries and a charger for a total of 440 amp-hours of capacity. Motion by N7INK seconded by KG7TPJ for spending up to \$1000 from the repeater fund for this effort. After some discussion, the motion passed with no objections. Planning is also continuing for relocating the 147.02 to the EPG tower while the county tower is being rebuilt.

**Hamfest Report:** NH6BF reported that all prizes have been received, the raffle tickets will be ordered this week, and he is still looking for volunteers to assist with the hamfest.

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

2/24 Silver Peak Search – We received a call to search for two overdue rock climbers near Silver Peak in the Portal area. One ARES/RACES member deployed via POV from his home in Portal. There was also one SAR member stationed in Portal and one ARES/RACES home unit member assisting. The missing climbers were located successfully.

Upcoming events include:

3/18, 19 and 25	COML Class in Tucson
3/18	Scottsdale Springfest
03/25	Tucson Spring Fest
04/13	NCCH Health Fair, Willcox, AZ
04/22-23, 29	ComL Class, Tucson
05/06	CARA Hamfest
05/27	Sky Island Summit Challenge
07/04	Bisbee Coaster Race
7/22	White Mountain Hamfest, Show Low
09/30	NAMI Sky Island Bicycle Event

N7INK also noted that he is looking for a co-driver for the NCCH Health Fair event on 4/13, and that the Sky Island Summit Challenge is on Memorial Day Weekend when conditions are very dry, so it will not be a surprise if there are multiple SAR activities during that event.

**ARCA Report:** KC7GTY reported that the recent ARRL section convention in Yuma was a great event – with more than \$25K in prizes awarded.

**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.

**Old Business:**

- Repeater Linking: No update due to priority of repairing the existing repeaters and potential Mule Mountain upgrades.
- KD7OED reviewed proposed changes to the CARA standing rules that were recommended by the board. The existing rules showing the proposed changes in redline markup were displayed to the members so that all could see. Most changes were administrative in nature – the two that were not were raising the initiation (badge) fee for new members from \$10 to \$15, and changing the \$500 annual disbursement from the general fund to go to the HF antenna improvement fund (instead of the repeater fund). Motion by N7INK seconded by W7OL to approve the changes recommended by the board – after discussion the motion passed on a voice vote.

**New Business:** KG7ITC reported that Wicked Limitz is still in the T-shirt business, and asked for permission to solicit a new quote from them. Club members expressed interest in long and short-sleeve T-shirts and polos with and without pockets. KG7ITC will get a new quote for shirts and present it at the next meeting.

**50/50 Raffle:** N7BIL won a gift certificate for two adult meals at Culvers. W7WRJ won a certificate for one adult and one kid's meal, and KD7OED won a certificate for one kid's meal and a cookie dough concrete mixer. N7BIL also won the 50/50 raffle for \$27, with \$27 going to the club.

**Next Club Meeting:** The next meeting will be April 3rd at 7:00 PM.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED  
CARA Secretary