



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



CARA Meeting Minutes April 3, 2017

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

Programs: KB5IM 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 \$20. The antenna covers 40M and 20M and has been used to contact multiple Caribbean and United States stations on PSK. K7YSV gave an extensive presentation on antenna modeling, including the history of the various methods of moment models beginning with the original Numerical Electromagnetics Code (NEC) software (written in FORTRAN language at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in the 1970s) through subsequent public domain releases that now incorporate graphical user interfaces. He also demonstrated the EZNEC software that shows effects of dipole configurations and how performance changes when a horizontal dipole is changed to an inverted V. Probably the easiest way for amateurs to get started experimenting with antenna modeling software is to purchase the ARRL Antenna Handbook that comes with software about 400 different antenna configurations that can be modified by the user, as well as lots of diagrams and references.

President's report: KX6X reported that KG7TPJ/Rick suffered a head injury while camping and is now in a rehab facility in Tucson. As a result, KG7TPI will be unable to work coffee and donuts for the hamfest, or to coordinate Field Day activities, so WB6OTS is now the Field Day Chair.

Vice-President's Report: KI7EKT had to leave early, but asked for volunteers for presentations at the May club meeting.

Treasurer's Report: KI7FRU reported on club expenses since the March meeting. The largest income was from new members, and the largest expense was for the new deep cycle batteries and charger that will be installed as backup power for the Mule Mountain repeater. One of the new deep cycle batteries was on display at the front of Larson Hall, and a copy of the treasurer's report is posted in the back of Larson Hall.

Secretary's Report: KD7OED reported Governor Ducey has signed the Arizona amateur radio license plate bill that will return \$17 of each annual \$25 special plate fee to the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona for scholarships and other activities that promote amateur radio. The club also received a certificate of appreciation from outgoing ARRL Arizona Section Manger KE8DM for CARA's support to the ARRL for the past 4 years. KD7OED also contacted the IRS and completed the required form 990N for tax year 2016 – there is no need to do a retroactive form for 2015. The updated memorandum of agreement with the Army Electronic Proving Ground (EPG) regarding use of the EPG tower has passed administrative review at EPG with a few format modifications and is awaiting signature. The club welcomed new members KF7BJG, KD7M and KI7LAM to arrive at a total of 100 active club members. The minutes from the March meeting were posted on the club website, and there were other no corrections or additions noted by members. Motion by KB5IM seconded by AF7HZ to accept the minutes as published; the motion passed on a voice vote. Finally, KD7OED recognized prospective new member KE7YPO and visitor KI6QDO and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Member at Large Report: KE4ZZS had no significant info to report.

Past President's Report: Past president WB6OTS reported the club conducted a successful VE testing session on Saturday March 25th that will likely result in 4 new club members (note: one has already joined). He also noted that the club will conduct Field Day training on May 6th after the hamfest by participating the 7th Area QSO Party

Technical Report: AA7JB was absent so no report was given.

Hamfest Report: NH6BF reported that all prizes have been received, the raffle tickets are on hand so if anyone wants to purchase tickets please see

him. He also reviewed the list of hamfest volunteers we have so far – the list is posted on the white board in Larson Hall so if you haven't yet volunteered to assist please see him.

Public Service Report: N7INK reported on activity since February.

3/18 Fairbank Training Deployment – Several Members deployed to the Ghost Town of Fairbank as a practice run for Field Day. One of the members deployed a portable HF & VHF station as a test configuration for approximately 6 hours. HF Voice and digital as well as VHF voice were used. There was also a contingent from the Oro Valley Club deployed with their portable station as well. There were a number of onlookers as this is a popular tourist attraction.

There were no emergency callouts last month.

Upcoming events include:

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 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. As a result, the SAR squadron plans to only stage one team in support of the event, and has requested that RACES place one radio relay team near Bear Springs. The City of Sierra Vista has decided not to stage the San Pedro Surge bicycle event this year, so no RACES support is required. Finally, the satellite modem in the MCU is expected to be changed in the next few days due to a changeover of the service provider. There will be no change to operator procedures for the system, however.

ARCA Report: KC7GTY was absent so no report was given.

CARA NET Report: AF7HZ reported he will be out of town this Thursday and asked for someone to cover NCS duties for him – KD7OED will cover.

Old Business:

- Repeater Linking: No update due to priority of pending Mule Mountain tower upgrades.
- KG7ITC received two additional sources for T-shirts and is still exploring options.

New Business:

- It was noted that a copy of the club amateur license is not posted in Larson Hall – KD7OED will contact AA7JB to get a copy posted.

50/50 Raffle: KB5IM won the 50/50 raffle for \$27 and purchased 27 hamfest raffle tickets, with \$27 going to the club.

Next Club Meeting: The next meeting will be May 1st at 7:00 PM.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED
CARA Secretary