



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



CARA Meeting Minutes June 5th, 2017

President KX6X called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Vice President KI7EKT, Secretary KD7OED, Member-at-Large KE4ZZS and Past President WB6OTS were also present. Treasurer KI7FRU was absent due to military duty. A total of 32 people attended the meeting.

Programs: KB5IM gave a presentation on PSK31. This digital mode was developed as an alternative to RTTY by G3PLX and has become extremely popular. It uses very narrow bandwidth (about 20 PSK31 contacts can be made in the same bandwidth as a phone contact) and has very good weak signal performance. High power is not required – typically only about 25 watts is used. Other advantages include the fact that many free software packages are available, computer macros can be used for standard exchanges of information, and if you do need to type something other than what is in your macros the software will even wait for you while you type!

President's report: KX6X thanked NH6BF for his great work in pulling together our annual hamfest, and noted that KB5IM has stepped up and volunteered to honcho the event next year. He also reported that in addition to our preparation for Field Day, it is now time to start thinking about our annual expedition to Paradise. N7INK volunteered to contact the ARRL to get the special event station published online and in QST.

Vice-President's Report: KI7EKT reported that the board has decided to move the July meeting to July 10th in order to not conflict with the long Independence Day holiday weekend.

Treasurer's Report: KI7FRU was absent, so KI7EKT provided an update on club finance activity since the May meeting, and noted that the successful equipment sales during the hamfest was primarily a result of the many donations from NJ7C's estate.

Secretary's Report: KD7OED reported that the minutes from the May meeting were posted on the web. Motion from KB5IM seconded by N7INK to accept the minutes as published; the motion passed on a voice vote. He thanked those who renewed their membership during the hamfest, and reminded all that dues are due by the end of July. The annual report to the Arizona Corporation Commission was filed on time and we are now in good standing for another year – the next report is due by June 14, 2018.

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

Past President's Report: Past president WB6OTS reported that Field Day activities are ramping up quickly. We will participate from Green Acres as a Category 3F station with an additional GOTA station. He and KX6X will coordinate the CW station, W7WRJ will coordinate the phone station, W7OL and KI7EKT will run the digital station, and KG7DJY will run the GOTA station. Setup will begin at 0800 on June 24th, with additional site cleanup and administrative preparations the week prior.

Technical Report: AA7JB thanked N7INK, KD7OED, and KB5IM for installing the new charger and backup battery for the Mule Mountain repeater. The second battery arrived cracked during shipping – KI7EKT will work with the vendor and shipper to get a replacement.

Hamfest Report: NH6BF thanked everyone who helped out with the event and noted that there were no major hiccups this year. Attendance was approximately 200 people coming from Cochise County as well as Tucson and Phoenix.

Public Service Report: N7INK reported on activity during May.

5/1 Sierra Vista Alzheimer's Mission – We received a call to assist Search and Rescue (SAR) in locating an 82 year old Alzheimer patient who had walked away from his home in the Fry District. Our first RACES member arrived on scene and began a hasty search of the immediate area. Fortunately, he was able to locate the missing subject, and call SVPD Dispatch. An SVPD officer assisted in returning the gentleman home.

5/16 Miller Canyon Rescue – SAR was called to assist in providing assistance for an 80 year old diabetic lady who needed assistance getting down off the Miller Canyon Trail in the Huachuca Mountains. Two RACES members provided communications assistance to that effort. She was successfully transported off the trail and refused medical treatment.

5/27 Sky Island Summit Challenge – The Sierra Vista Parks and Recreation staff sponsored an endurance hike to three mountain peaks in the Huachuca Mountains. Participants could choose between a 1-Peak, 2-Peak, or elite 3-Peak Challenge. The event ran from 05:00 until 18:30 and included a total of 24 hikers for 3 Peak, 19 for 2 Peak and 13 for 1 peak events. ARES/RACES supported the County SAR unit for this event and received notification of a female hiker who became dehydrated and require medical assistance.

Upcoming events include:

06/24/2017	Field Day, CARA Site
07/01/2017	Coaster Race Practice Runs
07/04/2017	Bisbee Coaster Race
7/10-12/2017	MAG300 Incident Command Class, Sierra Vista
07/27-28/2017	MAG400 Incident Command Class, Sierra Vista
09/02-04/2017	Paradise Special Event
09/30/2017	NAMI Sky Island Bicycle Event, Sierra Vista
10/07/2017	Cochise County Cycling Classic, Douglas

ARCA Report: KC7GTY reported that the next ARCA meeting is this coming weekend (10 JUN) at the Prescott Hamfest.

CARA NET Report: AF7HZ reported that the Thursday night net on the 146.76 repeater is going well. He will be on temporary travel for work during the month of August and will need someone else to serve as NCS while he is out of town.

Old Business:

- Repeater Linking: No update pending Mule Mountain tower upgrades.

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Army Electronic Proving Ground (EPG) regarding use of the EPG tower: The updated draft MOA has passed admin review but is still awaiting signature by the EPG commander.
- CARA T-shirts: KG7ITC reported that she is still seeking additional quotes from other vendors.
- South Tower Guy repair: No update was provided this month.

New Business:

- K7HVV advised that this will be his last club meeting as he is moving to Tucson due to health issues. KX6X thanked him for his many years of faithful service to the club and to Cochise County RACES/ARES.

50/50 Raffle: W7WRJ won the 50/50 raffle for \$20, with the remaining \$20 going to the club.

Next Club Meeting: The next meeting will be July 10th at 7:00 PM.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED
CARA Secretary