



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



CARA Meeting Minutes (Draft V2)
September 11th, 2017

President KX6X called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Vice President N7FMJ, Treasurer KI7FRU, Secretary KD7OED and Member-at-Large KE4ZZS were also present. Past President WB6OTS was absent.

Program: K7YSV gave a very detailed presentation on the Global Positioning System (GPS) including not only how the system works, but how improvements have been made over the years to make the system more accurate, and how future improvements are being made to make the system more resistant to jamming.

President's Report: KX6X announced the recent passing of two club members and a family member. W7OL was hit by a car while riding his moped in Sierra Vista August 25th and passed away due to complications from the accident on August 30th. W3ABN passed away on August 31st after a short illness. And finally, AF7HZ's mother passed away recently in California. KX6X expressed the club's condolences to all of the surviving family members, and the club held a moment of silence in their memory.

Vice-President's Report: N7FMJ noted that a small group attempted to cut the grass in the Green Acres parking lot this past Saturday, but had a failure of the riding mower. He requested that members show up this coming Saturday (September 16th) for a general cleanup session and bring whatever mowers and weed whackers or other tools they can. He also thanked K7YSV for his presentation, and recruited AF7HZ to provide a briefing on Great Circles at the October meeting. He also reported that the club was the recipient of two lightly-used but very efficient coolers (manufactured in Australia and roughly equivalent to the Yeti brand), and reported that the board had authorized about \$50 to replace the hinges on them to make the fully serviceable for Field Day and other club activities. Finally, he noted that WB6OTS will be conducting a Technician license class from October 21st to November 18th. Classes will normally run in the

mornings, with the exception that the November 4th class will be in the afternoon due to the annual CARA Swapfest that morning.

Treasurer's Report: KI7FRU had to depart early, so N7FMJ provided an updated the club on CARA's financial accounts. A copy of the monthly report is posted on the Larson Hall bulletin board.

Secretary's Report: KD7OED reported that the draft August meeting minutes were posted for review on the website and at the back of Larson Hall. A motion by AA7JB seconded by N7INK to approve the minutes passed on a voice vote. KD7OED also reminded members that membership dues renewal was due by the end of July. A copy of the current roster (highlighting in yellow those who are delinquent in dues) is posted on the club website.

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

Past President's Report: WB6OTS was absent.

Technical report: AA7JB reported that his research in to digital repeaters showed that the price of a new Icom D-STAR repeater is about \$2,800, but it is only for that digital mode and does not have the dual voice and data capability that the Yaesu system has. The price of a new Yaesu digital repeater would be in excess of \$2,000 once all the required accessories are added, but although they have been advertised they are not yet available from vendors. Upon questioning he also noted that Kenwood has started to market D-star handheld radios, but does not market a repeater. As a result, he recommended that the club not make additional investment at this time. For the near term the club's existing dual-mode Yaesu repeater is operational for testing at Green Acres (447.950- PL 100.0). It is set to autodetect either voice or C4FM digital modes – he encouraged folks to try the digital mode if they are able to do so and is still soliciting recommendations on how it should be configured. The club's spare Vertex repeater is also on the air at Green Acres for testing (147.340+, PL162.2). Finally, he reported that he will be working with W7WRJ to replace the worn D-link on the south tower guy cable.

Public Service Report: N7INK reported on activity during August.

There were no public service events or emergency callouts this month. N7INK reported that a small group of volunteers deployed the MCU to the Chiricahua Mountains over the Labor Day weekend for the annual Paradise Special Event. We used only the Army-surplus wire antenna for voice contacts from the MCU this year in addition to a few additional antennas deployed by individuals. The total was 189 voice and 32 PSK-31 contacts for a total of 221 contacts in 34 states and 5 countries. During the Sunday morning AZ State RACES Net, 10 of the 15 Counties were represented. There was a total of approximately 24 hours of on-air operation. Two of the volunteers are MARS members and checked into the Sunday morning AZ State MARS training net as well. All training objectives were accomplished - we familiarized several new operators with basic MCU capabilities and procedures, provided HF operating practice to radio, and thanks to KE7KRE also made a field expedient repair to an antenna base.

Upcoming events include:

09/30/2017 NAMI Sky Island Bicycle Event, Sierra Vista. The course will remain the same as last year, but late starts will not be allowed this year. This is still a ride (NOT a race)!

10/3/2017 National Night Out in Sierra Vista Veteran's Park. This is a public display by a variety of first responder organizations.

10/07/2017 Cochise County Cycling Classic, Douglas
This course will also remain the same as last year, but was moved up one week on the calendar due to a schedule conflict at the County Fairgrounds.

10/18/2017 Statewide Emergency Exercise. This will include activation of emergency communications at local hospitals and count as our annual ARRL Simulated Emergency Test.

10/21/2017 Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb

11/11/2017 Colossal Cave Footrace (Tucson)

ARCA Report: KC7GTY was absent, so no report was given this month.

CARA NET Report: AF7HZ reported that the Thursday night net on the 146.76 repeater is going well, and thanked KI7NMX for filling in for him last week while he was taking care of family affairs in California. Volunteers for NCS duty are always welcome as it is great training for new hams.

Old Business:

- Repeater Linking: No update pending Mule Mountain tower upgrades.
- CARA T-shirts: KG7ITC reported that she has a quote from a vendor for men's polo shirts for \$33 or \$35 with pocket, and for T-shirts at \$17 or \$21 with pocket. Women's sizes are not available at this time. If you are interested – please give your order to her.
- South Tower Guy repair: AA7JB and W7WRJ will work the issue.

New Business: None raised by members.

50/50 Raffle: KG7VLN won the 50/50 drawing, but donated his winnings back for a total of \$37 going to the club.

Next Club Meeting: The next meeting will be October 2nd at 7:00 PM.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED
CARA Secretary