



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



CARA Meeting Minutes January 8th, 2018

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

Program: N7FMJ provided a short presentation on the PSK-31 digital mode and demonstrated his mobile digital setup.

President's Report: KX6X advised that the club will have a work party on January 27th at 9:00 AM to replace the rotator on the small tower that holds the SteppIR antenna. This will restore our capability to choose what direction we want the antenna to point in during the upcoming ARRL International DX contest. He also mentioned that the club has received a letter of thanks from the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce thanking us for our support of the Sierra Vista Christmas Parade. The club project to build a number of 40M direct-conversion receivers is still on track for late February. Finally he noted that he and WB6OTS had a very positive meeting with the Sierra Vista Planning and Zoning Commission and the pending change to city ordinances will specifically accommodate amateur radio towers and antennas. It is scheduled to be discussed at the P&Z meeting on January 16th and voted on by the City Council on February 8th.

Vice-President's Report: N7FMJ noted as part of our continuing series of digital mode presentations, next month's topic will be on RTTY and the March presentation will be on the latest digital mode - FT8.

Treasurer's Report: KI7FRU gave an update on the club financial accounts, including income from membership and expenses. A copy of the monthly report is posted on the Larson Hall bulletin board.

Secretary's Report: KD7OED reported the minutes from the November meeting were posted on the bulletin board. A motion by AF7HZ seconded by W7WRJ to accept the minutes as published passed on a voice vote. He also stated that the draft SOP is complete and will be provided to the board for review after a minor correction is made to the table of contents. Finally he mentioned that there is an ARRL Board Meeting on the 19th of January where some rather controversial changes to ARRL policy will be discussed; as a result KX6X requested that he send more detailed information to club members for their consideration.

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

Past President's Report: WB6OTS was absent so no report was given.

Technical report: AA7JB gave an update on Mule Mountain status. Although Cochise County is ready to proceed with the work, the Bureau of Land Management has not yet approved the movement of the propane-powered backup generator to a new location, and no work can take place until that permit is received. He noted that he recently made an adjustment to the 146.76 repeater to tighten the squelch a bit in order to reduce interference from other sources on the site. AA7JB also made a recommendation to purchase a new Bridgecom BCR-40U repeater to replace the 1970's vintage hardware that was previously used for the 449.525 repeater. Not only is the old hardware obsolete, the new unit is significantly smaller and will fit within the rack space that we think will be available in the county shelter. Motion by N7INK seconded by N0MSE to spend up to \$1300 on this project passed on a voice vote. This purchase will include the appropriate programming cable and software, and also the interface cable to go to the repeater controller. Although this unit is also capable of accepting a D-STAR module, one will not be included in the initial purchase pending future internet access on the mountain.

Public Service Report: N7INK reported on ARES/RACES activity during 2017 which included 1063 training hours, 113 emergency response hours, and 807.5 public service support hours for a total of 1983.5 hours. This figure is up 120 hours compared to 2016. In addition to our support for the Sierra Vista Christmas Parade, the month of December saw 2 training nets

and one Search and Rescue mission looking for an 11-year-old boy who as located after about 3 hours of searching.

Upcoming Events Include:

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| 01/13/2018 | MCU Training (Green Acres) |
| 01/21-27/2018 | QuartzFest Convention 2018, Quartzsite, AZ |
| 02/16-17/2018 | ARRL Southwestern Div Convention, Yuma, AZ |
| 04/27/2018 | STEM, Cochise College, Sierra Vista |

ARCA Report: KC7GTY reported that the ARCA meeting on 2 DEC at the Superstition Hamfest was uneventful. The ARRL Southwest Division Convention will be held in Yuma on February 16-17, 2018, and the next ARCA meeting will be at the Scottsdale Hamfest in March (date TBD).

CARA NET Report: AF7HZ reported that the Thursday night net on the 146.76 repeater is going well. 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.
- South Tower Guy repair: AA7JB and W7WRJ will work the issue, but W7WRJ is headed back to Korea for work this week. The goal is to do the repair when he is back in Arizona in mid-February.
- Battery replacement: KI7FRU is still trying to resolve the claim with the battery vendor to leverage the battery warrantee, but things are not looking good as the damage was not noted until long after the battery was received.

New Business: WB6OTS was absent, but delegated responsibility for conducting annual elections to N7BIL. The two positions open this year were for club president and secretary – both KX6X and KD7OED have reached their term limits. KG7DGY volunteered to serve as president, and made a short speech outlining his goals for the organization. There were

no volunteers to serve as secretary. A motion by KG7IHO, seconded by KC7GTY nominating KG7DGY as president passed by a unanimous voice vote. The club secretary position will remain vacant pending another volunteer and/or board action to fill the position in accordance with the CARA club bylaws.

50/50 Raffle: N7BTO won the 50/50 drawing, but donated his winnings back for a total of \$50 going to the club HF antenna fund.

Next Club Meeting: The next meeting will be on February 5th at 7:00 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED
Outgoing CARA Secretary