



The Cochise **Smoke**

The Cochise Amateur Radio Association Inc. (K7RDG)

February 2008

THE CARA FEBRUARY MEETING
FEBRUARY 4TH AT GREEN ACRES
7:00 P.M. – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 25TH AT 6:30 PM

If you'd like to see the "pretty copy" of this month's Smoke & a world of other club info,

Go to the CARA web page.

<http://www.k7rdg.org/>

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE RACES NOTES

Bob Hollister, N7INK

Editor's Note: Bob received a letter in response to his published figures on 2007 volunteer hours. It was from Mike Evans, Cochise County ES Coordinator and was addressed to all RACES/ARES volunteers. I'd like to publish it here.

Bob,

That is fantastic. Please pass on my thanks to all of the RACES/ARES volunteers who freely gave of their free time to try and make Cochise County a better place to live. Unfortunately many of us forget the magnitude of the help that our volunteers donate every year to many, many worthwhile efforts. This group has proven to be a fantastic effort for CCSO and SAR where the bulk of the hours go, but I also know you guys and gals are out there ready to assist in any way needed. Thankfully there has been little call for my office to utilize your special talents, and hopefully we can keep it that way.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you Bob for all of the work you have done as the RACES officer for Cochise County. You have been a great support to me and this office and will continue to lean on you as long as you will let me.

Once again, thanks to all who gave of their time and efforts.

**Michael B. Evans
Emergency Services Coordinator
Cochise County Arizona**

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COCHISE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1855, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

CARA Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2008

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M by President **KD7OED**. Vice President **NJ7C** was also present. Secretary **KD7HAB**, Treasurer **KD7TDL**, and Member at Large **WB6OTS** were absent.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by **KC7GNM** and seconded by **AD7HZ** for the minutes of the November 2007 meeting to be approved as printed in the **SMOKE**. The motion passed on a voice vote. **KD7HAB** was absent - no other report was given.

Treasurer's Report: **KD7TDL** was absent, but sent a copy of the Treasurer's report via **NJ7C**. Account balances and fund breakout are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Checking | \$5,155.73 |
| Savings | \$3,910.99 |
| <u>CD's:</u> | <u>\$8,161.89</u> |
| Total Balance: | \$17,228.61 |
| Antenna Fund: | -3,090.97 |
| <u>Life Member Fund:</u> | <u>-1,920.00</u> |
| Operating Fund: | \$12,217.64 |

Vice President's Report: **NJ7C** reported that he recently scrubbed the membership database and removed a number of expired members. The result is a current **CARA** membership of 95, with two additional new members anticipated to join this evening. He also conducted a review of the 2008 **CARA** calendar which is now posted on the **CARA** web page (www.k7rdg.org). **NJ7C** also reported that he has now turned over webmaster duties to **WA7UIM** and will be turning over membership director duties to **WB6OTS** in the coming days.

Member-at-Large Report: **WB6OTS** was absent – no report given.

President's Report: **KD7OED** reported that he, **NJ7C** and **N7BIL** attended a

meeting with the Cochise County Administrator and staff on December 3 to discuss the ongoing Green Acres Lease Renewal. The administrator was very supportive of the lease renewal, and asked for a follow-on meeting to be held on January 24th.

Representatives from the SEARS club have attended the past two CARA board of directors meetings to discuss the possibility of merging the two clubs. The primary reason is that SEARS membership has fallen to the point that they are having trouble maintaining a full slate of officers (for the past several years, some individuals have served concurrently as both SEARS and CARA officers). SEARS president KC7GNM has polled the SEARS membership about a potential merger, and the only significant reservation expressed is a concern that none of the current repeater sites are lost. KD7OED and WB6OTS have discussed this with the Arizona Frequency Coordination Committee and learned that transfer of the current SEARS coordinated sites to CARA after club merger would be a simple process. During the January 2nd CARA board meeting, the board voted to grant CARA membership to SEARS members in the event that SEARS votes in favor of the merger. The vast majority of SEARS members are already CARA members anyway, and those who are not will be required to renew CARA membership in May 2008 during the annual membership renewal period (along with all other CARA annual members). The SEARS membership will meet on January 12th to vote on whether to merge in to CARA.

ARCA/ARRL Report: CARA will renew our Amateur Radio Council of Arizona club membership for 2008, and KC8TUG has volunteered to be the club's ARCA delegate. N7INK will serve as the alternate. KD7OED reported that the ARCA member clubs voted by a margin of two to one on December 1st against moving the Arizona State Convention back to Fort Tuthill. As a result, the 2008 event will go on as scheduled from July 18-20th at the Williams Rodeo Grounds. This will be followed by the ARRL Southwest Division Convention at the Mesa Convention Center September 12th-14th. ARRL Arizona Section Manager Tom Fagan has a new call sign – K7DF.

Technical Report: KB7RDG reported that the club is installing an HF antenna at Prestige Assisted Living for use by K7DV, who donated much of his amateur equipment to CARA last summer. The coax has now been run from his room to the roof, and installation of the antenna will take place on the 19th. The CARA 440 repeater is currently out of service and undergoing maintenance. There will be no further work on Mule Mountain until the weather improves in the spring.

Material Director Report: AD7HZ thanked members for their many equipment donations, and reminded folks that the club will issue donation certificates for tax purposes. The sale of donated equipment is CARA's major source of revenue during the annual Hamfest, and we need more

donations to cover the many facility improvement projects that will be needed in the coming years.

RACES Report: N7INK reported that there was only one mission over the holiday period. RACES members conducted almost 2000 hours of volunteer service in 2007; an increase of approximately 300 hours compared to 2006. The MCU has been evacuated to the GM truck dealer in Tucson to address fault indicators with the generator, anti-lock brakes, and transfer case. When it returns it will have several radio upgrades to comply with the new narrow-band channel requirements. The RACES team is also likely to receive some older equipment from the county for backup use.

Bicycle Races Report: K7HVV reported that the 30th running of the La Vuelta de Bisbee road race is scheduled for April 25-27th. Volunteers will be needed for both Saturday, April 26th and Sunday April 27th. A total of at least 14 volunteers is needed for each day – signups will be held during the February and March meetings.

OLD BUSINESS: None not previously discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Larry Warren Cochise Hamfest: Randy/KC8TUG has volunteered to be the chairman of the 2008 hamfest, which will be held on May 3rd at Green Acres. The initial planning meeting will be held Saturday, January 26th at Green Acres at 0900 hours. KC8TUG asked for everyone to volunteer to help with the Hamfest.

b. Technician Class: The club will offer a technician license class beginning about mid-March. Further information will be provided by WB6OTS next month.

c. Home Projects: The Green Acres facility will require lots of maintenance work over the next couple years to comply with the terms of the BLM lease renewal. There are only a few members who regularly show up for the Saturday work crew, and due to the anticipated increase in workload, the club will not be assisting members with individual home projects (tower raising, etc.) until further notice. Members who would like help from individual club members are requested to schedule their projects on days other than Saturday so as not to conflict with the club work schedule.

d. Election of Club Officers: The terms of office for both President and Secretary expire this month, and both KD7OED and KD7HAB have declined to run for re-election. A nominating committee chaired by the Vice-President prepared a slate of the following candidates to fill vacant

positions: NJ7C for President, AD7HZ to serve the remaining year of NJ7C's term as Vice-President, and KE7JNB for Secretary. All candidates have agreed to serve if elected. Outgoing President KD7OED opened the floor for additional nominations, but none were offered. K7HVV moved to close the nominations and conduct a single vote on the nominations as a block; the motion was seconded by KC7GNM. There was no further discussion, and the election was unanimous. NJ7C and KE7JNB will serve regular two-year terms as President and Secretary respectively, with their terms expiring in January 2010. AD7HZ will serve the remainder of NJ7C's term as Vice-President, with his term expiring in January 2009.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2008 at 1900 hours. K7WIN will present a program on amateur satellite communications that will include a demonstration during a pass by AMSAT AO-51 at about 7:25 PM.

Adjourn: There being no further business; NJ7C adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Lee Ilse KD7OED, Past President

INVITATION TO CARA---TUCSON SPRING PICNIC

Ken Carpenter, WA7UIM

(Ed's Note: Ken is our new Webmaster)

Greetings from N7JND, Chris, Tucson

The 6th annual spring picnic is going to take place on Saturday March 8th from 12 Noon to 6pm. The turn out for the past picnics has been great and we are looking to grow each year. We would like to extend a special invitation to the CARA members and families. It's going to be a great time at Christopher Columbus Park on north Silverbell Road in NW Tucson. Our new website for the picnic is www.tucsonhampicnic.com We look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Ham Radio Picnic.

MORE ITEMS FROM THE RACES NOTES

Bob Hollister, N7INK

Upcoming Events:

2/15-16 - Yuma Hamfest; 2/16-17 - SAR Academy, Sierra Vista

3/8 - Scottsdale Hamfest/ARCA Meeting; 3/8 - SAR Training (Search Training)

4/26-27 - La Vuelta de Bisbee Bike Race; 5/15 - Ft Huachuca Safety Day

2) EC Appointment: I am pleased to announce that Dale Chidester (NJ7C) has been appointed as an ARRL Emergency Coordinator. He joins the county RACES Management Team as the RACES Operations Officer. Michael McNeil (has been nominated to fill the Benson/St.David/Willcox position. His paperwork is in progress.

Early in the morning on 25 January the RACES team received notification by page of a search mission in the Miller Canyon area of the Huachuca Mountains. Callout was for a missing 5 year old girl traveling with a group of illegal immigrants. She became separated from the main group and was reported missing by her stepfather. She was located after an approximately 10 hour search by a member of the Border Patrol BORSTAR unit. Since the MCU was still in the shop, a full callout for RACES was not made and only two RACES personnel were requested to assist the effort. Although we did not provide much in the way of communications support on this mission because it terminated within two hours after we deployed, we were prepared to assist.

One member (NJ7C) was tasked to bring his laptop to provide mapping support in the DUI Van as it was being prepared to act as the Command Post. The second member (N7INK) provided transport to allow a SAR member to bring the DUI van to the site for use. He also brought his laptop and spare printer to use for logging and other computer support. The good news is that we did not get the opportunity to actually set up and test this configuration because the young child was found as we were setting up. We also assisted in setting up the SAR CP vehicle when it was relocated to the lower canyon site.

THE COCHISE SMOKE is published each month by e-mail and snail mail. Editor is Ted Weaver, K9TED tedweaver2@juno.com Snail mail stuff you'd like to have me publish in Smoke to P.O. Box 6017, Huachuca City, AZ 85616 or use the above e-mail address.

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