



The Cochise **Smoke**

The Cochise Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (K7RDG)

February 2010

**THE CARA FEBRUARY MEETING
FEBRUARY 1ST AT GREEN ACRES
7:00 P.M. – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 22ND 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 pages
<http://www.k7rdg.org>

Walter Wan, Sr. WA7NHU -- SK

Walter Wan, Sr. WA7NHU passed away Tuesday night, 19 January 2010. He was for many years an active member of CARA, but due to poor health had been unable to participate for several years. Internment was Tuesday, 26 January. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given to the Disabled American Veterans (90018 Fort Ave., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635.)

TOWER PROBLEM Dale Chidester

On 16 January 2010, Larry Greene (WA7GNV) climbed the 135' tower at Green Acres to take some photos of the vee beam attachment site and the bearing and rotor for the 40-meter antenna. At the top (115') guy level, he found that the westernmost guy wire had experienced significant wear and is in danger of imminent failure. This is very disturbing since prevailing winds are from the west, and if the guy wire fails it may lead to partial or total collapse of the tower. Climbing the tower or working near it is no longer safe because of the guy wire situation.

On 18 January 2010, the board met in emergency session to discuss this matter. Hiring a crane to either repair the existing guy or attach a temporary guy would be very expensive. Crane charges are \$250/hr with travel time included in the charges. Crane cost alone is estimated at about \$2500 (10 hours) to repair/replace the west guy and remove the 40 meter beam from the tower. This far exceeds the board's \$500 expenditure limit. An additional estimated \$4000-\$5000 for materials and crane time to repair/replace the other guys, install a rotor and beam, etc. (in addition to the cost of the rotor and beam) would be necessary within 90 days according to the stipulations in the proposed BLM lease. In view of these projected expenses, the continuing tower maintenance burden that will be required in the future, and considering the fact that the tower has not really been in use for many years, the board voted to recommend demolition of the tower. For safety reasons, something needs to be done ASAP. If the tower is still standing by the 1 February meeting, I would like a vote of the membership whether to demolish or attempt to proceed with repairs.

NEWS UPDATE (1/28/2010): SSVEC has agreed to re-attach the guy wire as near the 115' anchor point as they can reach with their 100' bucket to stabilize the tower and make it safe to climb again. Work is tentatively scheduled to be completed by 30 January 2010.

**COCHISE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Dale NJ7C at 1900 hrs. January 4, 2010.

After the pledge of allegiance we had introductions of the members present. Total membership present, 42 members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The secretary's report was dispensed with since the last meeting was the Christmas party.

Visitor from Chamber of Commerce: Diane Erwin Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce who is the event coordinator for the Christmas parade came by. She thanked everyone for all the help given in radio communications for the parade, and hoped that we will be able to help again this year in December.

Treasurer's report: Paul KD7TDL: Paul reported checking account has \$14,579.51 the savings account \$4126.36 the CD account has \$8274.05 total balance is \$26,979.92.

ELECTION: Grant Hays WB6OTS, the nominating committee chairman, submitted DALE NJ7C as president and DON KE7JNB for secretary. Both had agreed to run another term. The voice vote carried to reelect Dale and Don for another term.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The gates have been installed with a chain and locks. The CARA combination lock is painted black and the combination is [available from any club officer]. A letter was written to Mr. L.H. Hamilton thanking the County and prison crew for the fine job they did putting up the fence. We have an event coming up March 6, the Old Pueblo 50. We covered it last year and they covered our fuel cost. This year they say they should have a fair amount of money and that they might be able to donate up to \$1000 to the club for our support of this event. We will need about 25 people to cover this event. Route and checkpoints are the same as last year.

Barb KD7YOZ informed Dale that the club station, K7RDG, was awarded the 2009 club station of the year from the triple H. That's Hanks Helping Hand which is a DX organization.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT MIKE AD7HZ: There was no report due to Mike taking care of his wife who just came home from the hospital.

MEMBER AT LARGE: LEE KD7OED: In reference to the BLM lease we have met all the stipulations with one exception, the county is still working on the water issue. We still need to go out and clean up a lot of the vegetation and trash along the road. There will be a lot of trash that has to be taken to the recycling point. We will need pickup trucks to transport this trash to the dump.

Next we have the paper work to take to the County for the lease but we have some issues. We were promised a 20 year lease and the paperwork shows only five years. This has to be corrected.

As facility director Lee has taken it upon his self to draft a safety SOP since he feels the club needs a safety program to be followed on club grounds. Everyone with ideas please send those ideas to Lee so we can create this SOP. When the first draft is completed it will be put on the website.

MEMBERSHIP: PAT KD7HAB: We have one new member Mike KE7WRJ Pat is putting together a women only group to work on the history of the club. They would like to have a meeting on the 12th of January at Green Acres at 10:00.

RACES REPORT: BOB N7INK: We had one emergency response for an overdue climber in the Sheepshead area of the Cochise Stronghold in Southeast Arizona. For the year we ended up with more than 200 hours over last year. Training we did 654 hours. For emergency operations 433 public service events 659 for a total of 1746 last year we had a total of 1537.

If you are a RACES member and have not already done so, you are requested to attend a two-day SAR Academy class February 20-21. This is to acquaint you with the SAR terminology and procedures.

ARCA REPORT: BOB N7INK: The Spring Fest that Scottsdale hosts has been moved. It will be 13 March at the Fort McDowell Casino. Williams will be the third weekend of July (July 18 – 19) check our website for dates.

ARRL: GRANT WB6OTS: we are doing VE session on 30 January. On February 1, Juanita Portz AA7WA will be taking over as our new ARRL VE Lead.

TECHNICAL REPORT: RICH AA7RH: Right now it is too cold to go up on the Hill and we are waiting for warmer weather.

WEBMASTER REPORT: KEN WA7UIM: Website is up if you want anything on it send Ken an e-mail or if you find any errors let him know.

CAR NET REPORT: CHARLES K4AFN: We're keeping close tabs on those who check in and were running about 20 to 25 checkin's...also looking for volunteers who would like to be net control.

OLD BUSINESS: Dave K7DTB reported that Randy Powers made it to Texas and is doing fine.

NEW BUSINESS: LEE KD7OED made a motion to cancel the garbage service to save the club around \$200 a year. The motion was passed by voice vote.

50/50: MIKE KC7GTY Won and donated it back to the club.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE FEBUARY 1, 2010 AT 1900 HRS

ADJOURNED: 1955 HRS

ARRL ELECTS KAY CRAIGIE, N3KN, PRESIDENT
ARRL Letter

As our first order of business at the 2010 Annual Meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors elected ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, of Blacksburg, Virginia, as the organization's new President. She took over the reins from outgoing President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, on Saturday January 16, 2010. Mrs. Craigie has been an active amateur since 1983.

DOMINICAN HAMS TRY TO INSTALL REPEATERS IN HAITI
ARRL Letter

Members of the Radio Club Dominicano (RCD) -- the Dominican Republic's IARU Member-Society -- and Union Dominicana de Radio Aficionados (UDRA) arrived in Haiti (after the quake) to install an emergency radio communications station and a mobile station. Shortly after they arrived, the hams returned to the Dominican Republic for safety reasons.

"Within a few hours though, reports via the RCD Facebook page reported that the HI8RCD team of eight amateurs was back in the [Dominican Republic] border town of Jimani," said IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop, G0DUB. "Their convoy, which included other non related Dominicans, was assaulted. The radio amateurs are uninjured, but they decided to leave the capital for safety [reasons] and return to the border unescorted. They report the situation as 'extremely unsafe.'"

The team was able to install two VHF repeaters: one in the Dominican Republic border town of Jumaní and another Port-au-Prince. Mossop said that these repeaters have been used by the Red Cross and Civil Defense since, until quite recently, there has been no other way to communicate. The station at the embassy in Haiti could not be activated.

"The HI8RCD team of amateurs is still in Jumaní, where many wounded are arriving," said IARU Region 2 Secretary Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK. "They are helping Haitians to contact their relatives and friends outside of Haiti, but they can't help the world to find specific individuals in Haiti. They are receiving many e-mails with such requests, but security and road conditions make impossible to look for specific individuals in Haiti at the present."

LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE **From Friends on the Internet**

An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of.

He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep.

An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'

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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