



The Cochise **Smoke**

The Cochise Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (K7RDG)

March 2010

**THE CARA MARCH MEETING
MARCH 1ST AT GREEN ACRES
7:00 P.M. – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MARCH BOARD MEETING MARCH 29TH AT 6:30 P.M.**

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>

Ed's Note: In my travels in AZ, ME & FL I realize how lucky we are to be served electrically by our good neighbor and coop, SSVEC. They are big enough to provide state of the art electrical service but not so big as to be out of touch with the people they serve. They were ready, willing and able to quickly come to our rescue when they found we needed their professional help fast. Dale's (NJ7C) letter below tells the story:



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



February 9, 201

**Mr. Anselmo Torres
Chief of Operations and Engineering
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
350 North Haskell
Willcox, AZ 85643**

Dear Mr. Torres,

The Cochise Amateur Radio Association (CARA) would like to thank you and your men for saving our 140' tower at the Moson Road club site.

The west guywire was discovered to be corroded and 4 of the 5 strands attaching the cable at the 115' level were broken. A single strand was securing the top section of the tower from the fierce west winds we get. For safety reasons, the club was considering demolishing the tower. My initial call to you was promptly returned by Bob Jones and we arranged access to the property. After a couple of nail-biting days with some more heavy wind, Bob and his crew (Pablo Felix, David Schmidt and Tom Laney) secured the west guywire at about 100' (the highest their bucket would reach.) This stabilized the tower and now allows CARA the luxury of having time to plan and execute repairs without fear of the tower collapsing.

Again, I want to thank you, Bob and his crew for saving this tower. It has stood for 20 some years at the CARA club site and, thanks to SSVEC, will stand for a good while longer.

Respectfully,

Dale H. Chidester
President
Cochise Amateur Radio Association

cc: L.H. Hamilton
Mike Evans

**COCHISE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2010 MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Dale NJ7C at 1900 hrs. February 2, 2010. After the pledge of allegiance we had introductions of the members present. Total membership present: 37 members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: the secretary's report was accepted by the membership through a voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Hollister and Bill McNab conducted and concluded a financial audit of CARA financial records for the year 2009 the findings were that all records were well organized and accurate and in order. Recommendations: club treasurer should be commended for his hard work and concern for club funds. The club should conduct an audit of financial records each January for their preceding year. The treasurer should keep a receipt book for all income transactions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: the lock for the Cara gate is black, please remember to lock it in series with the other locks.

Barb KD7YOZ informed me last meeting that K7RDG the club station was awarded the 2009 station of the year from the triple H. that's Hanks Helping Hand which is a DX organization. We have now received the award certificates. Volunteers are still needed for the old Pablo 50 race Saturday, March 6, checkpoints are the same as last year. Sign-up sheet was passed around to the members.

In reference to the BLM lease a letter was sent to Mr. Ortega County administrator, addressing the issue that the term of the lease would be 20 years rather than the five years currently being offered by the BLM at this time. Also expressing our hope that the County will be able to convince the BLM to honor their original commitment to issue a 20 year lease.

Reference the tower: SSVC as said that they will re-secure the guideline using their high lift bucket, that they will get to it as soon as possible.

Walter Wan Senior, WA7NHU, I am sorry to say is now a silent key. His son said he would donate the tower and beams to the club.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT MIKE AD7HZ there was no report due to Mike taking care of his wife

MEMBER AT LARGE : LEE KD7OED Yuma hamfest 19th 20th of this month. Scottsdale Spring fest will be 13th of March at the Fort McDowell casino. Williams will be the third weekend of July 18 – 19. Check our website for dates. Saturday we will finish picking up litter, brush, etc. along the fence line. We need volunteers to help on this, so please come out. If you can bring a pickup please do so.

MEMBERSHIP: PAT KD7HAB we are now up to about 98 members. The history committee met on 12 January and discussed what they wanted to do and should do. The next meeting date has not been set yet.

RACES REPORT: BOB N7INK the month was quiet with only three or four call outs. The search and rescue Academy is the weekend of the 20th and 21st. If you are a races member you are required to make the Academy at least once. Two-day class is to acquaint you with the terminology and procedures.

ARCA REPORT: Was covered by lee KD7OED

ARRL: GRANT WB6OTS: no report

TECHNICAL REPORT: RICH AA7RH Right now it is too cold to go up on the Hill and we are waiting for warmer weather. Everything is running good. We have been working with the concerns of the guy lines on the tower. A motion was made for Rich AA7RH and Bob N7INK to evaluate EAARS' proposal to install another repeater in the County building and to go ahead with a MOU with EAARS for use of their repeaters during emergency operations. The motion passed on a voice vote.

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

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

HAMFEST: A motion was made to authorize up to \$1500 to spend for the ham-fest prizes, etc. This motion passed voice vote.

We had a program given by Clarence Peckham NT7V on software defined radio.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

50/50: was won by Brenda Peckham, KE5AMU, who is a new member

NEXT MEETING: WILL BE MARCH 1, 2010 AT 1900 HRS

ADJOURN: 2020 HRS

Respectfully Submitted

Don Savill KE7JNB Secretary

GOOD NEWS!
Dale Chidester NJ7C

The BLM has agreed to give the County a 20 year lease on Green Acres.

GREEN ACRES BRUSH HOGS
Lee Ilse, KD7OED

During the Green Acres fencing project last fall, a large amount of brush was cut down by the county work crew and left along the new fence line. Part of CARA's arrangement with the County requires that we take care of disposing of this waste. Over the past few weeks, several work parties picked up much of the brush and associated trash that was found along the fence line. An informal Saturday work session was held on January 2nd that included KB7ND, N8QEN (who did double duty as chainsaw repairman) and KD7OED. Two trailer loads of brush were hauled from the north fence line (west of the test tower) that day in addition to a third load that had been hauled earlier during the Christmas holiday. January 9th saw the first

official work party with four loads of brush hauled away from along Moson Road and the south fence line, and also a large amount of trash collected from along Moson Road. Participants included N7BIL, W8UXD, N8QEN, WB6OTS, KD7OED, KB7ND, K4ZZS and AC7XA with additional morale support from NJ7C, N7SFP and Old Yeller. On February 6th we had our third gathering of what are now known as the “Green Acres Brush Hogs” where 5 loads of brush were hauled away, along with a 6th load of scrap metal that included a role of rusty old barb wire that was found along the south fence line. Brush Hogs present for this event included K4AFN, KD7UOP, N7BIL, KE7WRJ, KD7OED, N8QEN, N7NYG, K7DTB and WW3JC; with morale support from KB7ND, W8UXD, and N7INK (who was working in the MCU all morning).

A total of 13 pickup loads of brush and metal have been hauled away to the Sierra Vista recycling station since Christmas. The metal will be recycled, and the brush will be ground up in to organic mulch for use in landscaping and gardens. Additionally, several of the Brush Hogs have been able to take home nice pieces of mesquite wood that will become great firewood once it dries out. On behalf of the club, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to these dedicated folks who have been given their not only their sweat, but also their own blood in the fight against mesquite thorns, cat claw, barb wire, and various other hazards. I humbly apologize in advance if I have inadvertently failed to list anyone who was present for these sessions, (this list is just from memory – I’m sorry I did not think to run a sign-in sheet for these work parties).

In spite of the dedicated efforts of these hardy volunteers, the job is not finished yet. We still need a major effort to pick up the brush along the north fence line which runs from the latrines out to the western boundary of the property. Additionally, there is still some final cleanup to be done along Moson road and along the south fence line. That cleanup work will continue for the next two weeks – with the next major cleanup effort scheduled for Saturday, February 27th to work on the north fence line. For those of you who have not yet joined the ranks of the Green Acres Brush Hogs (especially those of you who suggested that “WE” could do all the work to put the fencing in by ourselves), please mark your calendars for Saturday February 27th and plan to lend a hand. I understand that not everyone is physically able to do the kind of work required to haul brush, but there are always a number of other light-duty cleanup projects that need doing around Green Acres (e.g.; general cleanup in latrines, Larson Hall, Pete’s Palace, and Morgan Manor) and we could use everyone’s help.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE RACES NOTES

Bob Hollister N7INK

Upcoming Events

3/06 Old Pueblo 50 Miler, Santa Rita Mountains

3/13 Scottsdale Hamfest/ARCA Meeting, Ft McDowell Casino

4/24-25 La Vuelta de Bisbee

FCC NOTICE-COMMENTS VANITY CALL SIGN CHANGES

Late last year, the FCC [issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making \(NPRM\)](#) -- [WT Docket 09-209](#) -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations. Interested parties may make comments on the *NPRM* in the following ways: via the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#) or via the FCC's [Web site](#). Comments must be submitted by March 26, 2010; reply comments are due no later than April 12, 2010.

BIBLICAL HUMOR FROM THE INTERNET

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

A. Ruthless.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden ?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

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.

The Cochise Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (CARA)
P.O. Box 1855
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636



"This Is A First Class Publication"