



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

Minutes
CARA Monthly Meeting
May 3, 2021

President Bill McNab/N7BIL called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Vice President Tom Yarbrough/KE0ABP, Treasurer Bob Lee/W5OBT and Secretary Lee Ilse/K7OED were present. Past President Kevin White/N7FMJ and Director at Large Art Montgomery/KD7QOS were absent.

Program: Vince/AA7JB gave a presentation on the Parks OnThe Air (POTA) program. POTA is a non-profit organization that supports the use of amateur radio in our state and national parks. It provides a website where amateur radio operators can find nearby parks and to set up temporary portable radio stations and attempt to make as many contacts as possible. Stations who visit a park and get on the air are called "activators" and stations who work activated parks from their home stations (or other parks) are called "hunters." The goal is to activate as many parks as possible and to talk to as many stations as possible. Certificate awards are given for a variety of categories. A copy of the presentation is posted on the CARA website.

President's Report: Bill/N7BIL reported that it appeared to all that we had the best attendance at our hamfest in many years – in part due to the fact that it was only the second one in the state this year. Tom/KE0ABP will have more to say about the hamfest in a moment. He also noted that the club will participate in the June ARRL Field Day from Green Acres and we will conduct a planning session sometime prior to the next club meeting. Finally he stated that the board is going to initiate some facilities repairs and upgrades now that the weather is warmer – including new “do not climb” signs on the towers.

Vice-President's Report: Tom/KE0ABP thanked all who helped make the recent hamfest a great success. Mr. Jeff Van Gelder passed his Tech exam during the event, was presented an HT from the ARRL as a prize, and also won the Diamond X-50 dual-band antenna. Although his call hasn't been assigned yet, he also joined CARA this evening! Tom also mentioned that we are now less than 4 months away from the annual Paradise special event. If you haven't already done so, please let him know whether you plan to attend, what kind of vehicle you will be taking, and whether you will have an RV or plan to tent camp. Parking spots will be assigned on a first come first served basis, so contact him via email at KE0ABP@ARRL.NET to ensure you get a good spot. Club members expressed great interest in this year's Paradise participation, to include discussion of how to ensure we minimize interference between stations by the use of antenna separation and polarization, filters, and scheduling. Field Day will present an opportunity to test out some of these procedures.

Treasurer's Report: W5OBT/Bob gave an update on the club financial accounts. In the past month we had two deposits (one hamfest ticket sales and one for membership badges). Bills this month included WIFI service, electrical bills, membership badges, a new wet-dry vacuum, and website renewal feeds. The total club account balance including savings, checking and CDs is \$26,666.95. This does not include the profit from the hamfest (estimated to exceed \$1000) that will be included in next month's report.

Secretary's Report: K7OED/Lee reported that the draft minutes from the April meeting were emailed to club members. There were no additions or corrections from the membership. Motion by Bob/N7INK seconded by Vince/AA7JB to accept the minutes as published. The motion was passed on a voice vote. Lee also reported that we have now entered the window for annual membership renewals that are due by the end of July. We received 18 renewals at the hamfest, including two new life members. Finally, he noted that the board has nominated Tom/KE0ABP for ARCA Ham-Of-The-Year. There are likely to be nominations from other clubs as well, voting results will be announced at the June 12th ARCA meeting.

Member at Large Report: KD7QOS/Art was absent so no report.

Past President's Report: Kevin/N7FMJ was absent so no report.

Technical report: Vince/AA7JB reported that we FINALLY have a date to replace the 147.02 repeater antenna. A crew will be doing some other work on county antennas this Thursday (May 6th) and the county has made arrangements with Arizona Public Media to power down the FM transmitter while the crew is doing the work on the tower.

Public Service Report: Bob/N7INK reported on ARES/RACES activity since the April club meeting. There was a total of 61.5 volunteer hours for April. Although there were no public service events, there were three SAR call-outs, two RACES training nets, and one Skywarn net:

- a. 4/10 Montezuma Canyon Rd Search. Responded with County MCU to assist in locating a lost person in the vicinity of Sunnyside and Montezuma Canyon. We were turned around before we arrived on the scene. Subject located in good condition.
- b. 4/16 Sunsites Search – ARES/RACES team deployed by POV to assist Country SAR locate a 10 yoa female runaway. Fortunately subject was located in good condition as we arrived at the command post. Unfortunately it is a 1.5 hr drive one way to the location
- c. 4/25 Miller Peak search/Rescue – ARES/RACES Team deployed a team to assist in the search for “injured” hiker in the vicinity of the Miller Peak in the Huachuca Mountains. He was located by a BP team that approached from the south before our team arrived at his location.

Upcoming Events:

29 MAY: 3-Peaks Challenge in Huachuca Mountains

21-22 AUG: SAR Academy

4-6 SEP: Paradise Special Event

TBD SEP: Potential Boeing Starliner landing at Wilcox Playa

2 OCT: Sky Island NAMI Ride

ARCA/ARRL Report: Nothing new since last month.

Old Business: Now that the hamfest is behind us, the board will initiate new actions to work on actions in our long-term maintenance and strategic plan in accordance with the terms of our BLM lease.

New Business: None raised by members.

50/50 Raffle: Peggy/KC7LCE won \$23, with the other \$23 going to the club's HF antenna improvement fund.

Next Club Meeting: The next club meeting is **June 7th at 7:00 PM.**

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ilse/K7OED
CARA Secretary

DRAFT