

# **Amateur Radio Council of Arizona**

Maricopa Hamfest and ARRL State Convention

Minutes of Meeting

28 October, 2017

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Bob Howard, W8RH at 11:05 AM (the meeting began a few minutes late because the previous presenter ran over the allotted time).

Introductions of attendees was held. A sign-in list was circulated and attached.

## **Treasurer's Report, Chris Kesauer, N7PVL:**

Hard copy of reports were distributed and read by Treasurer. One was the cash flow report from the last meeting, and the other was annual report covering the ARCA fiscal year. Motion to approve report by Lee, KD7OED, and seconded by Virgil, K7VZ. The only discussion was a request from the treasurer for folks to advise her if anyone had information on how to avoid minimum balance fees.

All approved; none opposed.

## **Secretary's Report, Melinda Wilson, KC7FWR:**

Draft Minutes of 02 June, 2017 meeting were reviewed. No corrections were requested.

Motion of Jack, KD7RCJ, seconded by Charlie, K0TAN.

All approved: none opposed.

**Chair's Report, Bob Howard, W8RH:** Began by thanking the MARA club for a good event with a nice meeting venue, and noted that he was looking forward to attending another good event in a couple weeks in Oro Valley.

**First Vice-Chair's Report, Virgil Silhanek, K7VZ:** Noted that he is excited to be a new board member. His primary goal is to work with clubs to maximize benefit to amateur radio in Arizona as a result of working with Tom, NE7X and others on the license plate bill. His secondary goal is to build consensus within the state among the ARCA member clubs.

**Second Vice-Chair's Report, Steve Miller, W6SDM:** Noted that ARCA is a great organization helping clubs with fundraising, equipment tables, popups, etc. and avoids individual clubs having to own and store that equipment. He wants to work on the best way to promote amateur radio across the state, long-term investment, scholarships, help clubs with fundraising and equipment, and raise awareness of amateur radio among the general population.

**Past Chair's report, Jeff Hanna, WB7RFY:** Although it has been 4 months since our past meeting – the board has been working in the background and approved sponsorship of the Kachina and Yuma events.

**Frequency Coordination Report:** No members of the coordination committees were present – coordination meetings occur during the spring and summer meetings. A question was asked if they are working with Arizona Repeaters.net – the response was that all of the coordinated repeaters are published on the coordinators website (can link to it from the ARCA website), and ARCA is printing and selling directories for \$2.00 each.

**ARRL Section Managers Report, Rick, W7RAP:** Noted that the Amateur Radio Parity Act has passed the House and is moving in Senate. There was additional discussion about a draft PRB one bill that will be submitted through the Arizona house this winter. At least 30 other states (including neighboring states of Utah and California) have similar bills that have been approved. An individual from ARRL HQ has provided some draft legislation that will be used to start discussion with the legislature. W7RAP also reported that the amateur community has had success in the past few months to counter distracted driving laws in Pima County, Oro Valley and the City of Tucson by granting exceptions for government-licensed operators (all hams are government-licensed operators). .

### **Old Business:**

- Location/Host for 2018 AZ State Convention: The ARRL has approved the Prescott/Embry Riddle University as the 2018 state convention. The group has requested ARCA sponsorship for this event. Motion from Chris, N7PVL to approve, seconded by Lee, KD7OED. Motion approved.
- The YUMA hamfest was previously approved as ARCA sponsored event. W7RAP announced that it will also be the 2018 ARRL Southwest Division Convention. The hamfest location will remain at the current location for at least three more years. The location of the 2020 division convention is still to be determined so if any Arizona club is interested in sponsoring please let him know.
- Prescott Hamfest Review: Mike, N7IEP reported that this event was twice as successful as last year even though it was only one day, but for 2018 it will be both Friday and Saturday again. Profits were split between the ERAU and Yavapai clubs, with ARCA getting its share as cosponsor.
- Show Low Hamfest Review: Chris, N7PVL reported that the Kachina club has a great location with room to expand. The parking lot is paved and there is a building that could be used for meetings. Because weather is always a challenge in late July – the club is considering a move to the 2nd or 3rd weekend to avoid storms.
- ARRL Southwest Division Convention Review: Rick, W7RAP reported that it was successful to a point but lost money. There were not many vendors, but the excellent dinner presentation was given by a JPL member who is a space weather expert and showed correlation between hurricanes and sunspot cycle. The venue location at the Torrance Marriott was very expensive so it is unlikely that the event will return there in the future.
- LBARC Club Mesh Grant Update: Charlie, K0TAN advised that to date the club has spent \$325 of the \$500 grant to add capability to Crossman Peak. The mesh node is 4'000 feet above Lake Havasu and has 120 degree coverage to cover most of the Lake Havasu area. Future plans include putting an ARDEN node one of the Fire Chief's facilities, and this should be finished by the end of this year. In addition he showed a map that shows the coverage of the current seven ARDEN nodes in the area. He recommended that anyone considering putting up new ARDEN nodes use the 5.8GHz due to noise issues in the 2.4GHz band. A question was asked whether ARCA has a 5GHz band plan, the board took an action to get with the coordination committee to work that issue.
- RST Club Mesh Grant Update: Mike, W7IJ provided an update on the ARCA grant to RST for improving the mesh network in the Tucson area. He apologized for the lateness of the update as they had encountered problems getting access to the planned node locations, but the grant money has now provided ARDEN Nodes deployed at 5151 East Broadway and on Mount Lemmon. The Pima County Office of Emergency Management has added one in mid-town, and will also add one downtown on the Bank of America building. The Border patrol is also adding one on the east side of town near Golf Links and Swan. Collectively, this network should cover from Rio Rico to Marana and east, and they will continue to move forward and expand the network further.

**New Business:**

- The Catalina Radio Club has rejoined ARCA – their membership was approved by the board.
- The Prescott hamfest request for ARCA sponsorship approved.
- Because Melinda, KC7FWR has moved to Sacramento, the organization needs a new Secretary. Chris, N7PVL nominated Lee, KD7OED to fill the vacancy, seconded by Chris, W7CGC. All approved; none opposed.
- ARCA license plate funding discussion: Due to the fact that time was expiring, Chris, N7PVL recommended we table that discussion. The chair and 1st vice-chair concurred, and we will continue that discussion at the next meeting. (Note: the next meeting will be scheduled for a two-hour block instead of only one hour in order to allow this and other new business to be discussed).

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Superstition Hamfest, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in Mesa at 11:00 AM.

**12:02 PM Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by KD7OED

## Meeting Attendees 14 January 2017

Name	Callsign	Club	Pres.	Del.	Alt.	Visitor
Gary Keck	KE7DX	RST		X		
Mike Boger	W7IJ	RST	X			
Thomas Boza	NE7X	CADXA		X		
Dennis Bietry	KE7EJF	ARA			X	
Michael Drapkin	WB2SEF	ARA				X
James Wasson	N7ELL	Scottsdale	X			
Carl Foster	KB7AZ	OVARC			X	
Rick Paquette	W7RAP	ARRL				X
Tom Fagan	K7DF	QCWA				X
Tony Bogusz	W9MT	CRC		X		
Mike Bales	KC7GTY	CARA		X		
Bill McLean	K7WWM	ANSR		X		
Gary Hamman	K7GH	AARC	X	X		
Lori Cripps	WA7EDI	MMRG		X		
Ingrid Geissler	W7ISG	CADXA				X
Reinhard Geissler	K7RGG	CADXA				X
Michael Childers	K7URK	MARCA				X
Mike Reid	N7IEP	Yavapai				X
Jack Lunsford	KD7RCJ	NADXA	X			
Ray Vasquez	K4RMV	Scottsdale		X		
Charlie Kotan	K0TAN	London Bridge		X		
Christopher Canevit	W7CGC	MARA		X		
Douglas Mitchell	W7ADD	Superstition		X		
Rod Fritz	WB9KMO	Scottsdale				X
Lee Ilse	KD7OED	CARA				X

Bob Howard	W8RH	ARCA Chairperson
Virgil Silhanek	K7VZ	ARCA First Vice-Chair
Steve Miller	W6SDM	ARCA Second Chairperson
Chris Kesauer	N7PVL	ARCA Treasurer
Jeff Hanna	WB7RFY	ARCA Past Chairperson