

As sent to AE6LA Sun 18/MAR 07 11:44

Minutes of the March 15, 2007 CARS Meeting

The meeting room of the Straw Hat Pizza was once again our very pleasant meeting place. Ken, AE6LA, CARS President opened the meeting at 18:50. He had e-mailed the agenda, plus he had copies to pass out. After Ken's welcome to all present, your Secretary read the minutes of the December 10, 2006 meeting. Those minutes were then approved by the group.

Next Lynn, AC6CY, presented his Treasurer's report. He indicated that our checking account, after payment of our annual insurance of \$320, stands at \$772.61. No portion of that is allocated to the repeater. However it is understood that some of those funds can be drawn upon for repeater use if deemed necessary. It was pointed out that there will be expenses associated with Field Day. Lynn stated that when a membership is submitted via Paypal, we are charged \$1.17 on a \$30 membership. Membership dues will come due for all "old" members next June 30th. Ken stated that it continues to be club policy to allow new members who have joined recently to have a full year's membership from the date they joined.

Under "Old Business", Bill, K6DUY, co-chair of Field Day (Fred, WB6QVI, will be working with Bill on the event) that a location had not yet been selected. By a show of hands, it was clear that a number of those present were interested in participation in the June event.

The Sierra Century Bike Ride, that has previously been done in Amador county, will be entirely within Calaveras county this year, on June 2nd. Arturo, N6PGH, CARS coordinator for the event stated that he has been in contact with Sacramento Wheelmen, the organizing group, and they are interested in our assisting with communications in conjunction with the Amador County Amateur Radio Club (www.k6arc.com). Further details will be announced on the Monday night net as they become available. KO6HV, KN6XW, KI6ART, AE6LA and WB6QVI indicated that they were interested in taking part in the event.

Jim, KO6HV, our VP and Emergency Coordinator, said that he has been trying to contact Clay Hawkins, Calaveras OES Captain, regarding CARS participation in their activities. Jim stated that Clay apparently "wants an event in March", but that no details were available and CARS was not contacted in conjunction with a hospital event that OES held recently.

Another brief mention of Field Day was made. It was stated that the TCARES group had invited CARS to join them at their site. It was felt however that due to several factors, including being limited to few HF stations (owing to the potential RFI between them) and other logistical concerns, that we had declined their offer. However a joint Bar-B-Q with the two groups at some time in the future was considered quite desirable. John, KI6ART, indicated that he had made a presentation on "An Introduction to Digital Software", and PSK31 on February 24th to the Amador County Amateur Radio Club (ACARC).

Ken then turned to "New Business." The primary topic dealt with the repeater and the newly installed controller. Thanks were expressed to Ken and to Tim, KD6NRB, for their many hours of work to put it into operation. Many thanks were also given to Andy, NV6V, for his work on the IRLP node and other aspects of the repeater and his continuing duties as CARS webmaster. People were reminded that they can get a current roster on the site by logging in with their call and the password. That password was mentioned, but will not be stated here. KD6NRB brought the motion that Ken and Andy be granted lifetime memberships. This motion was passed unanimously. Ken stated that he is now the owner of the CARS repeater, taking over from Andy. He reminded the group that the "Fowler Repeater Group", of which he is the chair is the actual owner of the repeater. Ken stated that he was "uncomfortable" with also being CARS president in that it might constitute a conflict of interest. He then passed out cards with a few repeater codes. These included the use of the autopatch, DTMF keypad test facility, repeater parameter readout and codes for enabling and disabling the system. Ken stressed that disabling should be done only if needed due to repeater "hangup" or inappropriate use of the machine. Ken stated that he was the person responsible that the system is operating properly and used appropriately. Therefore he will monitor the repeater as much of the time as he is able. He recommended that we follow the guidelines stated in the "Repeater Etiquette & Tips" that is available at <http://www.10-70.org/repeater.htm>. ~~One particular item he mentioned is that he felt that the system should not necessarily be used for conversations that could more appropriately be carried on other media. There was a little bit of discussion on this. Members were made aware that a double, quick, beep on the courtesy tone would mean that we were on emergency power and in such a condition, only CW Ids will be heard.~~ *to sep. paragraph*

Andy, who has been working on the IRLP equipment stated that it would be at least a couple of weeks before he would be able to bring it into service. There was some discussion about the desirability of our having the IRLP facility and of being a node. The obvious feature of listening to "DX" was stated as was the ability of the new controller (a feature not available on the previous one) of being able to connect to a "reflector". A reflector allows connection to multiple nodes. Steve, KF6HJB, mentioned that we could frequently hear such a system in operation on the Sonora repeater at 440.850.

Ken felt that our current RF hardware, a GE Mastr II Mobile, was one that no one in the group really knew how to maintain. This he stated compromised our ability to provide a reliable system for emergency purposes. He recommended we consider purchasing a new RF deck such as the Kenwood TKR-750. Clearly at \$1500, a source of funds would need to be found. While personal contributions and some accumulation from members' dues could be obtained, that would probably take some time.

This lead to the final repeater related item on the agenda. Miriam, K6MAB, has been pursuing the preparation of a grant request, for repeater equipment, to the Calaveras Community Foundation and has a preliminary draft. It was suggested that a grant

request might include, in addition to a replacement for our current RF deck, a second system that could be deployed as a portable system for emergency use.

The next agenda item was the "need" for non-profit incorporation. This, it was felt, might help in our pursuit of a grant. Fred, WB6QVI, stated that the paperwork of filing tax returns and the other "considerable" paperwork associated with a non-profit made such a move of questionable merit. He further stated that the PR generated at a Field Day site could help in public visibility and might generate support. The group decided to not pursue non-profit status at this time.

omitted from final version (A very big thank you to Fred, WB6QVI for his surplus equipment sale at the meeting benefiting the club.

Finally, Ken called for other "New Business" and/or comments. John, KI6ART, again stressed the desirability of getting together with other hams groups, especially the Amador and Tuolumne clubs. With no further business, Ken adjourned the meeting at 20:42

Submitted by WB6QVU, CARS Secretary