Minutes of the September 20, 2007 CARS Meeting

For the second time this year, we met at Perko's in Angels Camp. It is anticipated that the March, June and September quarterly meetings will be held there, also.

Ken, AE6LA, welcomed everyone and the meeting started at approx. 19:00. John, KI6ART, introduced Jim Grinnell, K6ELP, who has been working with John on possible club incorporation. Jim indicated that there may be a $300 IRS filing fee, and discussed the required process for incorporating as a non-profit corporation.

Your secretary, WB6QVU, read the June meeting minutes, a thank you letter to the Sacramento Wheelmen (both in the last newsletter), and a letter of appreciation to Miriam Brown, K6MAB, for her initial work on the CARS grant proposal. This was followed by Fred, WB6QVI, reading a letter to the "Bear Valley Mountain Resort" thanking it for allowing the use of a parking lot for the Field Day 2007 exercise.

Ken handed out two items: One describing his proposal to disband the "Fowler Repeater Group", and transferring all its assets to CARS Inc. (once incorporation is completed). Ken discussed the CARS Inc. function with respect to "repeater administration". The second handout was about the repeater, including IRLP status, and a request for Ken's personal reimbursement for necessary repeater equipment. The expenses were listed in the handout, which totaled $732.38. All members who voted unanimously approved this reimbursement to Ken.

Andy, NV6V, passed out an information sheet on the use of the repeater's IRLP system, and stated that our repeater node is now in operation. Andy is encouraging everyone to try using it, and to please see the website for more usage information on IRLP. The group thanked Andy for his dedicated work on the IRLP system and operation.

Arturo, N6PGH, is the CARS coordinator for CARS participation in the "Mr. Frog's Wild Ride" on October 21st, and stated that the route will be similar to the Sierra Century bike ride. Many CARS members assisted last June 2nd on the large Sierra Century event, but there will be far fewer riders participating in the "Frog" ride. He will be asking for volunteers to assist at next Monday's Net.

John, KI6ART, has done extensive work on our CCF grant application. He has prepared the necessary application forms and documentation that includes letters of support from the County Board of Supervisors, and from Lt. Tim Sturm of the Sheriff's Office, where he is an assistant to Clay Hawkins, OES Chief. Tim is the coordinator for the County Search and Rescue, and is also is responsible for assembling the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in times of crisis. He is assigned as a Lt. for the Special Operations Division of the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department.

John stated that Jim Grinnell, K6ELP, would charge us only "filing costs and mileage" accrued on behalf of his work for CARS on incorporation. Jim has prepared two grant applications for the TCARES group, which were funded with grants.

The discussion then moved on to the review of the pros and cons of incorporation under 501(c)(3) status. The legal protection provided by incorporation was favored, as was the gaining of non-profit status. There was some concern discussed about the 501(c)(3) status granted to charitable groups. This status would allow all donations to CARS to be tax deductible to the giver. John, KI6ART, provided a handout suggesting duties for corporate officers. Next, the motion to file for 501(c)(3) incorporation was presented.
The following members voted in favor: KI6ART, K6DUY, W6AJW, KG6OJV, KD6NRB, WB6QVI, N6IV, N6PGH, KF6HJB, NV6V, AE6LA and WB6QVU. There was one no vote. Since it was decided to incorporate CARS as a non-profit, the motion to adopt the "Suggested Procedure to Merge" the Fowler Repeater Group into CARS Inc. was motioned, and passed unanimously. Then Ken called for volunteers to form the "incorporation committee" for developing the new By-Laws. The following members volunteered, and became members of that committee: W6AJW, K6DUY, KI6ART, AE6LA, and new member KG6OJV, George Campbell Jr.

Ken adjourned the meeting at 20:35.

Submitted by WB6QVU, CARS Secretary