

Minutes of the Dec.13, 2008 C.A.R.S. Meeting

Held at the First American Title Company at highways 49 and 4 our Dec. meeting was attended by 21 members and guest Barry, K3UG, from Copperopolis. Ken, AE6LA, made us all feel welcomed as he opened our last meeting of the year.

The location for the CARS meeting place was the first topic of discussion. After some input from the group other locations will still be considered as possibilities for 2009 meetings.

Mark, N6IV, read the minutes from the Sept. meeting and the report was approved by the membership and entered into record.

On Oct. 13th the club held a special on-the-air meeting during net to facilitate the club officers becoming signatories on the CARS checking account. This was to allow more flexible handling of proposed incoming monetary funds secondary to the county grant request.

Also during October several club members had volunteered to fill the upcoming vacancies of vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Since there were no contested officer positions the membership unanimously approved Steve Airola, as vice president, Pasty Clark, as secretary and Bill Holmes, as treasurer. Their terms will start Jan. 1, 2009.

After 9+ years of serving the CARS club as treasurer, Lynn, AC6CY, read his final treasurer's report. Everyone attending expressed appreciation for all of his hard and diligent work over the years. We now have \$1711.61 in the kitty. Lynn will transfer his office to K6DUY in Feb 2009.

Jim, KO6HV, stated nothing really new regarding ARES/RACES and Ken mentioned things have been very quiet on this point as well.

The president told the group that the repeater committee met on 9-24-08 and discussed various items including the 100w Desk Mate radio to be installed at Fowler, the possibility for a remote base station with materials that Ken has, and that Andy is still wishing to move the IRLP node up the hill to the repeater site.

A work trip on Oct. 1st to the repeater was attended by AE6LA, K6DUY, KI6ART, KD6NRB, WS6P and Steve Allred, K6SCA. The group successfully put up an antenna and deployed a packet node (144.91 MHz) designed to interface with the State OES emergency network . Other accomplishments included K6DUY installing a power supply into the rack, resorting equipment, and K6SCA retuning the duplexer. Ken and other members say the retuning has resulted in less outside interference and a larger more reliable coverage area for the repeater. Thanks to all of you for volunteering.

Additionally, Ken reports that a generous donation of UHF radios, antennas, and coax were made to CARS by club member David Putnam, KG6BVJ. These items were requested to be utilized for emergency services and the benefit of the club. The next repeater committee meeting will further elaborate on this project.

Ken thanked all those who were able to attend the club Christmas party hosted by himself and his gracious wife Lynn. Thank you both as well.

NV6V, Andy states that the IRLP is down at the present time due to hardware/software difficulties but hopes to have it up and running soon, time permitting . The website has been having some issues off and on but things are looking good due in part from the responsiveness of the website host. As of late the website is behaving itself. Good job Andy.

Regarding the club's request for grant funds from the Calaveras Community Foundation John, KI6ART, reported that we were not selected this year to receive funds. He will be investigating how to further our success next year. Paperwork at the state level concerning the clubs non profit status is slowly making its way to completion.

KI6ART was happy to announce that Miriam, K6MAB, is now a cub reporter for the Wavelength helping to provide materials and photos of events for inclusion into our quarterly newsletter.

Circulation of the Sierra Wavelength Newsletter was a hotly debated issue at the meeting with many members providing input. The printing, handling, and mailing costs are very consuming. As most issues are delivered via e-mail Ken finally wrapped it up by saying we would mail out hard copies of the newsletter only to those members who specifically request it.

Charlotte, N6NML, is compiling a photo album of CARS events and people. Chuck, W6AJW, requests that anyone having photos (with captions if possible) to please send them to him as "jpg" files.

We missed seeing Arturo, N6PGH, (and Kit WB6QVU) with his event report but participating members said the bicycle run, "Mr. Frogs Wild Ride", was successful albeit with fewer riders than last year. Here again ham operators provided radio communications when tradition means are not reliable or practical.

We are in luck. K6DUY will head up Field Day in 2009 and also by unanimous decree Bear Valley will be our coveted location. It's never too early to start thinking about your antennas, equipment, and setup.

Net Manager, Fred, WB6QVI continues to praise the successful Monday night nets on N6FRG. Each control operator is allowed to lend his/her own style to the net which has resulted in increased numbers of membership and guest check-ins . Please consider volunteering, It can be fun. Remember, if you goof up or make a mistake (as we all do) it is just your friends out there listening and wishing you encouragement.

Old business from the Sept. meeting included discussing suggestions from Miriam, K6MAB, that could possibly help the club run better. After much deliberation the members settled on meetings every 2 months which will allow time to discuss "radio" or other interests besides the business of running the club. Additional changes that have been instituted, or are currently being worked on, are the addition of current/past events on the website and the inclusion of the word "Newsletter" defining the Sierra Wavelength . Monthly breakfast locations as of now remain at the Main Street Cafe in Angels Camp unless we can find fresh sites. More speakers and educational forums would be welcome. If you have any expertise please bring it to a meeting or breakfast and share it with us. Hams have inquiring minds.

Committee chairs have been filled; Net Manager, Fred WB6QVI, ARES/RACES coordinator: PT, KG6FEY, Field Day Chairman: K6DUY, Repeater Committee Chair: Ken, and Event Support: Open.

The topic of our hosting a ham radio swap net on the repeater has been proposed with no objections from the floor. Someone would have to run with this if they so desire.

Ken put out a call for a new VE coordinator. KI6ART has agreed to step in and mentioned that the ham radio instruction classes are now on temporary hold secondary to the county not being able to agree to availability dates.

Charles McConnell, our ARRL section leader, has contacted the club to solicit help from hams during the analog to digital TV change over. The FCC actually thought hams could be of assistance here disseminating information to the public and serving as a knowledge base.. More of a public relations issue than a hands-on approach the clubs is in general agreement but we await further information as to what our exact role would be.

As a final note Ken marked several up coming meetings as Jan. 15, Mar. 19, May 21, July 16. and continuing with every odd month on the 3rd Thurs.

Field Day will be on June 27 / 28 and the next repeater committee meeting (all members invited) to be held in conjunction with the monthly breakfast on Jan 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

Submitted by N6IV, CARS Secretary