

**CARS , INC**  
**Business Meeting**  
January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – 1830 hrs

At 1935 hrs, the Business Meeting was called to order by CARS President Ken Sanders AE6LA, following a program presentation about time in Africa with Rafiki Foundation by Rob Sullivan WB5FTF.

**Secretary Report:** The minutes from the business meeting held November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 were accepted as submitted and posted on the CARS Web Site, with a motion & second from the membership.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bill Holmes K6DUY was present to read and submit his financial report, reporting a current balance of: \$2 ,947.65, with no outstanding debt. Since the last meeting all bills were paid, including \$44.89 to TCARES for drinks, and \$14.99 to Bill Holmes for 2 member badges, and \$20 for NARCC dues to facilitate club participation. \$28 in donations were received this evening to cover meeting room rent. 84 members paid up, with none in arrears.

Ken AE6LA noted that Bill holds the only mailbox key for the club.

**PIO Report:** John Davenport KI6ART was not present. Ken relayed that the Murphys breakfasts are being attended by 10-14 people and all report a good time of fellowship. It's a good way to stay caught up on what is going on. Working on a grant proposal. The next VE session is January 28<sup>th</sup> in Arnold – going forward they are in different locations around the county – see the CARS web site.

Thanks to Ken Wilson N6XD for posting minutes, meeting agendas, and VE schedules onto the CARS web site.

**VP Program Report:** Vice President Steve Airola W6RXX was present and discussed his plans for future meeting night speakers. For the next meeting we will have a speaker but its still tbd.

Burson Swap Meet: Steve and friends are still working on a date – stay tuned.

**Repeater Report and other news:** President Ken Sanders AE6LA reported on the current status of the repeater on Fowler Peak. All seems OK, including the digi-peaters on Fowler and Mt. Reba. Chuck Farr W6AJW suggests late April as a target date for visiting the Repeater; March 31<sup>st</sup> might be a good placeholder – if anyone is interested to join in the fun, let Ken know.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 there is an annual NARCC meeting; Rob and Bill expressed an interest to attend this.

Amateur Radio Newslines is still being presented on the N6FRG repeater, prior to the weekly CARS VHF net.

The annual Calaveras County Frog Jump is coming up in May at the fairgrounds. We discussed the possibility of doing the special event station or some other physical presence for PR purposes. If there are any ideas or interest, let Ken know.

**ARES:** PT Brown KG6FEY attended a disaster training meeting at West Point. Plans are coming together for first ever disaster response training for Calaveras County.

April 21<sup>st</sup> is the planned date which may be in conflict with Mr. Frog's Wild Ride. Location will be West Point and Wilseyville. The training scenario will involve a vehicle vs. large propane tank accident, and the county Sheriff, CHP, various fire departments, PG&E and others will be involved in a realistic training exercise that includes large scale evacuation & activation of Red Cross shelters. West Point CERT is preparing evacuation contingency plans now. We anticipate that we'll need volunteers (up to 10-20) for that day, 9am to 4pm (and there'll be a cookout afterwards) so members please mark that day. The

Stockton Record plans to be there to observe and report, so John KI6ART should attend Feb 8, & March 16<sup>th</sup> 1600 hrs at West Point All Veterans Hall.

**Net Manager:** Sam has 9 of the coming 12 months Net Control slots filled – see Sam if you're interested to help with the remaining openings. Thanks to those are on the calendar already!

We had a 1326 member check-ins to our weekly VHF net in the 2011 calendar year, and 441 visitors checking into the net. We had three members with 100% attendance and two above 90%.

In our weekly VHF net preamble, we usually announce the breakfast and then Ken covers some of the general announcements a second time. Sam suggested that we make a few changes to make sure we don't make redundant announcements starting next week.

Fred Soderer, WB6QVI complimented Sam Hernandez WS6P on the way we conduct the Net, and in particular how we make visitors feel welcome: well done Sam! Sam is hoping this year to get more YL's involved in the Net.

Sam is still leading our NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System) Net with FLdigi software practice net weekly. Join in the fun – this works well when HF propagation is not good enough to support voice communications, and we have been practicing with simple acoustic coupling (no computer interface required, just put a microphone near the computer speaker, etc).

With the advent of new frequencies on 60m Sam is looking to give 'em a try.

**Field Day:** Bill Holmes K6DUY reported that the location for this year is still up in the air. One potential site is on Hwy 4 about 3 miles above Big Trees, near the ski rope tow. It's now owned by an attorney from San Luis Obispo & Bill plans to contact him. We're open to any other suggestions – please contact Bill if you know of a place. Fallback is our past Bear Valley location or the fairgrounds. Sam WS6P reports that Tim Mueller of West Point Fire has volunteered to cook for us – we have to decide whether we want Tri-tip or chicken (prepare your votes!).

Last year at Field Day Sam made a challenge to the group to learn CW, and he has been checking into CW nets... the challenge is still in play! Those who are interested should be practicing up! See Sam if you're interested in the practice software he's been using.

**Picnic Committee:** Ken asked Tim Cody to make a Utica Park reservation for Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for our annual picnic – the Saturday after Labor Day. After a short discussion it was agreed, and Ken committed to proceed with the reservation.

### **New Business**

Tim Cody KD6NRB brought up the FEMA ICS (Incident Command System) emergency service training. He has not been doing it & wonders it's OK to "come as he is". Should he feel guilty? No: PT Brown KG6FEY says "come as you are".

Sam WS6P reports that there is a Technician class training scheduled for West Point 24 & 26 April at the Veterans Hall, 5pm to 9pm each day. There will be an early review on the morning of the VE session on the 28<sup>th</sup>... pass rate has been pretty good. See Sam if interested.

Bill K6DUY has an open invitation to anyone interested in military & surplus gear, in a variety of conditions. Give Bill a call if you're interested – bring cash and a trailer.

**Upcoming Calendar / Events:**

Next Meeting: Next Business Meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm at the Angels Camp IOOF hall.

Breakfast: February 4<sup>th</sup> & March 3<sup>rd</sup> are the upcoming breakfast dates – 9 am at the Murphys Hotel.

VE Session: The next VE Session will be Jan 28<sup>th</sup> in Arnold.

EMCOMM West: Ken will attend annual EMCOMM West convention May 4-6 in Reno – he parks his motor home in the Grand Sierra Casino trailer park. Registration at the door is OK but there may be a discount for early registration.

The meeting was adjourned by Ken at 2020 hrs.  
Respectfully submitted by Rob Sullivan, WB5FTF  
Secretary - Calaveras Amateur Radio Society