

CARS , INC
Business Meeting
July 12th, 2012 – 1915 hrs

At 1930 hrs, the Business Meeting was called to order by CARS President Ken Sanders AE6LA after Rob Sullivan presented an update on the N6FRG repeater desense problem (which is now mostly solved, see below). Steve, W6RXX showed a YouTube video from K6GLH that documented the recent Burson Swap Meet festivities to entice all who didn't make it this year.

Secretary Report: The minutes from the business meeting held May 11th, 2012 were accepted as published and posted on the CARS Web Site, with a motion & second from the membership. Chuck pointed out an error in the March 8th, 2012 meeting minutes regarding the treasurer's report in the March meeting. The then current balance was recorded as \$29,237.00 and should have been \$2,923.70. The Secretary's filed minutes have been corrected and sent to our webmaster to replace the previously published minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Holmes K6DUY was present to read and submit his financial report, reporting a current balance of: \$2,825.48, with no outstanding debt. Bill reminded all that dues for next year are due at the end of June and a number of member's dues are still pending.

Today we have 96 members (but only 15 present at the meeting tonight). Between May 10th & today, we spent money on groceries for the Burson Swap concessions, but we took in revenue of \$256 for a net profit to our club. We spent money at Gateway Press in Murphys for 23 new hats and 12 new All Star Athletic badges. ARRL club liability insurance was \$200, and rental for portable toilets and wash stations for Field Day was \$142. Dues are still \$23 for individuals and \$30 for families (no change from last year). Please get your dues in to Bill. Hats are \$10 each – if you need one, see Bill. Bill K6DUY thanked Steve W6RXX and Sam WS6P for putting together our participation in the Burson swap meet, and all joined in a round of applause.

PIO Report: John Davenport KI6ART reported that the Murphy's breakfasts are being attended by 10-15 people. The next one is Aug 4th, 9am and after that, September 1st. The next VE session will be in San Andreas at the Fire Dept (St. Charles & Hwy 49) at 9:30am the 28th of July, the directions are on the CARS web site.

VP Program Report: Vice President Steve Airola W6RXX reported that he's working on a presentation on "The Solar Powered Amateur Radio Station" for the September meeting. In November we don't have a speaker lined up yet, but stay tuned. Steve reported that Larry, W6OMF, who has put on a swap meet down near Davis each year passed away recently due to a heart attack. Some of our members might also be sad to hear that news.

Burson Swap Meet: Sam WS6P updated everyone about the Gold County Ham Swap and Roast to be held at 5476 W Highway 12, Burson, CA. on May 12th. Gates open at 6 am, and the Swap starts at 7 am. Reminder: CARS agreed to provide a refreshment concession there. Sam has purchased drinks & will be set up with coffee & donuts, etc. in the swap area. We may make a few hundred dollars, or we may break even. They're expecting 300-400 people & we'll use any leftovers for Field Day.

Repeater Report and other news: Ken AE6LA reported on the status of the Mt Reba remote base. It was down the week prior to Field Day because power was shut off at Bear Top, but it was switched back on during the dinner Saturday night and is OK now. In summary the N6FRG repeater suffered a PA failure on June 4th. Bill K6DUY and Ken replaced it with a more powerful unit, and we then noticed a desense problem which has now been rectified by the addition of an additional Sinclair 4-cavity pass/reject filter between the PA and the duplexer.

Ken Sanders AE6LA reported on the current status of the repeater on Fowler Peak. All seems OK now, including the digipeaters on Fowler and Mt. Reba. Our packet nodes are well-used with more than 60 unique call signs appearing in just the last 30 days. On the member web site there are instructions for using the N6FRG auto-dial slots. The number in slot #49 for Cal Fire dispatch has been updated to autodial the Cal Fire dispatcher. Ken talked for a few moments about the TCARES Dodge Ridge repeater on 147.975 (pl 100) that covers much of the back country above us. He has established a simplex auto patch that can be used via that repeater - let him know if you're interested to use it.

ARES: Sam has now verified all three forest road evacuation routes from West Point. In case of need for evacuation, ARES volunteers would be dispatched to guide citizens and report on evacuation status. On behalf of the West Point citizen corps, Dennis Lewis KJ6KXQ reported that it is very much appreciated that the routes have been again verified this year. Mountain Ranch held a meeting last month at Station 1 (Calaveras Fire & Rescue) to identify a place to add an antenna & feedline drop at the fire station, and also a shelter location for adding emergency ham stations. We identified a need for a VE session in Mountain Ranch at some time in the future, as a number of residents expressed an interest in getting ham licenses. There is also interest to put an antenna & radio at a Parks & Recreation building in San Andreas. The investment in CERT and ham-radio cooperation is paying off. Next priorities include Jenny Lind, Ebbetts Pass, and then Mokelumne Hill.

Ken reported that the Amador Club manned the Sierra Century Bike Ride this year, and we were “support” the week before Field Day. It was a big event which used two repeaters and two net control operators, and they used APRS to report race progress, and it worked beautifully. We got the information late this year and only a few members were able to participate due to the late notice. Next year we’ll look forward to advance notice and more participation.

Net Manager: Next month, Janette KJ6KXN from Burson will be net control. Aside from our repeater glitch (which was a good exercise to fall back to a simplex net – we checked in 30 people!), the Monday night net is going well. The NBEMS net also went well last night. A special net is coming up on the 25th of July: Ken will be net control, operating remote from remote Alpine County (near Markleeville) to facilitate a special demonstration of HF digital comms to an Alpine undersheriff there. This invitation to Alpine County came as a result of Undersheriff Levy’s visit to our Field Day this year; he’s a ham (K6ALP) and is interested to get more familiar with NBEMS, as it might be very useful for covering the Alpine County geography.

Field Day: Field day this year was a great success. We can be proud of our scores: total QSO points was 1199, and the number of contacts was 796: that’s 365 on CW, 78 Digital and 393 Phone contacts. The number of QSOs was about 40% more than last year... and there were only a few sections in US & Canada that we did not get. It was a different year - unusually cold - but “a good time was had by all”. Thanks Terry KJ6BJL for cooking 30 chickens in his barbeque barrel, to all who brought goodies for the pot luck dinner and the contacts continued through the night... We scored bonus points this year for emergency power, natural power, youth participation, and even a visit from a government official (Robert Levy, the Undersheriff of Alpine County). Total points for our effort this year was 3738, compared to last year’s total of about 3200, so “Well Done” everyone who participated!

Picnic Committee: Tim Cody has reserved Utica Park for Sept 15th, 2012 for our annual picnic – the second Saturday after Labor Day. John KI6DWP from the Amador club has accepted responsibility for the main meal (as we were before), and we’ll supply the soft drinks. We’ll get announcements going in the August weekly nets and we’ll spend some time on other Picnic details in our next meeting.

New Business

Dennis mentioned that Ebbetts Pass Fire has CERT training grant money available – we might be able to apply for some subsidy?

Upcoming Calendar / Events:

Breakfasts: The next one is Aug 4th, 9am and after that, September 1st

The picnic is Sept 15th.

Next Bi-monthly Business Meeting: Sept 13th - 7pm at the IOOF Hall in Angels Camp.

The meeting was adjourned by Ken at 2020 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by Rob Sullivan, WB5FTF
Secretary - Calaveras Amateur Radio Society