

CARS Meeting Minutes
Calaveras Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
Bi-Monthly Meeting
March 14th, 2013 - 6:30 General

Our meeting this evening kicked off at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance, and Ken talked about his portable packet setup which is able to access the email gateway he operates in Blue Lake Springs via RMS Express & WinLink 2000 and our packet node on Fowler Peak.

Steve Airola W6RXX introduced the topic, “CalFire Dispatch”, and our speaker for this evening, Ed Allendorf KI6WJV.

Ed has been a ham for a few years now but has been with CalFire for 18 years. You can check out his live scanner feed on the internet with these steps 1) open the web page at <http://RadioReference.com>, then 2) click on Live Audio, California & Calaveras and 3) you will hear the Calaveras Sherriff and the CalFire TCU Dispatch. (It will be redirected to <http://Broadcastify.Com>).

If you're interested in an informal CalFire dispatch tour, give him a call. Often, Sunday afternoons work well but be sure to call first. We all enjoyed the informal discussion and Q&A with Ed regarding fire dispatch in our area.

The CARS Business Meeting was called to order by CARS President Ken Sanders at 19:00, and we moved right to officer reports.

Secretary Report: Rob WB5FTF asked if everyone had read the minutes of the last meeting, and there was a motion to accept them as published. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Holmes K6DUY reported a current balance in our CARS account of \$3603.09, and he enumerated transactions and income since the last meeting. We have 98 paid up members, and all current bills have been paid.

Attention all members, dues for 2013 are due before June 30th; expect an email reminder and please do make things simple for our Treasurer by getting your dues in before that time.

Individual dues are \$23/year, and a family membership is \$30/year. If you have PayPal, that's an easy way to pay (one click at http://calaverasars.org/Web/?page_id=115) – or you can mail a check to CARS Inc., P.O. Box 391, Angels Camp, CA, 95222-0391.

Vice president's Report: Vice President SteveW6RXX is always looking for potential meeting program topics. John KI6ART suggested that we get a representative from the Angels Museum to come and get an overview and history presentation.

Rob WB5FTF asked if anyone is interested to hear more about Raspberry Pi – an inexpensive Linux based computer, and a quick show of hands identified plenty of interest – so Rob and Ken AE6LA will work on a demo. (If anyone is interested to build up their own Linux based computer for less than \$50, contact Rob and perhaps we'll demonstrate an audio NBEMS net in the room at a future meeting!. For more info just Google for “Raspberry Pi”...)

President's Report & Repeater Report: Ken AE6LA visited our Fowler 145.17 repeater today and found that all is well. Ken is still pursuing a possible Arnold UHF repeater with the homeowners association at Blue Lake Springs. It would be co-located with the association's planned commercial repeater on the El Rancho water tank; we are awaiting their response to Ken's proposal.

Lastly Ken again asked everyone to be thinking about the officer slate for next year. Nominations for President, PIO, and Secretary are due in September.

Amador County is asking for help on April 6th for their “Pardee Pardee” bicycle event that is partially in Calaveras County... Ken AE6LA, KitWB6QVU, and others are planning to participate. Let Ken know if you can help. Their usual operations prefer an APRS locator capability for operators.

Ken has new correspondence from a Park Ranger with Department of the Army, regarding an upcoming SET exercise for the New Hogan Dam & Farmington Dam projects. They are planning a table-top Emergency Preparedness exercise on May 1st, 2013, and have asked for a couple of representatives. Ken will respond.

PIO Report: John Davenport KI6ART asked how many folks saw the recent Union Democrat article about amateur radio. After working with John and others, the UD printed a real nice “if all else fails, amateur radio is there” story. Let John know if you’d like him to email a scanned copy – it has not been available on the web.

There is no new information on grants this month.

Our First Saturday Breakfasts have been great – we had about 20 at the last one, with some new faces. Make sure John has your email – John sends out the email reminders faithfully, and we mention it on the Monday night net – bring your significant other or a friend, and come enjoy an “eyeball QSO” and a good cup of coffee next month.

We congratulated and welcomed Don KK6AGA from San Andreas who is our newest VE Session graduate.

Bill K6DUY and Ken AE6LA are planning a trip to the annual M2 swap meet this Saturday March 29th – in the Fresno area - they’ll leave early (before dawn most likely); let them know if you want to come along, or if you’re in need of anything. As in years past, there will also be commercial sellers there. (for more info see <http://www.eham.net/calendar/details/2295>)

Web Master Andy Thomas, NV6V heard a big THANKS from everyone one for his recent work on the CARS website – it is looking pretty good. Be sure to visit it at <http://CalaverasARS.org> if you haven’t looked stopped by in a while.

If you have any other suggestions for Andy about content you’d like to see, let him know.

Note that the club can provide email forwarding for any member, ie. your-call-sign@CalaverasARS.com can be automatically forwarded to an email address of your choice, just like Andy’s NV6V@CalaverasARS.org. Email Andy if you’d like to have that.

ARES/OES Committee Report: PT Brown KG6FEY is still collecting ICS training “proof of completion” forms. ICS is training from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) regarding the Incident Command System.

On April 20th, 2013 Kit WB6QVU needs ARES radio operators for a Calaveras County SET (Simulated Emergency Test) drill. The drill will be a simulated school bus vs. power pole accident in the snow, which results in down power lines. Many government and non-government agencies will be involved. Some positions are covered already – see PT if you’re interested in helping; in particular someone needs to be a “shadow” for Sergeant Whiting of the Calaveras SO.

Also on April 20th, Ken AE6LA is recruiting operators for Mr. Frog’s Wild Ride (an annual bicycle race here in our county). Due to a scheduling problem we did not cover the ride last year, and they pleaded with us to help this year as they recognize the safety benefits of having ham support. Six or seven hams are coming from Amador, and Ken has another six or so from our club... talk to Ken if you can help. If you’ve

signed up for either of these April 20th events, expect to hear from PT & Ken for your marching orders.

April 19, 2014 is the date for Mr. Frog's Wild Ride next year – put it on your calendars now.

April 12th, 2014 is currently the placeholder date for the county SET drill next year, and it is slated to be a wildfire scenario.

Sam WS6P's temporary 440 MHz repeater is now active in West Point and he's seeking coordination for it with NARCC. The frequency is 440.10+ with pl 100, and it will ultimately be located at the West Point Fire Station #2 (Wilseyville). It currently covers up to Pine Grove (marginally), to Summit Level road and most of the West Point evacuation routes. In the long run, we're considering a possible 220 MHz link to the N6FRG Fowler Peak repeater.

At the request of Chief Stone (Central Fire Chief, Mountain Ranch), a VE exam-prep / study class is now planned for June 8th at Central Station #1 in Mountain Ranch. The objective is to train & prepare recent CERT participants for the planned June 15th VE session.

Net Manager & NBEMS Report: Sam WS6P reported that the Monday night net roll call list is actively managed – if you get skipped then you have missed a few nets, and your call has been temporarily removed. Just check in again when they ask for late or missed members and you are on the list again. Obviously this streamlines the net as our membership grows. A reminder to new members: tune into the N6FRG repeater, 145.17- & 100 hz pl, at 7:30pm each Monday night for the net.

Last night the NBEMS net was on 80 meters (3584 KHz & psk-125 to start with). We had check-ins and participation from Reno and other points - Sam's goal is to get some experience across Amador, Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties and beyond, and he solicits non-CARS stations by posting on a NBEMS email news group. The weekly NEMBS update & plan for the week is always available on the Monday night net.

FLAMP is the messaging program we're using lately – it will allow resent of just the blocks which are missing – which speeds things up considerably. If you already operate PSK or other digital modes with a computer, joining in the fun is pretty easy – contact Sam if you're interested, and see <http://www.w1hkj.com/flamp-help/index.html> for more info on Flamp & the fldigi suite of protocols.

Field Day: According to Sam, WS6P the date for the annual ARRL Field Day is June 22nd – 23rd, 2013 (always the fourth weekend in June), and it looks like we'll be at Bear Valley again this year.

Work on your CW skills everyone, as it appears our indefatigable CW team (Bill K6DUY & Chuck W6AJW) won't be able to participate this year – they've carried us in recent years. Maybe we'll do more on the digital modes this year...

One big change for this year: set up can begin on Thursday at 4pm – that's an extra day. For more info see <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

Picnic Committee: Tim Cody reported the committee is idle until spring. We don't expect other responsibilities or costs this year (it's not our turn) – just show up with your pot-luck dish and enjoy the fun. Definitely mark the date on your calendar: September 7th 2013.

Old business Rob WB5FTF brought a specific proposal to purchase a Kenwood TKR-750 and other necessary accessories to upgrade the Fowler Peak N6FRG repeater with the money earmarked in the last meeting. A motion to go ahead and reimburse costs of up to \$1500 for a new TKR-750, programming cable and software along with incidentals (jumper cables, parts necessary to update power distribution, grounding and metering, etc) for installation on the mountain was approved by the membership.

Work on integrating the repeater with our spare Arcom controller can begin in the next week or so, as the new repeater is in stock here in Northern California and the team expects to have the new gear installed at Fowler in the next 90 days.

The old gear will then be re-integrated with the extra controller & maintained as a spare; at a future time we may look for a used TKR-750 on eBay to establish a better spare that would fit into the same space.

Ken and Rob also talked a bit about the opportunity we have to bring internet access to the Fowler Peak site, and current thinking to connect a Raspberry Pi based IRLP/EchoLink node to the auxiliary port on the Arcom controller. Stay tuned for more information on this and see <http://www.irlp.net/pi/> if you're interested in more information on that.

Steve W6RXX noted that Knox La Rue is planning a huge swap meet to liquidate a warehouse full of decommissioned Motorola mobile radios & repeaters in June, at the airport in San Andreas. Steve will keep us up to date, as the current dates he has are on top of Field Day (June 21-23) and might change.

New Business: TRIVIA from Bill K6DUY: CARS Membership for a single member is \$1.92/month, and a family membership is \$2.50/month. Tim KD6NRB quickly pointed out that if you go to the picnic and eat well, you will get your dues money back!

Upcoming Calendar / Events: •

- Monthly Breakfast Saturday, Apr. 6 & May 4, 2013, 9 AM, Murphys Hotel
- VE Session Apr. 27
- Bi-monthly business meeting May 9, 2013, 6:30 at IOOF Hall in Angels
- Mountain Ranch SET April 20
- Mr. Frog April 20,
- FD June 21-23
- BBQ Sep 7

The Meeting was adjourned by Ken at 8:45pm.

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