

CARS Meeting Minutes
Calaveras Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
Bi-Monthly Meeting
July 11th, 2013 - 6:30pm

Our meeting this evening kicked off at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and informal introductions.

Rob Sullivan WB5FTF showed a picture of a hornet nest recently discovered at the top of his tower, just below the top plate, and solicited advice on eradicating it safely. He then presented an overview of "Raspberry Pi", an inexpensive ARM computer that runs versions of Linux, and applications in amateur radio with a live demo that included FLDIGI and a few other things.

The CARS Business Meeting was called to order by CARS President Ken Sanders after a short break, and we moved right to officer reports.

Ken circulated a hat for donations to defray the \$25/meeting rental for our meeting venue.

Secretary Report: Rob WB5FTF asked if everyone had read the minutes of the last meeting, and there was a request to read them by Chuck Farr, W6 AJW. After reading them there were no questions... and a motion to accept them as published was seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Holmes K6DUY reported a current balance in our CARS account of \$2905.95, and he enumerated transactions and income since the last meeting. All current bills have been paid.

We currently have 104 members, but only 41 paid-up members, and 63 delinquent members.

Members who're late renewing: please get your dues into Bill. *Reminder:* Individual dues are \$23/year, and a family membership is \$30/year. If you have PayPal, or if you wish to use your Visa/Mastercard, see http://calaverasars.org/Web/?page_id=115 – or just mail a check to CARS Inc., P.O. Box 391, Angels Camp, CA, 95222-0391.

(In discussion after the meeting, Bill noted that he'll be following up with remaining members by email, and members still delinquent by the end of August will be dropped from the membership rolls.)

Bill noted that John Davenport, KI6ART, and his wife are making plans to move to Monterey in the coming months. We'll sure miss John and his enthusiasm for the club. Ken AE6LA moved that Bill procure an appropriate momento to recognize John's long term contributions to CARS. The motion was seconded & approved by a voice vote of the members.

Vice president's Report: Vice President Steve Airola, W6RXK, was not present this evening, but remember, he's always looking for potential meeting program topics and presenters. Let him know if you have any ideas.

President's Report & Repeater Report: Ken AE6LA reports that the Fowler 145.17 Mhz repeater is working well. While the Reba repeater is working, the Reba to Fowler link still has issues that need attention in the coming weeks. Any who're interested to visit the repeater sites, let Ken know.

Ken reports that the Blue Lake Springs Homeowner Association has decided not to install a business repeater for their operations, as they concluded a base station at the office will suffice. That probably rules out an additional repeater or link to Fowler from their water tower site for now.

PT Brown KG6FEY and Ken visited a radio site in Valley Springs with Sargent Whiting of the Calaveras Sheriff's Office this week, and we've been invited to consider placing a repeater linked to Fowler there if

we're interested. Anyone with input on that, please get in touch with Ken.

Lastly Ken again asked everyone to be thinking about the CARS officer slate for next year. Nominations for President, PIO, and Secretary are due in September. With John KI6ART planning to leave the area, we'll need a new PIO for sure. If anyone is interested in either the President or repeater manager role, Ken would gladly encourage that interest and welcomes nominations for either position.

Ken summarized some private correspondence which documents recent judicial action that brings some remedy and closure to the TCARES club regarding funds embezzled some months ago. It's good to hear that justice has prevailed there.

Finally, Dave Hargus, K6NFL in Arnold, sent a note to Ken to pass on to the club. He has a For Sale item: a crank-up tower that was purchased but never erected – with an HF antenna and rotor in need of some TLC. It was removed from a house in Lakemont Pines a while back, and was “used” at that time. A price of \$400 was mentioned as a starting point. If interested, email Dave at dhargus@gmail.com.

Those familiar with Dave's packet radio node & weather station will be disappointed to hear it will be taken down. We're told that the weather station will be going to Cedar Creek Realty and will be accessible by the internet there, however.

PIO Report: John Davenport KI6ART was absent, so no PIO news this month.

Members noted that the next CARS Breakfast is on for Aug 3rd at Murphys Hotel, at 9am. Many members come 15-20 minutes early to get orders in before 9am...

Web Master: Andy Thomas, NV6V said the CARS web site was down for a day or two last month because of a missed payment to the hosting company. It is back up now. Thanks Andy – the web site is looking good!

ARES/OES Committee Report: PT Brown KG6FEY was contacted by ARRL to let us know they've appointed an Assistant Emergency Services Coordinator for Valley Springs, Mike Wright KC0QID. Congrats Mike! The ARRL still has a coordinator opening to fill in Copperopolis.

PT said the simulated emergency exercise last April involved many agencies along with RACES and ARES, and it flushed out numerous coordination and authority issues. The ARRL is getting involved to work these out. An exercise for April 2014 is being planned, and the simulated emergency scenario involves a 24" gas line feeding Calaveras, spawning a wildfire near the San Joaquin county line, thus involving many agencies in both counties. Planning for this should be an opportunity to work out many of the coordination issues noted in the 2013 exercise.

Net Manager & NBEMS Report: Sam Hernandez, WS6P, was not present. Members reported that the Monday night nets have been working well as the Net Control operators are doing a great job.

Last night, our local NBEMS traffic net tested “slotted broadcast” of messages in FLAMP. Members used this feature to sending broadcast messages in a round robin sequence.

Field Day: In Sam WS6P's absence, Ken AE6LA summarized our 2013 Field Day report.

Here are some details: We had 10 participants, and up to 6 transmitters in operation. We reported 0 CW QSOs, 86 Digital QSOs for 172 points and 209 Phone QSOs for 209 points for a total of 381 QSO points. We applied a 2x multiplier for operating under 150 watts, 2x for emergency power and multipliers for Public Venue, Info Booth, NTS Messages to ARRL SM/SEC, copying the W1AW Field Day message, Formal NTS message traffic (12 total), an Educational Activity Bonus, Youth Element achieved (1), and a GOTA station (40 bonus points total).

Our overall score was 2032 points – lower than our score in past years, but Ken thinks it is likely we beat

TCARES by about 400 points. Thanks to all who participated, and in particular to Sam for securing donations for cookout meat and other goodies.

Picnic Committee: Tim Cody KD6NRB is finalizing plans now for our annual tri-county ham picnic.

We have no big obligation this year except to host the site this year (which we've already done). As it is not our turn to provide food or drinks this year, we don't expect other responsibilities or costs this year.

Just show up at Utica Park in Angels Camp with your pot-luck dish and enjoy the fun. Mark the date on your calendar: September 7th 2013 – setup will begin at 11am, and the fun commences from noon 'til 5pm. This year's host TCARES will announce plans soon – but we might expect the ever popular a swap meet or even a TX hunt.

Repeater Committee:

Ken reported that he decided last month to just buy an Arcom autopatch to use with his spare controller so the new repeater could be integrated with the spare controller, and the whole package could go to Fowler as a unit, ready to go. But the new autopatch has been flaky and had to go back to Arcom.

All of the old Arcom scripts had to be updated for the latest firmware, which Ken has done. Rob has verified most of the scripts and has set levels & deviation. Rob WB5FTF and Ken expect to get it up to Fowler in the next few weeks though, and will look into the Reba link problem too at that time.

Old business : no old business.

New Business: Mike KC0QID opened discussion on club reimbursement to Rob for purchase of an Echolink/IRLP ready Raspberry Pi for use at the Fowler site with the new repeater. It was decided to defer that discussion until the Repeater Committee actually gets it working, as time and attention (not funding) is the immediate challenge.

Upcoming Calendar / Events: •

- Monthly Breakfast Saturday, August 3rd, 2013, 9 AM (15-20 mins early if you like), Murphys Hotel
- VE Session (still not 100% sure) is likely August 17th in Murphys
- Annual tri-county ham picnic – Sept 7th, noon to 5pm, Utica Park in Angels Camp
- Next bi-monthly business meeting Sept 12th, 2013, 6:30 at IOOF Hall in Angels (do bring takeout or a sandwich and join us at 5:30pm if you're interested)

The meeting was adjourned by Ken at 8:12 pm.

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