

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

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

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

Mike WA6ZTY spoke for a few minutes to relate his experience getting a building permit for a tower through the Calaveras County Planning Department. He's adding the tower to an R1 residential lot near Arnold. Initially he was confidently told he'd need an expensive conditional use permit in order to proceed. In the end, he was not held to any special setbacks or height limitations, and he got approval to go ahead after purchasing an "over the counter" standard building permit which cost only \$288. His discussions got easier after some hours studying the county code, and even easier when he brought Steve W6RXX (who is an attorney in San Andreas) along. His project is moving ahead – within a month or two his 80 foot crank-up tower should be standing tall! If you're considering a tower here in Calaveras, talk to Mike and Steve.

Ken circulated a sign-up list for the CARS Christmas party that he and Lynn will host at their home on Dec 8th this year, 2pm to 5pm. Do contact Ken to add your name to the RSVP list, and to decide what sort of food item you'll bring. Andy NV6V and the club will provide turkey, dressing, ham and other things, and members will sign up to bring salad, bread, dessert, or appetizers. As we did last year, we'll have a basket out for donations for our local food bank. Maybe we can top last year's donation!

Secretary Report: Rob WB5FTF asked if everyone had read the minutes of the September meeting. Chuck Farr W6AJW moved to accept the minutes as sent and without any corrections, and Tim Cody KD6NRB seconded the motion which then carried on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Holmes K6DUY reported a current balance in our CARS account of \$3553.30. All bills have been paid, including one for the going-away gift for John, KI6ART. We now have 94 paid up members – the last check came in just four days ago. Thanks Bill for running down the member renewals over the last few months!

Vice president's Report: Vice President Steve Airola, W6RXX, 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 particularly well since the new Kenwood TKR-750 was replaced last month. Everyone seems to hear it well and it is much more sensitive than the old system. Our Reba repeater is working well also – if you are going to be up that way, take a handheld & give it a try.

Steve Dexter reported in on our recent breakfasts. We had about ten members at the last breakfast, which was fewer than normal, but we had not promoted it on the Monday night net. Saturday Dec 7th, would be the December breakfast but we decided to cancel it because the Christmas Party is the next day (see details elsewhere in these minutes). Therefore, our next breakfast will be January 4th, 2014 at 9am (and as usual, many members come 15-20 minutes early) – Steve will let the Murphys Hotel know not to expect us in December.

VE Liaison Report: Suzan LaDuke K6CDA was not present but forwarded the following report: Since the last CARS meeting, the VE Team hosted one Exam Session at Murphys in October. There were

four Examinees taking the Technician Exam and all successfully passed the exam. Thank you Ken Sanders - AE6LA, Sam Hernandez - WS6P, and Andy Thomas - NV6V for administering the exams this session.

Please welcome the following new Amateur Radio Operators when you hear them on the air: Rhonda Nussbaum, John Adams, Gregory Price, and Michael Hampton.

Exam Schedule

December 14, 2013	Ebbetts Pass Fire District, Arnold
March 8, 2014	Valley Springs
May 24, 2014	Murphys
Jul 12, 2014	Arnold
Aug 23, 2014	West Point / Mt. Ranch
Oct 25, 2014	Murphys
Dec 13, 2014	Arnold

Web Master: Andy Thomas, NV6V said the CARS web site has a new & improved interface for minutes and newsletter uploads. Thanks Andy – the web site is looking good! Also, please do “like” us on Facebook! So far, we have 26 “likes” on Facebook. You can search on Facebook for “Calaveras Amateur Radio Society, Inc.” to add it to your own page.

ARES/OES Committee Report: PT Brown KG6FEY reminded us that a few months ago he had a request from Dan Pruitt, the ARRL Section Manager to appoint an Official Emergency Station for the San Joaquin Valley Section. Tonight we congratulated Sam Hernandez WS6P on his new appointment by the ARRL for this responsibility, and we admired his certificate. Sam has worked tirelessly to promote ham radio and Citizen Emergency Response Training in various locales around our county and to hold VE sessions to license new hams.

In the following discussion, Sam noted that CERT in Calaveras County is generally organized under local fire districts. Dennis Lewis is the program manager we work with most closely.

Sam’s new repeater is in Wilseyville at Fire Station #2, on 440.10 MHz (+ 5 MHz offset & 100 Hz PL). There is no courtesy tone. It is open to all, and it is coordinated with NARCC as WS6P/R. Temporary emergency power will be a battery, but Sam noted that there is no generator in that firehouse. Ken AE6LA has proposed that the Citizen Emergency Corps fund an autopatch as there is a phone line available.

In discussion, Sam mentioned that one of our members W7LTM has access to used but serviceable UPS batteries and has been our source for backup batteries for some time now. Contact him directly if you’re interested.

Net Manager & NBEMS Report: Sam Hernandez, WS6P reported that the Monday night nets have been working well and the Net Control operators are doing a great job. So far, we’ve had YL’s leading our nets all year – well done to all, and THANKS!

The NBEMS nets are running regularly on Wednesday nights – it is very likely that we’ll use these digital modes for passing shelter messages (instead of voice) in the April 2014 exercise – if you have a computer and need some help interfacing your radio, ask around and someone can help you get started. In months that have a fifth Wednesday the net operates through the Fowler N6FRG repeater by acoustic coupling – it is very easy to get going, as no cables or interface between the computer and radio are required!

Field Day: Mark your calendars now: Field Day 2014 will be June 28-30, the fourth weekend in June. In next few months we’ll nail down the location, but unless there are other suggestions we’ll probably be at Mount Reba again.

Picnic Committee: Tim Cody KD6NRB says our annual tri-county ham picnic will be Sept 6th, 2014.

Going forward the picnics will be the first Saturday after Labor Day each year – we now have a standing reservation with Utica Park in Angels Camp for our event. This year, Amador buys the drinks, Tuolumne gets a free ride, and we'll be providing meat and doing the barbecuing. Tim is looking for chefs and assistants – he'll provide the master supervision and quality control (smile). Thanks to Tim for pulling this together again, and to Chuck Farr for immediately volunteering to help! In the coming months perhaps others will be moved to sign up to help out too.

Repeater Committee: Rob WB5FTF reported on tonight's repeater committee pre-meeting. We identified five possible priorities to research:

- 1) Full duplex link from Fowler Peak to Mt. Reba (so we can use autopatch from the Reba repeater).
- 2) Purchase a spare Kenwood TKR-750 repeater to marry with Ken AE6LA's spare Arcom RC-210 controller and prepare it as a spare for Fowler & as possible portable repeater.
- 3) Investigate a possible low-level site for a 440 repeater (water tower, or somewhere that won't interfere with Beale AFB) – Mike WA6ZTY has a serviceable 440 repeater and duplexers which can be allocated for the club if we have a good cause.
- 4) Add broadband internet to Fowler and integrate IRLP/Echolink & Raspberry PI computer to one port on our Fowler Arcom RC-210.
- 5) Build a 440 MHz portable "Pelican Case" repeater for use in county ARES/Emergency Services events.

To move further on these, we'll need to investigate costs & timing for discussion in a future meeting, but notably we do know the costs for item (2), the spare Kenwood TKR-750.

Based on the repeater committee pre-meeting discussion, Chuck Farr moved that we proceed to immediately purchase a second TKR-750 repeater with club funds as a spare for Fowler Peak. Ken AE6LA has offered to donate his spare Arcom RC-210 controller and autopatch as components of the spare repeater for Fowler.

In our discussion, we discussed the fate of the club's GE MasterII receiver, exciter and 100 watt amp that was replaced by our new Kenwood repeater: it will go to Bill K6DUY. The 100 watt amp belongs to Bill already (he provided this when our 40 watt amp died last year), and the 30+ year old MasterII gear is probably worth \$50 to 75 – Bill expressed interest in it and we decided to pass it on to him. Ken noted that he has some other GE MastrII gear: power supplies, radios and cabinets, which are available if any members have a good use for them (contact Ken directly if interested).

Old business: From our September meeting, there was one nominee for Secretary (Steve Dexter) and one for President (Ken AE6LA). Rob moved that we accept these singular nominations and vote/certify them in; Chuck Farr seconded the motion and the motion carried by a voice vote. In the discussion, Chuck expressed appreciation and admiration that we all share for Ken Sanders' extraordinary service as our President, and with a round of applause we all thanked Ken for his willingness to serve as President for another term. *Our constitutional officer, Public Information Officer, PIO remains open. We continue to look for a member familiar with our community and skillful with all the current media to fill this position for us.*

Upcoming Calendar / Events: •

- Monthly Breakfast Saturday, January 4th rd, 2013, 9 AM (do come 15-20 mins early if you like), at Murphys Hotel
- VE Session Saturday Dec 14th, 2013 at EPFD in Arnold
- Annual Christmas Party at Ken & Lynn Sanders' home, Dec 8th, 2-5pm (please RSVP to Ken & sign up to bring appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert)
- Annual Tri-county ham picnic – Sept 7th, noon to 5pm, Utica Park in Angels Camp
- Next bi-monthly business meeting Jan 10th, 2014 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 8:20 pm.

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