

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society (CARS)

Minutes for Quarterly General Meeting, Jan. 14, 2021, 18:30

Meeting Location: Online via Zoom

1. Meeting called to order

- a. Welcome by club president, Steve, W6RXK
- b. Pledge of allegiance led by Mark, N6IV

2. Reading of Minutes from last meeting by Jack, W6JAK. Minutes were approved as read.

3. Treasurer's Report by Ken, AE6LA (see attached). With regards to equipment donations to the club for fund raising, Steve, W6RXK, stated that he received old 1960's Motorola commercial radios from a ham who is not a club member. The radios have no utility since they are obsolete, so they will be scrapped.

4. Net Report by Mike, N6AXQ (see attached). After Mike presented his report, Mark, N6IV, commented that regular guest attendance is more consistent than regular attendance. A brief discussion followed on possible reasons.

5. Repeater Report was presented by Ken, AE6LA.

- a. Ken presented photos and a video of the Summit Level repeater system upgrade and described the work that was done by him and Mike, WA6ZTY, and Captain James Bishop from Calaveras Fire. Three new antennas were installed: an UHF loop dipole for CARS, and VHF loop dipole for Calaveras Search and Rescue (CSAR), and an X-50 VHF/UHF vertical for the CARS VHF remote link. The loop antennas were attached to a 19 ft. mast installed at the 90 ft. level. The X-50 antenna was installed below the mast. Captain Bishop did the climbing and installation with support from Ken and Mike on the ground. An ice breaker made by Mike was installed above the antennas to prevent ice damage during the winter. Ken modified a u-bolt for installing the mast.
- b. Ken will provide an invoice for CARS's portion of the materials required for the installation.
- c. Improvements to the Summit Level site has been a collaborative effort involving CARS, CSAR, Calaveras Fire, and Ebbetts Fire. The effort began several years back with Chief Mike Johnson discovering the site while on a ATV ride. A grant was later obtained from the Calaveras Fire Chiefs Council which provided the funding to start the effort. CARS and CSAR was allowed to piggy-back and install their antennas at their expense.
- d. Mike, WA6ZTY, obtained the loop dipole antennas from a Ukrainian company which manufactures Mil-Spec quality antennas at half the cost of commercial antennas. The antennas have a 7 dB gain over a dipole. The radiation patterns favors Highway 4 with a lobe directed at Yosemite. Testing showed there is a strong signal in the Avery, Forrest Meadows, and Dorrington areas. Club members were encouraged to try the UHF repeater from different areas to get a sense of the improved coverage.
- e. Jack, W6JAK, suggested that the frequency and PL tone information for the Summit Level and Bear Valley UHF repeaters be included in the CARS web site. Andy, NV6V, agreed to update the website,

CARS QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 2021

which he started immediately and completed by the end of the meeting.

- f. The frequency pair used for the Summit Level repeater is the NARCC test pair. If NARCC objects to CARS continuing to use the test pair, then a new frequency pair will have to be coordinated. Blue Mountain is between Summit Level and the Air Force's PAVE PAWS radar site, so any concerns of causing interference to PAVE PAWS should not be an issue.
 - g. For some unknown reason, the correct year cannot be programmed in the Fowler Peak repeater. This condition does not affect operation of the repeater.
 - h. Commanding the Fowler Peak repeater can be accomplished through the Summit Level repeater since the two repeaters are continuously linked. There was a discussion on how to command the repeater with DTMF codes for recording and playing back voice transmissions for test purposes. Ken cautioned that if the signal path is marginal, using the 723 DTMF playback command could cause the repeater to lockup.
6. **Breakfast Report.** Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, there have been no club breakfasts since the last meeting.
7. **Web Master's Report** was presented by Andy, NV6V. Andy has been keeping the club roster up to date and updated the club repeater frequency information.
8. **ARES/RACES Report:** none at this meeting.
9. **Old Business.**
- a. Emergency Trailer: There was no update on the work being done to the trailer by Al, KF6OBM, and Chuck, W6AJW. Steve, W6RXK, and Mark, N6IV, will follow-up on the project and determine if it is worth completing. The project will be discussed at a future meeting.
10. **New Business.**
- a. Steve, W6RXK, asked about getting a badge for the newest club member, Shawn, KN6MTQ. A discussion followed whether new members should be issued badges automatically or wait until they start attending meetings or getting involved in club activities. It was concluded that all new members should automatically receive a badge as a way of welcoming them to the club. Steve will send badges to new members going forward.
 - b. The topic of radio equipment for sale was discussed. Steve has two ICOM HF radios available for purchase: a 756 Pro and a 756 Pro II. It was also mentioned that a new Technician desires to purchase a used 2M mobile rig. Mark, N6IV, suggested the new Tech look into purchasing a new 2M unit since they are very affordable.
 - c. There are no upcoming events, including the Frog Jump, due to Covid-19 restrictions.
 - d. Mike, KB6USJ, will come up with recommendations for video presentations that could be of interest to newly licensed hams. A presentation on power connectors, such as PowerPoles, was suggested. Most of the meeting attendees use PowerPoles, as indicated by a show of hands.
11. **Adjournment** by Steve, W6RXK, at 19:38.

List of Attendees

W6RXK, Steve Airola, San Andreas
AE6LA, Ken Sanders, Arnold
N6IV, Mark Godbout, Mokulumne Hill
KB6USJ, Mike Grceвич, Copperopolis,
WA6ZTY, Mike Fahmie, Arnold
KM6ELF, Dee Rachina, Angels Camp
N6AXQ, Mike Axiak, Copperopolis
NV6V, Andy Thomas, Valley Springs
W6JAK, Jack Luoma, Mountain Ranch

CARS QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 2021

Calaveras Amateur Radio Society, Inc. - Report November 9, 2020 to January 13, 2021

Banking Summary

11/9/2020 through 1/13/2021

Category	11/9/2020- 1/13/2021
INCOME	
Amazon Smile Income	9.03
EQUIPMENT SALE (Donated)	430.00
Membership Dues	62.66
TOTAL INCOME	501.69
EXPENSES	
Charity	50.00
Ham Repeater Service Fee	300.00
Repeater Expenses	241.06
TOTAL EXPENSES	591.06
OVERALL TOTAL	89.37

Transaction

11/9/2020 through 1/13/2021

Date	Num	Description	Memo	Category	Amount
BALANCE 11/8/2020					5,154.13
11/9/2020	EFT	Ooma		Repeater Expenses	5.11
11/12/2020		1174 Lodi Amateur Radio		Charity	50.00
11/12/2020	DEP	Amazon Smile		Amazon Smile Income	9.03
11/13/2020	DEP/ CK	BDM Investments		EQUIPMENT SALE (Donated)	245.00
11/13/2020	DEP/ CK	Steven AIROLA		EQUIPMENT SALE (Donated)	80.00
11/13/2020	DEP/ CK	5 Ken Sanders	Deposit Cash	--Split--	110.00
12/22/2020	DEP/PP	Carolyn Stinimates - W6CLS		Membership Dues	28.83
12/22/2020		1175 Ken Sanders	Summit Level UHF anten	Repeater Expenses	235.95
1/2/2021		1176 La Rue Communications	Jan, Feb, Mar.	Ham Repeater Service Fee	300.00
1/13/2021	DEP/PP	Shawn Ball - MN6MTQ		Membership Dues	28.83
11/9/2020 - 1/13/2021					89.37
BALANCE 1/13/2021					5,064.76
TOTAL INFLOWS					501.69
TOTAL OUTFLOWS					591.06
NET TOTAL					89.37

Prepared by Ken Sanders, AE6LA, Treasurer

CARS Net Monthly Report

Reporting for: **October, November, and December 2020** Net Activity.

October 2020

Members Roll Call at **93** Members:

Highest Call-in for Month – **32** (10/5) at **32** percent of Members.

Average Call-in for Month – **27** at 29 percent of Members.

Visitor Roll Call:

Highest Call-in for Month – **16** (10/19).

Average Call-in for Month – **14**.

Average Members and Visitors for **October** – **40**.

November 2020 – 5 Mondays in the Month

Members Roll Call at **87** Members:

Highest Call-in for Month – **31** (11/30) at **36** percent of Members.

Average Call-in for Month – **28** at **32** percent of Members.

Visitor Roll Call:

Highest Call-in for Month – **15** (11/2 & 11/30).

Average Call-in for Month – **14**.

Average Members and Visitors for **November** – **42**.

December 2020

Members Roll Call at **89** Members:

Highest Call-in for Month – **34** (12/28) at **38** percent of Members.

Average Call-in for Month – **29** at **32** percent of Members.

Visitor Roll Call:

Highest Call-in for Month – **16** (12/28).

Average Call-in for Month – **14**.

Average Members and Visitors for **December** – **43**.