



The Villages Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes for August, 2023

These minutes are the board-approved record of The Villages Amateur Radio Club's expenditures of club funds, property transactions, contractual agreements and proceedings involving membership votes since the last General Membership meeting. The current club property inventory and financial report can be found on the club's website.

August 3, 2023 TVARC Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting, which was held via Zoom, began at 5:30. Officers present: President George Briggs, (K2DM), Vice President Mike Regan, (KM4ZTE), Secretary Faith Olen, (N4FMO), Treasurer Bruce Cusanelli, (WA1UTQ) and Board Member at Large Rich Erlichman (ND4G).

W2TR AND WA1UTQ are currently assessing the lightning damage to the Club's 2M repeater for insurance reimbursement and specific needs for replacement of equipment. It appears that hard line and antenna are the main concerns for replacement at this time. There may be available cable and antenna for a temporary fix. Multiple members including our Repeater Team are currently working together to address this situation.

Holiday party in December: Possible pot luck. Club pays for Ham and Turkey, possibly use the app "Punchbowl" for signing up for food. More details to follow. No music is planned. Limit to first 80 people to sign up. Ideas for prizes included FMK certificates and TVARC tee shirts.

Treasury report was given by WA1UTQ. Currently at the end of July the treasury has \$6756.29.

Future program speakers: August K2DM will present advanced information about operating FT8. Possible September presentation will be KX4LEO about ARES. October – Where's your antenna? Possibly 5 people to speak about their antenna challenges here in The Villages: Each could speak of how they have worked toward resolving their issues. What were some of the obstacles and difficulties with initially getting on the air here in the Villages, how did they meet height and HMO requirements, costs restraints and/or how did the TVARC help them. KM4ZTE will generate an outline of possible speakers.

Radio on the square is scheduled for November for Spanish Springs Square. The board discussed a few possibilities about how the basic setup should look and be arranged. What equipment would be best suited and how to arrange for the best possible publicity. The focus is for the general public's awareness about why we do Amateur Radio, what it is and how and it can benefit their community.

Pictures from all events are needed for the website. If you have pictures please send as an email attachment to Rich ND4G for website posting.

TVARC storage locker was renewed for another year, A possible new location and vendor for the TVARC equipment locker for future years was discussed. ND4G volunteered to investigate finding a less expensive, equal space and value locker for equipment.

No other discussions or actions were taken.

August 17, 2023 TVARC Membership Meeting Minutes

After the 45-minute period of socializing, the president opened the meeting at 6:45. There were 43 members and 6 guests, totaling 49 attending in person. The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance, after which new members and visitors were asked to introduce themselves. This was followed by members announcing significant anniversaries and birthdays.

President's Report

K2DM fondly spoke words of remembrance for the Silent Key and TVARC member, Bob Schwer, K3ZGA. Twelve TVARC CW operators honored Bob's memory in the recent NAQP CW Contest. There were 3 teams. Teams were named K3ZGA Memorial #1, #2, #3. Bob's love of CW was legendary. His interactive CW display was a fixture at Radio Rodeo, Camp Villages and Radio on the square. Bob is and will continue to be missed.

With the end of summer activities TVARC has the following future activities to be thinking about:

Radio on the Square in November
TVARC Holiday party in December
Election of officers in February

There was a call for additional TVARC volunteers for CERT Communications, with a signup sheet made available during the break. Len Klein K4LFK did an impromptu call for volunteers for the Common Ground Parade. They are looking for communications volunteers. The event is to be held August 26.

Treasurer's Report

WA1UTQ reported that the club has a current balance of \$8,320.26.

Bruce presented a status report on the club's 2M antenna at the hospital which sustained a destructive lightning strike. Pictures were presented of shards that were left scattered about the hospital roof. The club's ARRL insurance will presumably cover the loss. The TVARC Board has authorized going ahead and ordering a replacement antenna. The approved expense for the replacement antenna is \$366.96. A temporary antenna is currently being addressed.

WA1UTQ is collecting information in relation to interest in GMRS. He currently has a list of 24 licensed GMRS stations. Please let Bruce know if you would like to be put on his list.

Program: Part 2 of the TVARC President's presentation on FT8/FT4

K2DM presented the world of Fox and Hound on FT8 with enthusiasm. He went into detail of the rules and etiquette of the chase and being chased. He also reviewed information about FT4 and a few additional tips on operating in FT4 mode. His source of information was experience and the WSJT-X User Guide which can be found on the internet.

General Membership Adjourned

After 50/50 tickets were drawn, George K2DM adjourned the general membership meeting at 8:10 P.M.