



The Villages Amateur Radio Club Minutes for April 2016

These minutes are the board-approval 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.

April 14, 2016 Board Meeting

Earle Hancock (Acting President) called this Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. EDT.

Officers present: Acting President & Vice-President Earle Hancock (KM4ISN), Secretary Tony Hackenberg (N8SK), and Treasurer Pete Stafford (K2PS). Thus, a Board Meeting Quorum was present (at least 3 of 4 officers must be present for a quorum). Ex-officers present: None. Others present: None.

The entire Board extends their condolences to Ron Adcock (KK4YCW) and his wife over the recent death of their daughter (Kim). Ron e-mailed the Board that he hopes to resume his TVARC duties in early May. In Ron's absence, Earle Hancock will be the club's Acting President (per TVARC's Constitution).

Earle Hancock is in the process of getting the club on the official list of events for the upcoming Camp Villages 2016. Earle reported that Larry Russo (K3TFU) will again lead the club's activity for this Camp Villages. Pete Stafford is following-up on getting The Villages to reimburse the club's costs (about \$200) for last year's (2015) Camp Villages.

Earle Hancock (now wearing his "Program Coordinator" hat) reminded us that the next club meeting (April 21st) will feature a presentation on "SETI," by a member of The Villages Astronomy Club. Earle again reminded us to encourage club members to volunteer to give presentations. Despite Earle's repeated requests, very few members have come forward with suggested presentations.

Tony Hackenberg reported that he received no official correspondence for the club since the last board meeting. He did indicate that an informal input came to his attention: the obituary notice for Dave Whalen (K2DWW). Dave was a TVARC member and had served on the club's board in the past. The Board extends their deepest sympathies to Gail (his wife). Earle will note Dave's "silent key" status at the next club meeting.

Tony Hackenberg noted that Rich Erlichman (TVARC's webmaster) will be transitioning the ownership of the club's website. After this transition, Tony will become the assistant webmaster.

Tony proposed that minutes of Board and general membership meetings should be vetted by the Board before they are posted on the club's website. In response, the Board approved this process: Tony will e-mail a draft of the minutes to each Board member; each board member will review them and must respond with his approval/rejection (no silent majorities here) within one (1) week; then, if Board-approved, the minutes will be posted onto the club's website.

Pete Stafford recently updated the club's roster. So, he reported that TVARC's April 2016 roster shows 214 current members.

Pete also presented the club's March 2016 financial report. The Board members present unanimously approved his report. They also approved this process: Board will review each monthly financial report from the Treasurer; then, if Board-approved, it will be posted onto the club's website.

Earle proposed that the Board reimburse the costs (about \$20) incurred for refreshments for the crew that setup and staffed the club's "Radio Rodeo 2016" event on April 2nd. Earle submitted a receipt documenting this expense. The Board members present unanimously approved this spending proposal.

The Board briefly discussed the budget for the current club year (Mar. 2016 through Feb. 2017). Both Pete and Tony agreed to search their respective club archives to locate a budget (proposed or approved) for the current club year. Tony proposed that we adopt a process to vote on expenditures via the "budget method"; rather than a "one-by-one item" approach. The Board tabled this proposal for now.

Tony proposed that the Secretary (in coordination with the Treasurer) resume keeping a running record of board authorized expenditures, as suggested in a document, by Brad Castelli (KN9B), a prior Board's Secretary. As there is a time lag between the board approval and when payment is made, this running record reduces mistakes and makes financial audits easier. After a brief discussion, the Board approved resuming this record-keeping.

Pete reported that Bridget Wyrick (N1XAU) will resume selling the 50/50 raffle tickets at club meetings. The Board thanks her for handling this task.

Earle wondered if the “Cookie Monster” has, is, or should be, reimbursed for his/her expenditures for the refreshments provided at club meetings. The Board decided it needed more information; so Tony will contact Bob Averitt (WA3EWK), our current Cookie Monster Coordinator, to get it.

Earle Hancock led a discussion seeking ideas on how to encourage more of our club members to volunteer for the numerous, vacant, “team-lead” positions. Currently, only four (4) of these thirteen (13) spots are staffed. The Board will continue to make general appeals for members to fill these spots; but, we will also initiate a more personal and focused approach to try to fill these opportunities.

No VEC report was presented. Nobody was present who could report on any upcoming license classes or exam sessions conducted by the club’s VECs.

In late March 2016, Len Klein’s (K4LFK) team successfully replaced the antenna for the 443.150 MHz repeater. The Board extends their thanks to Len and his crew.

Earle and Tony proposed adding a bit more structure to the “Elmer Hour” at club meetings. After some discussion, the Board approved their proposal for an “Elmee” sign-up sheet. [“Elmee” is our “invented” term because those signing-up are looking for “Elmers”; so they must be “Elmees” (like lessors & lessees).] This sheet will reside at the sign-in/raffle table. It will contain the Elmee’s name, call sign (if any), phone number, and what topic(s) they need help on. Then, periodically, during the Elmer hour, announcements will be made to hopefully pair-up an Elmee with an Elmer that can help him/her on the listed topic(s). Tony agreed to draft the Elmee sign-up sheet.

Pete suggested that we should give more visibility to the efforts/status of club members that have, or are seeking, various ARRL DXCC awards. The Board liked this idea. So, Pete agreed to work out more details and contact Rich (webmaster) about how the club’s website could be used for this.

The Board agreed to review if all the “contact” updates have been made. These updates are needed when an incoming board takes office.

The Board briefly reviewed the upcoming club events to insure that no deadlines for action items are getting too close. The next event is Field Day 2016 (in late June 2016).

Finally, Tony proposed e-mailing the Board members a few documents he discovered in the club’s archives that maybe very helpful for the functioning of the club. The Board agreed and so, Tony will send these documents to them.

Earle Hancock (Acting President) adjourned this Board Meeting at 7:55 p.m. EDT.

Tony Hackenberg (N8SK), Secretary

April 21, 2015 General Membership Meeting

Before the meeting, the Tony Hackenberg (N8SK) introduced the new "Elmee Sign-up Sheet" to provide additional structure to the "Elmer Hour." Periodically, during this Elmer Hour (6 to 7 p.m.), Earle Hancock (KM4ISN) reminded the attendees about this new, board-approved sign-up sheet. At the end of this hour, two "Elmees" were signed-up (one asking for help with digital radio; another asking for antenna placement help). However, no "Elmers" were present to help on these topics.

Also, during that Elmer Hour, Wayne Brown (N4FP) reminded the attendees that he's giving away 3 sections (~22 feet total) of PVC (formerly used for his flagpole antenna). Anybody interested should contact Wayne and arrange for pick-up. In addition, lots of socialization occurred during this hour.

Earle Hancock (Acting President) called the general membership meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. EDT.

Thirty-six (36) of 214 total members signed in as being present for the meeting. Thus, there was not a quorum (25%) to conduct business.

Officers present: Vice-president Earle Hancock (KM4ISN), Secretary Tony Hackenberg (N8SK), and Treasurer Pete Stafford (K2PS). Due to the untimely death of his daughter, Ronald Adcock was not able to be present tonight; so Earle Hancock, as Acting President, conducted this meeting.

At least two (2) guests introduced themselves and were warmly welcomed by the club members.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Earle requested a moment of silence for two (2) recently deceased people: Kim Adcock (daughter of Ron Adcock, our club's President) and Dave Whalen (K2DWW, member of our club who also served on an earlier board).

President's & Vice-President's report. Earle Hancock (Acting President) thanked George Briggs (K2DM) and the other volunteers for setting up the club's "Radio Rodeo 2016" event on April 2nd. Unfortunately, bad weather forced this event's premature cancellation.

Earle reported that the antenna for the club's 443.150 MHz repeater did get replaced in late March 2016. Earle thanked Len Klein's (K4LFLK) team for replacing this antenna. Richard Bellerose (W1IJB) added that the removed antenna was now repaired and asked if it should be put back up. After some discussion, the consensus was to leave the replacement antenna up and store the repaired antenna as a spare.

Some upcoming ham events were briefly mentioned by Earle. The "Poor Man's Hamfest" is on April 23rd at Gainesville, FL. Also, the Florida QSO Party is next weekend (April 30th).

Putting on his "Program Coordinator" hat, Earle again asked club members to volunteer to present programs on ham-related topics at future club meetings. Earle needs someone to volunteer to present a topic at next month's (May) meeting. Members are also welcome to submit topics for future presentations.

Secretary's report. Tony Hackenberg reported that he received no official correspondence for the club since our last meeting. He indicated that a few informal inputs came to his attention but Earle already covered them.

Tony also stated that the minutes for the General Membership meeting on March 17 and the Board meeting on April 14 are available on the club's website. He highlighted the one action at this Board meeting that resulted in the expenditure of club funds: Board approved the reimbursement of the cost (about \$20) for refreshments for the crew that setup the club's "Radio Rodeo 2016" event on April 2nd.

Treasurer's report. Pete Stafford presented the club's March 2016 financial report and provided a synopsis of financial transactions since the last General Membership meeting. In addition, Pete thanked Marty Brown (WB2VYK) and Jeanette Ellis (NP2C) for staffing tonight's 50/50 raffle ticket table after the scheduled person failed to show.

No VEC report.

Camp Villages 2016. Larry Russo (K3TFU) reported that he will again be leading this club event. The participants (usually grandchildren) will again be building an AM radio and Larry asked for club members to volunteer to help at this event.

Earle Hancock (Acting President) adjourned this meeting at 7:24 p.m. EDT.

After the meeting, Phil Hubeck & Bob Averitt (WA3EWK) gave an interesting presentation on the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI), including the "Drake Equation" and "SETI@home" (a screensaver application that allows you to help SETI research). Phil and Bob are members of The Villages Astronomy Club. Their presentation was well received by the membership. Thanks Phil & Bob.

After the presentation, Richard (W1IJB) won \$36 on the 50/50 drawing.

Tony Hackenberg, N8SK, Secretary