



The Villages Amateur Radio Club Minutes for October 2017

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

October 5, 2017 Board Meeting [minutes approved & published separately]

See separately published minutes for this board meeting on the club's website.

October 19, 2017 General Membership Meeting

Socialization Hour. Before the business meeting, attendees socialized, snacked, haggled at the swap tables, and engaged in an informal "Elmer Hour." Volunteers for "Radio on the Square" (RoS) huddled with Tom Grosvenor (NV1U; RoS' Event Chair).

Call to Order. President Earle Hancock (KM4ISN) called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. EDT. This meeting was held at the Eisenhower Rec. Ctr., in The Villages, Florida.

Attendance. Forty-three (43) of 211 total members signed-in as being present for the meeting. Thus, there was not a quorum (25%=53) to conduct business. Officers present: President Earle Hancock (KM4ISN), Vice-President Rich Erlichman (ND4G), Secretary Tony Hackenberg (K4QR) & Treasurer Pete Stafford (K2PS).

Pledge of Allegiance & Agenda. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Earle presented tonight's agenda and conducted the meeting.

Visitors/New Members/Celebrations. Earle asked visitors & new members to introduce themselves. Several visitors & new members introduced themselves, including Dave (W4WNG; The Villages), Glenn (K2AWA; near Rochester, NY), Jack, Doug Stenzel (K1CTR; ex-Navy Seal/professional Morse code operator), Jay (KF4PJ; The Villages) & Ken (WB2ART; The Villages/Labelle). Karen (KN4GQP) noted that

many new licensees were in attendance; so, Earle also lead the introductions of these five (5) new hams, who earned their licenses at the club-sponsored, VEC licensing exam session on Oct. 27th. At least two birthdays were announced (somebody's 70th on Oct. 17 & Bruce/WA2TMC's 69th with 57 years of ham radio).

Raffle. Earle & Tony announced that a previously donated HF rig (Yaesu FT-920) would be raffled off (via a drawing) at the club's Christmas/Holiday Party. Since the donor specified that he wanted this rig's recipient to be a newly upgraded member, you must meet all three of these prerequisites to be eligible for this drawing:

- 1) be a club member in good standing;
- 2) attended the club-sponsored, General licensing classes in Oct. & Nov. 2017; &
- 3) passed the club-sponsored, General licensing exam on Nov. 27, 2017.

President's Report. Earle continued with the President's report. Due to The Villages' recent experience with Hurricane Irma, Earle & Tony strongly emphasized the need for a volunteer to lead TVARC's Emergency Communications Team (ECT). [Secretary's addendum: 1 person (W4GOR) volunteered on tonight's clipboard sheet.] Earle conducted a brief poll of the attendees regarding the requirements, including training, for members of this ECT. The nodding of heads & show of hands indicated strong support to continue the informal modus operandi. Marty Brown (WB2VYK) asked if The Villages Safety Dept. was still aware of our ECT & the activation procedures delineated on the club's website. Tony replied that Lt. Longacre is our contact; but, since so much dust has accumulated on the files, it's possible they are unaware of this team and the memorandum of understanding signed several years ago.

Continuing his President's report, Earle announced that sessions on programming handhelds (H-Ts) would be offered during the "social/informal Elmer hour" at future club meetings, if we get enough volunteers to do the programming. [Secretary's addendum: 1 person (WA1UTQ) volunteered on tonight's clipboard sheet.] Earle thanked Len Klein (K4LFK) for suggesting these sessions.

Vice-President's Report. Nothing to report.

Program Coordinator's Report. Rich (ND4G) reported that tonight's program features a presentation by HRO's Steve Gilmore (W4SHG) on "RemoteRig & Other New Products." Looking further out, Rich noted that November's program will feature a presentation ("Weather") by Karl Loeper (WVLG's meteorologist); while January's presentation will be on "System Fusion® & DR-2X Repeater" by Yaesu's George Wagner (K5KG); while February's will focus on the "Corporate History & New Products" by DX Engineering's Bob Neumann (W5OV) via Skype. Rich needs a presenter for March. [Secretary's addendums: Nobody volunteered on tonight's clipboard sheet. "System Fusion" is a registered trademark of Yaesu Musen Kabushiki Kaisha (aka Yaesu Musen Co., Ltd.)].

Secretary's Report. Tony (K4QR) gave the Secretary's report: it's all available on the club's website (meeting minutes, roster, financial reports & budget). He processed 1 formal & no informal correspondences. The single formal item was a thank-you to the Villages Computer Club for their recent donation of 2 laptops. Tony enumerated these expenditures that were authorized since the last club meeting: \$300 for entertainment at the Christmas/Holiday Party (but this \$150 increase will be mostly offset by a cut in our meat order); \$73.86 (authorized via Board-approved budget item) to pay club's annual insurance. Tony reported that no property transactions transpired.

Treasurer's Report. Pete (K2PS) provided the club's roster report. As of October 2017, this roster showed 211 members, of which 142 (or 67%) were also ARRL members. Effective September 24th & then again on October 18th, Pete updated TVARC's Property Inventory report. Continuing his report, Pete highlighted the club's September 2017 financial report. All these reports are on the club's website.

Radio on the Square (RoS). Tom (NV1U; RoS' Event Chair) presented a brief overview of the plans for this club event on November 25, 2017. Prior to tonight's business meeting, he huddled with his volunteers. Tom still needs more volunteers; so, he encouraged people to sign-up on the clipboard, website, or contact him directly. [Secretary's addendum: 4 people volunteered on tonight's clipboard sheet.]

Education Coordinators' Reports. No report as Ron Adcock (KK4YCW; club's Educational Coordinator for Technician Class) was absent. [Secretary's addendum: Currently, no club-sponsored, Technician licensing classes are scheduled.]

On behalf of Cal Fuhrman (WA3CTZ; club's Educational Coordinator for General/Extra Classes), Tony noted that the club-sponsored, General licensing class is already underway; but, Cal still encourages people to enroll via the club's website. [Secretary's addendum: Nobody signed-up for this General class on tonight's clipboard sheet.]

Stepping into Cal's shoes, Earle briefly reiterated the education news that the next, club-sponsored, Extra licensing class will be held on Jan. 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31 & Feb. 5. People can enroll via the club's website. [Secretary's addendum: 2 people signed-up for this Extra class on tonight's clipboard sheet.]

VEC Report. Rich (ND4G; VEC/ARRL VE Liaison) summarized the results from the club-sponsored, licensing exam on Oct. 27 (16 test takers yielded 10 Technicians, 5 Generals & 0 Extras). He briefly mentioned the 2 upcoming, club-sponsored, licensing exams on Nov. 27 & Feb. 7 and reminded attendees that they can search for other exams via the ARRL's "Find an Amateur Radio License Exam in Your Area" website.

Christmas/Holiday Party. Earle (KM4ISN; Event Chair) briefly reminded people about the club's Christmas/Holiday party on Dec. 21 (6:30 – 9 p.m. EST) & that more details about this party are available on the club's website, including a RSVP/volunteer form to provide a more accurate head count and allow volunteer helpers to sign-up. Volunteers

can also sign-up on the clipboard sheet or contact Earle directly. [Secretary's addendum: 3 people signed-up on tonight's clipboard sheet.]

Other Event Chairs' Reports. When nobody replied to Earle's inquiry about any other reports by Event Chairs, he segued onto reports by Activity Leads.

TVARC DXCC Standings. Pete (K2PS; Activity Lead) highlighted the "October 2017 TVARC DXCC Standings" (available on club's website). Pete showcased Frank's (KA1AF) whopping addition of 42 countries since his last report.

TVARC WAS Standings. Pete (K2PS; Activity Lead) also covered the "October 2017 TVARC WAS Standings" (also available on club's website). Frank (KA1AF) joined the other three members (Chuck/K9IA, Bridget/N1XAU & Ed/K2TE) who had previously crossed the goal line of 50 states!

DX-peditions. Pete (K2PS) also provided a heads-up about some current & upcoming DX-peditions that should be workable from The Villages.

Cookie Monsters. Bob Averitt (WA3EWK; club's Cookie Monster Coordinator) requested volunteers to sign-up to be cookie monsters (CMs) for club meetings from March through November 2018. [Secretary's addendum: 4 more people signed-up on Bob's clipboard sheet; so, Bob now has CMs scheduled for Jan. through May & Oct.]

Other Activity Leads' Reports. Nobody responded when Earle asked if there were any other reports by Activity Leads.

President's Report (continued). Earle covered the announcement slides. He thanked Bridget Wyrick (N1XAU) for serving as tonight's "cookie monster" & Jeanette Ellis (NP2C) for selling tonight's raffle tickets. Earle also noted 2 upcoming "hamfests" (LARA "Tailgate" on Nov. 4th & Silver Springs on Dec. 2nd).

Upcoming On-the-Air. Earle & Tony briefly covered the representative sampling of upcoming ham radio contests & special events.

Drawings. Tony announced that 3 drawings would be held tonight: the regular 50/50 & then two more for vouchers for *The ARRL Handbook 2018* (vouchers generously donated by tonight's guest speaker from Ham Radio Outlet). Attendees were encouraged to go buy their raffle tickets.

Adjournment. Earle (President) adjourned tonight's business meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Presentation/Program. After a brief break ended at 7:40 p.m., Chuck Wyrick (N1UC) introduced tonight's guest speaker: Steve Gilmore (W4SHG; Ham Radio Outlet's National Sales Manager). Steve then presented tonight's feature presentation on "Remote Rig & Other New Products." Steve's technical prowess impressed the audience and his passion for new ham products was infectious. He highlighted these new products: "SDRplay RSP2 Pro" receiver (covers 1 kHz to 2 GHz!); "AlexLoop"

antenna; ICOM IC-7300 (digital demonstration); Microbit's "Remote Rig"; & a sneak peek at Palstar's new "LA-1K" linear amplifier (not yet FCC accepted; so, not for sale). [Secretary's addendum: Steve's presentation is NOT available on the club's website.]

Mug presentations. After Steve's presentation finished at 8:25 p.m., Earle presented him TVARC's logo mug.

Raffles. Tonight's lucky ticket holder (John Ellis/NP2B) won \$57 in the 50/50 drawing. Wayne Brown (N4FP) & another attendee won the vouchers for *The ARRL Handbook 2018*.

Tony Hackenberg, K4QR, Secretary