



The Villages Amateur Radio Club Minutes for November 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.

November 2, 2017 Board Meeting [minutes approved & published separately]

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

November 16, 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). Four hams got their HTs programmed during our 1st "HT Programming Session" conducted by Bruce Cusanelli (WA1UTQ).

Call to Order. President Earle Hancock (KM4ISN) called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. EST. This meeting was held at the Eisenhower Rec. Ctr., in The Villages, Florida.

Attendance. Fifty-two (52) of 227 total members signed-in as being present for the meeting. Thus, there was not a quorum (25%=57) 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 Dick Eveson, Ralph McNall (WB2DCL; The Villages/Pine Ridge), Jon Webster

(KZ4JON; formerly Rock Hill, SC; now The Villages/Lake Deaton); Ronald Murray (KE0AJX; St. Louis, MO; now The Villages) & Joe Lombardi (vintage ham equipment). A bashful/shy group tonight, as only 1 person announced his 70th birthday; while nobody acknowledged any anniversaries.

President's Report. Earle continued with the President's report. Pursuant to TVARC's Constitution/Bylaws, Earle kicked-off the preparations for the election of officers in Feb. 2018 by appointing a Nominating Committee (headed by John Ellis/NP2B with George Rutkoskie/W4GOR). Despite Earle's request, he received no nominations from the floor.

Vice-President's Report. Nothing to report.

Program Coordinator's Report. On Rich's (ND4G) behalf, Earle reported that tonight's program features a presentation on "Weather" by Karl Loeper (WVLG's meteorologist). Gazing further out, Earle noted that January's presentation will be on "System Fusion® & DR-2X Repeater" by Yaesu's John Kruk (N9UPC); while February's will focus on the "Corporate History & New Products" by DX Engineering's Bob Neumann (W5OV) via Skype. Rich appealed for a presenter for March. [Secretary's addendums: 2 volunteer-presenters signed-up on tonight's clipboard sheet. Note that "System Fusion" is a registered trademark of 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). He processed 0 formal & 4 informal correspondences. Tony enumerated the only expenditure authorized since the last club meeting: \$250 to ARRL's "Ham-Aid" Fund.

Treasurer's Report. Pete (K2PS) summarized the club's roster. As of November 2017, it showed 220 members, of which 148 (or 67%) were also ARRL members. Effective October 22nd, Pete updated TVARC's Property Inventory report. Continuing his report, Pete highlighted the club's October 2017 financial report. All these reports are on the club's website. [Treasurer's addendum: Shortly after tonight's meeting, we had increased to 227 members total.]

Radio on the Square (RoS). Tom (NV1U; RoS' Event Chair) gave an overview of the ongoing preparations for this event on November 25, 2017. He also summarized the results from his "huddle" with the volunteers just prior to tonight's business meeting. Tom could still use more volunteers; so, he encouraged people to sign-up on the clipboard, website, or contact him directly. [Secretary's addendum: 2 people volunteered on tonight's clipboard sheet.]

Education Coordinators' Reports. Ron Adcock (KK4YCW; Educational Coordinator for Technician Class) noted that currently there are no club-sponsored, Technician licensing classes scheduled. He hopes to offer one in Spring 2018.

On behalf of Cal Fuhrman (WA3CTZ; Educational Coordinator for General/Extra Classes), Earle reported that the club-sponsored, General licensing class is winding down (last session on Nov. 20th) with most students planning to test on Nov. 27th.

Stepping into Cal's shoes, Earle reiterated the education news that the next, club-sponsored, Extra licensing class will be held from Jan. 15th through Feb. 5th. People can enroll via the club's website. Cal is devoting a lot more time to prepare for this class because instructor materials are out-of-date.

VEC Report. Rich (ND4G; VEC/ARRL VE Liaison) highlighted the 2 upcoming, club-sponsored, licensing exams on Nov. 27 & Feb. 7. He reminded us that a person can walk-in to an exam session with no license, pay 1 exam fee (\$15), and walk out a new Extra Class by taking & passing the various elements in sequence.

Christmas/Holiday Party. Earle (KM4ISN; Event Chair) reminded people about the club's Christmas/Holiday party on Dec. 21 (6:30 – 9 p.m. EST) & that more details are available on the club's website. He encouraged those planning on attending to complete the website's RSVP/volunteer form, which will give us a head-count & allow volunteer helpers to sign-up. Since a drawing for the member-donated Yaesu FT-920 will occur at this party, Earle again reviewed the eligibility pre-requisites (you must meet all 3 of these):

- 1) be a TVARC member in good standing;
- 2) attended the club-sponsored, General licensing classes in Oct. & Nov. 2017; &
- 3) passed the General element at any VEC-administered licensing test session between November 27 and December 21, 2017.

So, Earle encouraged all eligible drawing candidates to attend (although the winner need not be present).

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.

Club Station Committee. John Ellis (NP2B; Chair) reported no progress in locating a suitable site for a club station but his committee will continue exploring leads.

TVARC ECT. George Rutkoskie (W4GOR; Activity/Team Lead) summarized plans for "kick-starting" TVARC's Emergency Communications Team (ECT). He wants to jettison the unwieldy, web-produced spreadsheet (roster) and transfer the data into a more useful one. He'll then use this revised roster to contact ECT members for a meeting sometime after the 1st of the new year (2018). It will also be the basis for setting up a telephone tree alert system. George embraces the guiding principles that TVARC's ECT will continue being a group focused on serving inside The Villages and avoiding unnecessary constraints from outside governmental organizations. Under his leadership, this team will continue to coordinate with The Villages Public Safety

Department and the appropriate county EOCs (Sumter, Marion & Lake) as needed within our community.

HT Programming Sessions. Bruce (WA1UTQ; Activity Lead) conducted tonight's first, in a series, of HT programming sessions before the business meeting. He reported that it worked out great (4 hams got their HTs programmed). Since Earle & Tony gauged sufficient demand & Bruce confirmed that he'd coordinate them, these sessions will continue. Bruce left it open for attendees to bring nearly any brand/type of HT to the next club meeting. He asked that they also bring programming software & interface cables if they have them for their specific HT.

TVARC DXCC Standings. Pete (K2PS; Activity Lead) highlighted the "November 2017 TVARC DXCC Standings" (available on club's website). Pete showcased Chuck Theisen's (K9IA) addition of 1 country because he's our standings leader with 291 countries! Eight other people logged at least one new country with Frank/KA1AF notching an eye-popping 23.

TVARC WAS Standings. Pete (K2PS; Activity Lead) also covered the "November 2017 TVARC WAS Standings" (also available on club's website). Rich/ND4G & Bob/K3ZGA joined the other four members (Chuck/K9IA, Bridget/N1XAU, Ed/K2TE & Frank/KA1AF) who had previously crossed the goal line of 50 states! John/NP2B mentioned that the upcoming ARRL Sweepstakes Contest provides an ideal opportunity to rack-up more states.

DX-peditions. Pete (K2PS) also provided a heads-up about some current & future DX-peditions that should be workable from The Villages. The Bouvet Island DXpedition (3YØZ) is scheduled to run for 50 days starting in late January.

Cookie Monsters. Bob Averitt (WA3EWK; club's Cookie Monster Coordinator) reported that he's still looking for volunteer cookie monsters (CMs) at club meetings from June through Sept. & Nov. 2018. [Secretary's addendum: No clipboard for CMs tonight.]

TVARC Hamfest Presence. Jeanette Ellis (NP2C) & Marty Brown (WB2VYK), our Liaisons (ambassadors), are staffing a TVARC table at the Silver Springs Radio Club's (SSRC) hamfest, on Dec. 2, in Ocala, FL. Jeanette encouraged us to stop by & chat with them and, perhaps offer to staff the table awhile.

QST NFL. Marty (WB2VYK) also reminded us to enjoy reading the *QST NFL*, which is the e-newsletter for the ARRL's Northern Florida Section (NFL). It's available on NFL's website around the 1st of every month at <http://arrl-nfl.org>.

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 Larry Peterson (N2AMW) for serving as tonight's "cookie monster" & Jeanette Ellis

(NP2C) for selling tonight's raffle tickets. Earle also noted 2 upcoming hamfests: SSRC's on Dec. 2nd in Ocala & the Orlando Hamcation[©] on Feb. 9-11.

Adjournment. Earle (President) adjourned tonight's business meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Presentation/Program. After a brief break ended at 7:45 p.m., Bob (WA3EWK) introduced tonight's guest speaker: Karl Loeper (WVVG's staff meteorologist). Karl then presented tonight's feature presentation on "Weather." Karl's weather career spanned a fascinating range of organizations, including the U.S. Navy, National Weather Service & WVVG. In early 1970s, he was stationed in Jacksonville, FL where he regularly flew on missions into hurricanes to collect valuable data. During his presentation, Karl showed several interesting video-clips of violent weather (hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.). Periodically, he would ask the audience questions & correct answerers won prizes (mini-flashlights, umbrellas). Karl complimented us for our technical savvy (as we were the 1st of his audiences ever to guess that a device he was holding was a balloon radiosonde). During these prize giveaways, we learned weather trivia for Florida (for example, the coldest temperature ever recorded in Florida was minus 2 degrees F. in Tallahassee in 1989; while the warmest was 110 degrees F.). [Secretary's addendum: Karl's presentation is NOT available on the club's website.]

Mug presentations. After Karl's presentation finished at 8:30 p.m., Earle presented him TVARC's logo mug.

Raffles. Tonight's lucky ticket holder (John Ellis/NP2B) won \$52 in the 50/50 drawing; while Sam Brown (KB8SB) won the WVVG umbrella (donated by tonight's presenter).

Tony Hackenberg, K4QR, Secretary