



The Villages Amateur Radio Club Minutes for January 2018

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.

January 4, 2018 Board Meeting [minutes approved & published separately]

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

January 18, 2018 General Membership Meeting

Socialization Hour. Before the business meeting, attendees socialized, snacked, haggled at the swap tables, and engaged in an informal "Elmer Hour." Don Crosby (W1EJM) hosted his first, semi-annual, "Welcome Mat" for first-time attendees enrolled in a club-sponsored, licensing class. Nine hams got their HTs programmed during the 2nd "HT Programming Session" conducted by Bruce Cusanelli (WA1UTQ).

Call to Order. President Earle Hancock (KM4ISN) called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. EST. This meeting was held at the Eisenhower Rec. Ctr., in The Villages, Florida.

Attendance. Sixty-five (65) of 202 total members signed-in as being present for the meeting. Thus, there was a quorum (25%=51) 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. Many visitors & new members introduced themselves, including Mike Hannah (KN4VG, President of Silver Springs Radio Club in Ocala, FL);

Andy Allen (K2ADA, Silver Springs Radio Club); and many others too numerous to enumerate. Four birthday boys announced their 80th (David Dennis W8DDD), 74th (Sam Brown KB8SB); 69th (Jim Simpson WB8QZZ) & nth (Larry Russo K3TFU); while nobody acknowledged any anniversaries.

Licensing Exam “Braggs”. Earle asked for “brags” by attendees who recently passed a licensing exam. Cal Fuhrman (WA3CTZ) discussed how the club-sponsored, licensing ongoing class for Extra was going. Larry Russo bragged that Marty Brown (WB2VYK) passed the Extra.

President’s Report. Earle briefly mentioned the controversial issues swirling around the upcoming ARRL Board of Directors (BoD) meeting on January 19-20, 2018. He urged attendees to submit their opinions on these issues directly to this BoD ASAP.

Preparations for Upcoming Election of TVARC’s Officers for 2018-2019. John Ellis (NP2B; Chair) gave the Nominating Committee’s report and formally submitted this slate of 4 candidates: Ron Adcock (KK4YCW) for President; Tom Grosvenor (NV1U) for Vice-President; Larry Russo (K3TFU) for Secretary; & Bruce Cusanelli (WA1UTQ) for Treasurer. Earle thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their efforts. He then requested but received no additional 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 “System Fusion® & DR-2X Repeater” by Yaesu’s John Kruk (N9UPC). Gazing further out, Earle noted that February’s presentation will be on “Corporate History & New Products” by DX Engineering’s Bob Neumann (W5OV; via Skype); while March’s will focus on “Power Line Noise” by David Yulke (AA2GT). Other future presentations are “booked” & on the club’s schedule. [Program Coordinator’s addendum: At the close of tonight’s meeting, Ralph McNall (WB2DCL) said his April presentation (“Integrate YSF DR-1 Digital Repeater”) needs to be rescheduled; so, the incoming Program Coordinator, should contact Dennis McKinney (N0SMX; May’s presenter) to see about swapping dates.]

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 one formal correspondence (ARRL’s thank-you for our club’s donation to “Ham Aid” fund) & two informal correspondences. Elaborating on the first informal correspondence, Tony told the heart-warming story about how the “Elmering” efforts by John (NP2B) & Frank (KA1AF) put a smile on Matt Tandy’s (K4MJT) face when they fixed his FT-1200. The attendees responded with a resounding round of applause. As to the second informal item, Tony sent an e-Card (get well) to Karl Loeper (WVVG’s staff weather meteorologist), who suffered a massive stroke a few weeks after making the presentation at our club’s November meeting. Patty Loeper (Karl’s wife) responded with her sincere thanks for brightening-up Karl’s day. Tony enumerated the only expenditure authorized since the last club meeting: \$180 (NTE) for 6 ARRL licensing manuals (3 Extra level manuals for sale to enrolled students; plus 1 Extra, 1 General & 1

Technicians level manuals for the club inventory for loaning out to our VEC (Rich/ND4G) and other instructors as needed. Lastly, Tony covered these 2 property transactions since the last club meeting: (1) cancelled a member's request to borrow some club equipment; & (2) transferred 1 club laptop to Cal (WA3CTZ) for use in this ongoing Extra class licensing sessions.

Treasurer's Report. Pete (K2PS) summarized the club's roster. As of January 2018, it showed 231 members, of which 154 (or 67%) were also ARRL members. However, prior to tonight's meeting, Pete had sent notices to the 45 members in arrears (delinquent on their dues payment; last paid only through December 2016) warning them that they'd be dropped from the rolls unless they paid-up posthaste. So, technically, at the start of tonight's meeting, we only have 186 members. [Treasurer's addendum: Prior to, during, and after tonight's meeting, dues payments have been coming in; so, effective January 23, 2018, at 16:55 EST, the club has 202 members.]

Pete reminded us that TVARC's Property Inventory (last revised Oct. 22, 2017), is available on the club's website. Continuing his report, Pete highlighted the club's November & December 2017 financial reports. All these reports are on the club's website. An attendee interjected that our club could earn some income if members would volunteer to help staff the upcoming Orlando HamCation®. [Secretary's addendum: "HamCation" is a registered trademark of the Orlando Amateur Radio Club.]

Education Coordinators' Reports. On behalf of Cal Fuhrman (WA3CTZ; Educational Coordinator for Extra Class), Earle reminded us that the ongoing, club-sponsored, Extra licensing class continues through Feb. 5th. Cal reported the pleasantly, surprising statistic that 17 of the 20 enrolled students are regularly showing-up for this class! Cal's training material continues to mature (as the ARRL does not yet have instructor materials for the Extra class). Earle also announced that the next, club-sponsored, General licensing class will start on Mar. 12th (see club's website for details & to enroll). Cal announced that he needs to relinquish his role as the club's Educational Coordinator for General Class; so, if you're interested in volunteering for this leadership opportunity, contact Cal (or Earle).

On behalf of Ron Adcock (KK4YCW; Educational Coordinator for Technician Class), Earle announced that the next, club-sponsored, Technician licensing class will start on Feb. 10th (see club's website for details & to enroll).

VEC Report. Continuing his soliloquy, now on behalf of Rich (ND4G; VEC/ARRL VE Liaison), Earle breezed past the VEC's slide (about the 3 upcoming, club-sponsored, licensing exams on Feb. 7, Mar. 3 & Apr. 23; see club's website for more details).

Radio on the Square (RoS). Tom Grosvenor (NV1U; RoS' Event Chair) presented his "wrap-up" report on the "Radio on the Square" event (held on Nov. 25 at Sumter Landing). Tom thanked his volunteer crew for making RoS a big success. Tom's lessons learned included the highs (using compact antennas & Bob/K3ZGA's big hit: "Taste of Morse Code/CW Clinic") and the lows (bringing hardcopies of QST magazine

flopped; mobile radio demonstration needed more publicity; morning fog during setup). Finally, Tom thanked WA1UTQ, K3ZGA & KM4PIH for submitting their RoS photos, which are available on the club's website.

Christmas/Holiday Party. Earle (KM4ISN; Event Chair), reprising his emcee role, gave a "wrap-up" report on the club's "Christmas/Holiday Party" (held on Dec. 21). Feedback to date indicates a good time was had by all (nearly 70 attendees) with very positive "vibes" for the entertainment ("Sounds of Time") and the surprise couple in attendance (a mystery "Santa Ham" & his "Elf Ham" fiancé). Earle's lessons learned suggested that the 2018 party's meat order be reduced to 12# ham & 12# turkey. Finally, Earle reminded us that Robbie Spatz (KM4PIQ) was the lucky winner of the drawing for the donated HF transceiver (Yaesu FT-920). Since Robbie was not at the party, he only recently took possession of this rig, which produced a broad grin across his face. Earle again thanked the anonymous donor of this fine rig.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Walk. Earle (KM4ISN; Event Chair) announced that the club will again be participating (providing auxiliary communications) in the "MS Walk 2018" event on Mar. 24 at The Villages Polo Field. Earle wants to relinquish his Event Chair role; so, if you're interested in this leadership opening, contact him or sign-up on the club's website. If you'd like to volunteer to be on the club's communications team for this event, then sign-up on the club's website.

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

Club Station Committee. John Ellis (NP2B; Chair) reported that John Rohan (Director of The Villages' Recreation Dept.) has not yet gotten back to him after they met on Nov. 28 to discuss possible locations for a club station in The Villages.

TVARC ECT. George Rutkoskie (W4GOR; Activity/Team Lead) reported that he's begun a series of meetings with Lt. John Longacre (Emergency Resource Specialist in The Villages Dept. of Public Safety). They've already met once to discuss how TVARC's Emergency Communications Team (ECT) can help serve that department in times of emergencies.

TVARC DXCC Standings. Pete (K2PS; Activity Lead) highlighted the "January 2018 TVARC DXCC Standings" (available on the club's website). Pete showcased Chuck Theisen (K9IA), our standings leader with a total of 291 countries worked from his QTH in The Villages! Seven other people logged at least one new country with George/K2DM notching-up his tally by a whopping 64 countries & John/NP2B adding 27 to his tally.

TVARC WAS Standings. Pete (K2PS; Activity Lead) also covered the "January 2018 TVARC WAS Standings" (also available on the club's website). John/NP2B joined our other six members (Chuck/K9IA, Bridget/N1XAU, Ed/K2TE, Frank/KA1AF, Rich/ND4G

& Bob/K3ZGA) who had previously crossed the goal line of working all 50 states from their QTH in The Villages!

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

TVARC Ragchew Net. On behalf of Karen Erickson (K4ZDM) & Hal Lloyd (W4OE), Earle (KM4ISN) briefly covered the ongoing transition of our club's radio net. Effective Jan. 2018, Karen is now the primary Net Control Station (NCS) and she encourages everybody to check-into this net. Earle thanked Hal for his tenure as NCS during which he resurrected & saved this net from dying in the doldrums.

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

President's Report (continued). Earle breezed through the announcement slides but thanked Bridgett Wyrick (N1XAU) & Jeanette Ellis (KB4XO) for selling tonight's raffle tickets.

Adjournment. Earle (President) adjourned tonight's business meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Cookie Monsters. After a brief break ended at 7:43 p.m., Bob Averitt (WA3EWK; club's Cookie Monster Coordinator) reported that he still needs volunteer cookie monsters (CMs) for some club meetings; so, sign-up on the clipboard sheet; or contact Bob.

Presentation/Program. John (NP2B) introduced George Wagner (K5KG); ex-Marketing Director for Yaesu & John's long-time friend). George then introduced tonight's guest speaker: John Kruk (N9UPC; Yaesu specialist on digital voice modes & digital repeaters). John then presented tonight's feature presentation on Yaesu's "System Fusion® & DR-2 Repeater." Initially, John covered some interesting history of the Yaesu company, which was founded by Sako Hasegawa (JA1MP; silent key) in 1956. For many years, the company paid tribute to their founder by placing a "MP" suffix in the model# on certain products. John repeatedly emphasized how important ham customers' feedback is to Yaesu's product development team & pointed out features of products that resulted from such feedback. Turning to Yaesu's System Fusion line of products, John deflated our hopes with his opinion that there will probably never be a single standard for digital voice communications! He presented some supporting statistics; but the stand-out statistic was that there are ZERO Fusion repeaters in Japan (because their FCC-equivalent has deemed its bandwidth/coding illegal!). Later, John covered some unique features of Yaesu's DR-2X Repeater product. [Secretary's addendum: John's presentation is NOT available on the club's website; "System Fusion" is a registered trademark of Yaesu.]

Mug presentations. After John's presentation finished at 8:35 p.m., Earle presented him TVARC's logo mug.

Raffles. Tonight's lucky ticket holder (Chuck Theisen/K9IA) won \$66 in the 50/50 drawing.

Tony Hackenberg, K4QR, Secretary