



The Villages Amateur Radio Club Minutes for April 2021

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.

April 1, 2021 Board Meeting

Due to the continued restrictions imposed because of the Corona Virus Pandemic our board continues to meet via Zoom to conduct club business.

Officers present were: President Mike Regan, KM4ZTE, Vice-President Paul Nittel, KM4PIH, Secretary Bob Schwer, K3ZGA, Treasurer Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ and Board Member-At-Large, John Ellis, NP2B.

Guests in attendance included: Webmaster and Lead VE, Rich Erlichman, ND4G

Covid-19 Impact

An ongoing discussion was held about the wisdom and safety of going back to in-person meetings of the club.

The Villages Recreation Department has provided recent guidelines allowing for meetings at 50% room capacity, masked requested and 6-foot distancing required.

However, current CDC Guidelines continue to discourage large groups of unrelated people from meeting.

After discussion and opinions were expressed by all present a vote was held resulting in a 4 to 1 vote in favor of not going back to in-person meeting at this time. We will continue to monitor the numbers and statistics.

John Ellis, NP2B suggested that we consider providing Zoom coverage of meetings when we do decide to go back to public meetings for those who wish not to attend and out of state members.

Silent Auction

George, K2DM has been working steadily getting the items donated from the Estate of David Yulke, AA2GT ready for silent auction. Some testing remains to be done of the website links. Volunteers agreed to help George with testing on Friday. George estimates we are about a week away from going live. Announcements will be made on the club reflector as well as the Monday Ragchew Net.

The equipment of Tom Grosvenor, NV1U remains to be processed for a future auction.

Membership Renewal Decline

Sixty-four people have not renewed their membership for 2021. A discussion ensued as to why this was the case and what could be done about it. It was suggested that at the next membership meeting those that have paid should be thanked for their continuing support and remind the membership that even though we are not meeting in person the club has significant ongoing expenses.

Possible on-air activities – i.e., “Villages on the Air”, “Villages QSO Party”, “Worked All Villages.”

No one has stepped forward to chair and run one of these activities. It was also discussed how few of our membership are active on HF and involved in contesting activities. It was suggested that a Special Event be created celebrating something special about The Villages. Our club call, K4VRC could be utilized.

Monthly Programs

April – Presentation on SKCC – Straight Key Century Club – by Bob Schwer, K3ZGA

May – Presentation by Bob Heil

June – Presentation on Repeaters in The Villages – by Bruce, Len, and Gary

It was suggested that Dxpeditons, and Icom products might make good future presentations.

Field Day 2021

It was agreed that we will not be doing an in-person Field Day operation for 2021. Bruce was instructed to cancel the Sheriff's trailer and make a reservation for 2022.

We will promote members operating the same as they did last year on their own and report their individual scores to ARRL with our club's name listed. George, K2DM agreed to be Field Day Chair.

Hurricane Expo 2021

The Expo remains on hold by The Villages. George, W4GOR and Bruce, WA1UTQ remain ready to represent TVARC should the decision be made to hold the event at some time this year.

Financial Report Update

Bruce reported that the ending balance month-to-date for April is \$6,363.42. We have five new members in April and one dues renewal through 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Schwer, K3ZGA
Secretary, TVARC

April 15, 2021 General Membership Meeting

Our April membership meeting was held via Zoom again as the pandemic continues. Zoom provided a lively social period prior to the start of the regular meeting.

New Member and First Time Member Present: Don Fraser, K2DF

Visitors Present: None

Upcoming birthdays and anniversaries were announced and acknowledged.

President, Mike Regan, KM4ZTE gave introductory remarks.

The ongoing concerns about meeting again as the Pandemic and Vaccinations continue were addressed by our President. A commitment was made to continue monitoring the situation and a willingness to hear the views of all the membership.

The club received a surprise from Paul Bourque, N1SFE the Contest Program Manager for ARRL. His announcement included a beautiful gavel with inscribed brass plaque. The announcement read "Your club's fine efforts have earned your group top honors in the 2019 ARRL 10-Meter Contest in the Local Club Category."

Bruce, WA1UTQ presented the Treasurers report for March. He reported 5 new members and one renewal thru 2023. Our total funds on-hand as of 3/31/2021 are \$6,441.32.

Peter Stafford, K2PS gave an update on club members progress in achieving WAS, DXCC, FT8/FT4 progress and upcoming contests and Dxpeditions.

Our program for the evening was presented by Bob Schwer, K3ZGA on the Straight Key Century Club.

Posted by Bob Schwer, K3ZGA, Secretary

Special Board Meeting – April 16, 2021

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss participation in the Camp Villages program in 2021 and Field Day 2021.

Present: Mike Regan, KM4ZTE President, Bob Schwer, K3ZGA Secretary, Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ Secretary and Board Member, John Ellis, NP2B.

Visitors: George Briggs, K2DM and Dennis McKinney, N0SMX

Camp Villages

Following discussion about safety issues surrounding Covid-19 and decision as made for TVARC to participate in the Camp Villages program this year and utilize the same FM Radio Kits we used last year. John Ellis reported that our inventory includes six kits from last year. George is going to investigate acquiring more for this year after conferring with The Villages as to how many grandkids they expect to participate.

Field Day

While the Board had previously decided not to do Field Day this year, the decision has been reconsidered. Ideas were discussed as to how we can operate Field Day and still maintain social distancing and keep everyone safe. George Briggs, K2DM has volunteered to be Field Day Chair and will establish guidelines to communicate to the membership. More detailed discussion will be held at the regular Board Meeting coming up in two weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Schwer, K3ZGA, Secretary