



The Villages Amateur Radio Club Minutes for August 2020

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.

August 6, 2020 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 George Briggs, K2DM, Secretary Bob Schwer, K3ZGA, Treasurer Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ. Board Member-At-Large, John Ellis, NP2B. Absent was Vice President Mark Graybill, W8BIT.

Guests in attendance included: Tom Grosvenor, NV1U, and Rich Erlichman, ND4G

George, K2DM, has been informed by The Villages Recreation Department that all Lifestyle clubs will not be allowed to meet until further notice. We expect this to continue for much of the foreseeable future.

TVARC will set up a Zoom meeting for QCWA Chapter 217 to allow their members to gather for their August meeting. The TVARC August membership meeting will also be held via Zoom.

The program will be conducted by members of the Knights of the QRSS, a network of hams that utilize milliwatt low power beacon transmissions of very slow CW for the purpose of studying propagation and demonstrating that low power signals can be heard and reported worldwide. Presenters will include Scott Harden, DMD, Ph.D., WA5DJJ, David Hassell, N5IW and Bill Houghton, W4HBK.

Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ, reported on the Treasurers report for July along with the status of our month to day August report. It was noted that starting in September members can begin sending their dues for 2021 to Bruce by mail. This will be announced during our August meeting.

Bruce has also prepared a simplified listing of Emcomm repeaters and procedures for The Villages and Wildwood Emergency Communications groups. Our Villages Emcomm Team is working more closely with CERT and a joint operations center is being planned for Station 44 where the teams can coordinate and work side by side in the event of a major emergency event.

Two long time TVARC members, David Yulke, AA2GT and Bob Hagan, WW8USA are both experiencing significant medical issues and have contacted TVARC about donating equipment to the club. The Board intends to offer this equipment to the members via an online auction event. Equipment not sold will either be offered on eBay, given away or otherwise disposed of. George has kindly offered to accept the equipment, evaluate its condition, orchestrate a club auction, and list appropriate items on eBay with the proceeds coming to the club.

Among the items listed are a repeater and two dual band Alinco radios. Bruce has requested, on behalf of himself and Len Klein, K4LFK, that the repeater be given to the club's repeater group to serve as a back-up machine. Also, that the dual band Alinco radios be considered for the joint TVARC / CERT operations center at Station 44. George proposed that the repeater be given to the clubs repeater group as requested and that Bruce and Len evaluate which one of the two Alinco radio's they would like to have for Station 44 and that the other be included in the club auction for the members.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Schwer, K3ZGA
Secretary, TVARC

August 20, 2020 General Membership Meeting

41 members were present at this meeting. There were 3 visitors and 2 new members. Bruce reported that we have 185 members.

Officers present: President, George Briggs, K2DM, Vice President, Mark Graybill, W8BIT, Secretary, Bob Schwer, K3ZGA, Treasurer, Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ, Board Member-at-Large, John Ellis, NP2B.

New members, Bill Turner, W4WNT and Ralph McNall, WB2DCL introduced themselves to the club.

The meeting was again held via Zoom. The social time prior to the start of the business meeting was well attended and enjoyed by the members.

George, K2DM and Wayne, N4FP, sadly reported that long time member, Bob Hagan, WW8USA passed away on August 18th.

Bruce, WA1UTQ updated the membership on the status of our Treasury and our repeater program during the business meeting.

Pete, K2PS updated the membership on the standings in our DXCC, WAS and FT8/4 efforts. Pete also informed us of upcoming contests to be held in the next month.

Following the business meeting guests Dave Hassell, WA5DJJ of Las Cruces, NM and Scott Harden, AJ4VD of Gainesville, FL presented a program on QRSS technology being used to study propagation with Milliwatt transmitters and special spectrum analyzer programs to grab the signals out of the air and aid in decoding the signals from thousands of miles away. This network of Hams call themselves the Knights of the QRSS. You can see the Super Grabber Website: <http://www.qsl.net/wa5djj/> and more information at <http://www.zianet.com/dhassall/QRSS A.html>. The presentation will be posted on the club's website.

Posted by Bob Schwer, K3ZGA, Secretary