



The Villages Amateur Radio Club Minutes for August 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.

August 5, 2021, Board Meeting

As zoom has proven to be a very convenient vehicle by which to conduct club business, we are continuing to hold our board meetings via this method.

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: Past President, George Briggs, K2DM and Lead VE and Webmaster, Rich Erlichman, ND4G.

Covid 19 Flare up and In-Person Meetings

Infections and hospitalizations are increasing across the country with Florida leading the way. Eisenhower Recreation Center has not been given any direction regarding mask mandates. However, the Village Recreation Department has encouraged the new woodshop to hold off opening their facility to the public. After discussion and opinions shared, a motion was made to suspend our planned in-person August and September meetings in favor of utilizing Zoom with the board continuing to review monthly should circumstances improve. It passed with a 3/2 margin. Mike will notify Eisenhower Recreation Center and Rich will put an announcement on the website.

Treasurers Report

Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ reported last month we acquired 15 new members, the club benefited from \$90 in the 50/50 drawing and funds on hand as of the end of July were \$10,448.41.

Bruce requested approval to post a membership renewal notice in September for 2022 renewals. This was done last year to encourage members to renew early by check. His request was approved.

Rich Erlichman, ND4G suggested he could install a Weebly Pay App on the website to give members an additional option of paying online via credit card. A motion was made and passed to proceed and give people the option of paying \$13.00 dues per year to cover the dues and transaction fees or mailing a check for \$12.00 to cover their yearly dues.

John Ellis, NP2B requested approval to purchase a wheeled equipment container to protect and transport our Zoom computers and hardware devices to and from club meetings. John estimates the cost to be approximately \$120. The board granted approval along with the suggestion that John investigate the purchase of a remote controller to allow speakers to control their slides during presentations.

Education Committee Report from Brad Castelli, KN9B

Brad reported the Technician classes are going well and on schedule. There are sufficient candidates to hold a General class before the end of the year and an Extra class in early 2022. Dates and classroom arrangements to be determined.

VEC Report

Rich Erlichman, ND4G reported that the migration to ExamTools testing software was progressing with weekly training sessions being conducted with VEs in "sandbox mode". Of the 19 volunteers that make up the VE Testing Team, 10 members are enrolled and trained with ExamTools so that they can sign off on candidates test results.

Two club computers were discussed, and a motion was made and passed to direct the club to assign our older model Sony and Compaq computers to the VEC Team to assist with their implementation of ExamTools.

Upcoming Events

The November Radio on the Square event, along with the Annual Holiday Party in December are both in need of event chairmen. Our President will make a plea for volunteers at our August club meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Schwer, K3ZGA
Secretary, TVARC

August 19, 2021, General Membership Meeting

This month we went back to meeting via Zoom. The current flair up of Covid-19 cases caused TVARC and other clubs in The Villages to curtain in-person meetings.

President, Mike Regan, KM4ZTE gave introductory remarks.

Ken Kaplan, WB2ART reported on the results of the clubs first SKCC Weekend Spring. Six of our members participated, K2DM, K3ZGA, N0SMX, W1LTJ, K2PS and WB2ART. George, K2DM was kind enough to offer his contest station at The Land which was activated part of both Saturday and Sunday. Pete, K2PS activated the club call from home on Sunday, coordinating band selections with Bob, K3ZGA and Dennis, N0SMX who operated from The Land. K4VRC came in first place overall and in the new club category. Next month we plan to operate in the WES again as it will have a Club Call Theme for September.

Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ presented the Treasurer's Report for July. He reported 15 new members. Our total funds on-hand as of the end of July are \$11, 448.41.

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

Our program for the evening was presented by Chris Rutkowski, NW6V entitled "And the Flame Burns On". The program was an emotional story of WWII, winter in Greenland and its whiteout conditions that caused several military planes to be lost. One of the crews were rescued and one of the heroes was Chris's father who was a radio operator who had the presence of mind to transmit their location code as their plane went down. Chris is the proud owner today of that Navy Flameproof key that his Father used that fateful day.

Posted by Bob Schwer, K3ZGA, Secretary