



The Villages Amateur Radio Club Minutes for July 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.

July 1, 2021, Board Meeting

While the club is opening back up to in-person meetings effective this month, the board has decided to continue to hold its monthly board meetings via Zoom as Zoom has proven to be a very convenient vehicle by which to get us together 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: Past President and Field Day Chair, George Briggs, K2DM

Field Day Review

The consensus is that Field Day 2021 was a resounding success. The start was a little rough when a thunderstorm shut down our Friday setup plans. We had lots of participation and the most visits from the public in recent memory. Several folks took tours of the trailer to see the stations in operation and dozens of golf carts drove up to our ambassador tent to ask questions and visit with members.

The FT8 station got a lot of attention. Folks liked the pretty colors of the display and of course computers always enthrall onlookers.

We discussed several ideas to enhance our ambassador activities and provide talking points to the employees working in Eisenhower Recreation Center so they can better answer the questions they received about our activities and how to direct them to our trailer to learn more. As always, we appreciate the use of the Sheriff's trailer and are grateful to have such a first-class operating venue.

Radio on the Square and Radio Rodeo Planning

A discussion was held about our plans for these annual club events and the possibility of utilizing the Sheriff's Trailer. Concerns were mentioned about not having enough volunteers to staff both the trailer and the center stage area.

Bruce, WA1UTQ and George, W4GOR will be meeting with the Sheriff to discuss the status of EMCOMM and will report back to the board on expectations and plans for the Sheriff to utilize ham radio operators within their emergency plans.

Camp Villages

Camp Villages will be held on July 8th at Colony Recreation. George has all the volunteers required for the event.

We will again be having the campers assemble an FM Radio Kit that has proven to be extremely popular with 100% successful completion by the campers. Bob, K3ZGA will again be hosting a Morse Code demonstration table to introduce the kids to Morse Code and teach them how to encode and send their names on a telegraph key.

Preparation and Plans for our July 15th in-person membership meeting at Eisenhower.

Our long awaited first in-person meeting since the start of the Pandemic will held on July 15th. Chairs will be set up with extended spacing. Masks will be optional. The cookie monster refreshments will be held off for at least this meeting to assure no spread of disease. 50/50 will be held pending someone stepping forward to handle the money.

We will be offering the program via Zoom for those unable or not desiring to attend in person. The program will be on the club repeater systems presented by the repeater team. George will also be giving a report on Field Day for the membership.

Licensing classes for 2021.

Brad has reported that the dates and facilities are set for both the Technician and General classes this fall and he believes that he will have enough candidates to hold an Extra class as well.

VE Team Request for purchasing tablets for testing sessions.

The VE team continues to explore the feasibility of converting to a software program created by www.ExamTools.org for registering and grading exams. The subject of the club appropriating funds for the purchase of dedicated testing tablets to work with the software was determined best postponed until after the VE team finishes their evaluations and can report back to the board.

Club Owned Laptops.

Currently the club has four computers. One is for the use of the Secretary. One was identified for us by the education committee but is not being used by the committee at this time. Two older computers, a Sony and a Compaq, both of which are reported to be slow and of limited value.

Going forward, we will need two computers to implement the Zoom meetings at Eisenhower and the VE Team is asking for a computer to use with their testing software.

It was decided that further discussion will be tabled until such time as we can discuss how to best implement a computer usage plan.

Future Programs

Paul reported that he has Tim Duffy, K3LR lined up for our September meeting and is working with Val Hotzfeld, NV9L to provide a program for November. Val is the Co-Host of Ham Nation and was the 2018 HamVention Amateur of the Year Award recipient.

Holiday Party in December

It was decided that we want to hold a Holiday Party for 2021. To start the planning process, John Ellis, NP2B volunteered to investigate the availability of entertainment and report back to the board.

TVARC SKCC Membership for K4VRC

Ken Kaplan, WB2ART asked the board for permission to secure an SKCC membership number for the club and K4VRC. The intent is to promote SKCC within the club and to promote TVARC within SKCC. Ken will secure volunteers from within the club to operate during monthly Weekend Sprints and exchange SKCC numbers with other SKCC members on the air. TVARC will be eligible to work towards SKCC awards such as Centurion, Tribune, and Senator awards.

The board approved Ken's request with the understanding that Ken will administrate the program, keep records, and update the board and trustee as to activities involving the use of K4VRC.

Financial Report Update

Bruce reported that the ending balance as of June 30rd to be \$11,399.36. We had five new members in June and two so far in July.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Schwer, K3ZGA
Secretary, TVARC

July 15, 2021, General Membership Meeting

This first in-person meeting in 17 months! Seventy-Two people in attendance, plus 5 people signed-in and attended via Zoom. The Zoom connection was designed and ran by John Ellis, NP2B. The Board extended John a huge thanks for his diligence and dedication for running this effort and working out all the usual start up bugs.

President, Mike Regan, KM4ZTE gave introductory remarks.

We celebrated the club's 25th Birthday at this meeting. Covid prevented us from doing so earlier, but the first meeting of TVARC was held January 1996 at La Hacienda Recreation Center. A list of milestones for the club include:

- 1996 First meeting with 25 attendees at La Hacienda Recreation Center Jan 18, 1996
- 1997 Weekly 2M Club Ragchew was established.
- 1998 First Field Day in vacant lot which is now Spanish Springs Bowling Center
- 1999 Club station call sign KG4DAS was issued. Current vanity call is K4VRC.
- 1999 First MS Walk supported by the club.
- 2000 First Technician License Class sponsored by club.
- 2004 Club incorporated.
- 2004 100th Meeting May 18, 2004
- 2005 Club became an ARRL Special Services Club
- 2005 Established a website www.tvarc.net now www.k4vrc.org
- 2009 First 70cm repeater, K4VRC/R at FD 51
- 2013 Second 70 cm repeater, K4LFK/R at 466 Annex, now at TV Hospital
- 2016 Membership exceeded 200.

The ARRL recently presented TVARC with a beautiful wooden gavel for a first-place finish in the 2019 10 meter contest. As Pete, K2PS contributed most of the contacts to this accomplishment, club President, Mike Regan, KM4ZTE presented the gavel to Pete for his fine efforts on behalf of the club.

Ken Kaplan, WB2ART reported that the club now has an SKCC number, 24637, that can be utilized to activate our K4VRC club call in SKCC events throughout the year

competing with a couple hundred other clubs around the country that also do this. The clubs first operating event will be in the August Weekend Sprintathon, August 7th and 8th. Ken is looking for volunteers to cover 2-hour time slots throughout the weekend.

George Briggs, K2DM provided a recap of a successful Field Day operation. Thirty-eight members and 28 visitors attended our site at Eisenhower Recreation Center. We have never had that many visitors and we attribute that to our more public location. Fourteen operators produced 1,036 QSOs for K4VRC.

George also recapped our Camp Villages event at Colony Recreation Center. We had 13 volunteers from the membership and 9 campers participated. The CW demonstration table was again a big hit with the kids who learned to send their name in Morse Code using a 1950 J38 straight key.

Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ presented the Treasurer's Report for May. He reported 5 new members in May. Our total funds on-hand as of the end of June are \$11, 280.49. Several new members were in attendance and officially joined the club at this meeting.

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

Our program for the evening was presented by Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ on the history and status of the repeaters used and maintained around The Villages by our "Crack" Repeater Team.

Posted by Bob Schwer, K3ZGA, Secretary