



## The Villages Amateur Radio Club Minutes for June 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.

### **June 4, 2020 Board Meeting**

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

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

Guests in attendance included: Tom Grosvenor, NV1U, Gary Sienkiewicz, W2TR and Rich Erlichman, ND4G.

The status of Fire Station 44 was discussed for future board meetings and licensing classes. Scheduling is on hold until such time as The Villages opens the Recreation Centers. It is reported that the centers will not open until we have dancing and vendors on the squares. Best estimate is September or October.

George, K2DM, has been informed by The Villages Recreation Department that large groups such as ours are at the end of the list for determining when we can again meet at Eisenhower Recreation Center. We will be phased in at a much later date.

Due to the status of Fire Station 44 it was agreed that our July Board Meeting will also be held via Zoom. The Zoom format has worked well, and all agreed that this was a good idea. Our June Membership meeting will also be held via Zoom.

The status of the club's computer assigned to our education committee was discussed. The current education chair, Brad Castelli, KN9B, has indicated that he prefers to use his own computer and has no current need for this computer. It was decided that we would relegate this computer to club operating activities such as Field Day and Radio on the Square replacing the older computer currently in that role.

John Ellis, NP2B, suggested that we raffle off the old computer to a club member when we can again meet in person. The winner must be present and a member of the club in good standing with dues current. A full club meeting currently looks to be months away.

Due to Covid19 issues and personal distancing rules, Field Day will be vastly different this year. The reservation for the Sheriff's Trailer has been cancelled for 2020. Members operate Field Day on their own but will be encouraged to submit their scores to the ARRL and indicate their affiliation with TVARC. QST will report aggregated scores for all club members who report their scores and indicate club affiliation.

It was decided that our June membership meeting will include a presentation on Field Day with the goal of encouraging our members to get on the air, contact other club members via 2 meter VHF simplex frequencies, have fun and report their scores to ARRL. The June meeting will be held via Zoom. Two or three volunteers will assemble this presentation and present the program. Volunteers are Mark Graybill, W8BIT, George Briggs, K2DM, John Ellis, NP2B and Bob Schwer, K3ZGA.

Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ, presented the finalized Treasurers report for May and a MTD report for June. Bruce reported that we are currently operating around a \$3,000 level that puts our long-term financial stability in question. A discussion ensued about raising dues to \$15 or \$20 or charging \$5-10 per person for our annual Holiday Party. Being unable to meet and not have our usual 50/50 raffle our income is diminished at this point.

It was agreed that charging for the Holiday Party was preferable to raising dues. However, since even having our Holiday Party is in question, no final decisions were rendered.

A proposal was made to establish a "Friends and Family" PayPal account to make it easier for members to pay their dues. Opinions were expressed, Bruce indicated that he did not wish to have a PayPal account, so the proposal was rejected for the present.

Bruce reported that the Hurricane Expo scheduled for the Savannah Center has been cancelled for this year. Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ and George Rutkoskie, W4GOR will continue to monitor the situation with The Villages.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Schwer, K3ZGA  
Secretary, TVARC

## June 18, 2020 General Membership Meeting

Another successful general membership meeting was held via Zoom on June 18, 2020. We had 42 attendees online.

George, K2DM announced that in the recent 10 Meter contest that The Villages Amateur Radio Club came in First Place in the Local Club Competition category. Here is the report from the QST article:

**In the Local Category, The Villages Amateur Radio Club (TVARC) took top honors among the six clubs in this category. Moving up from 7<sup>th</sup> place in 2018, with their win they dethroned the Central Virginia Contest Club who had won 6 out of the last 7 years! Well done TVARC. Their success formula was having high-scoring entrants, the second highest of any club in this category.**

Two guests were in attendance from a "Villages" community near San Jose, CA, Gerry Stillman, K6BTS and Larry McNary, AD6PR. Larry is president of his local amateur radio club. We were honored to have fellow "Villagers" visit our club.

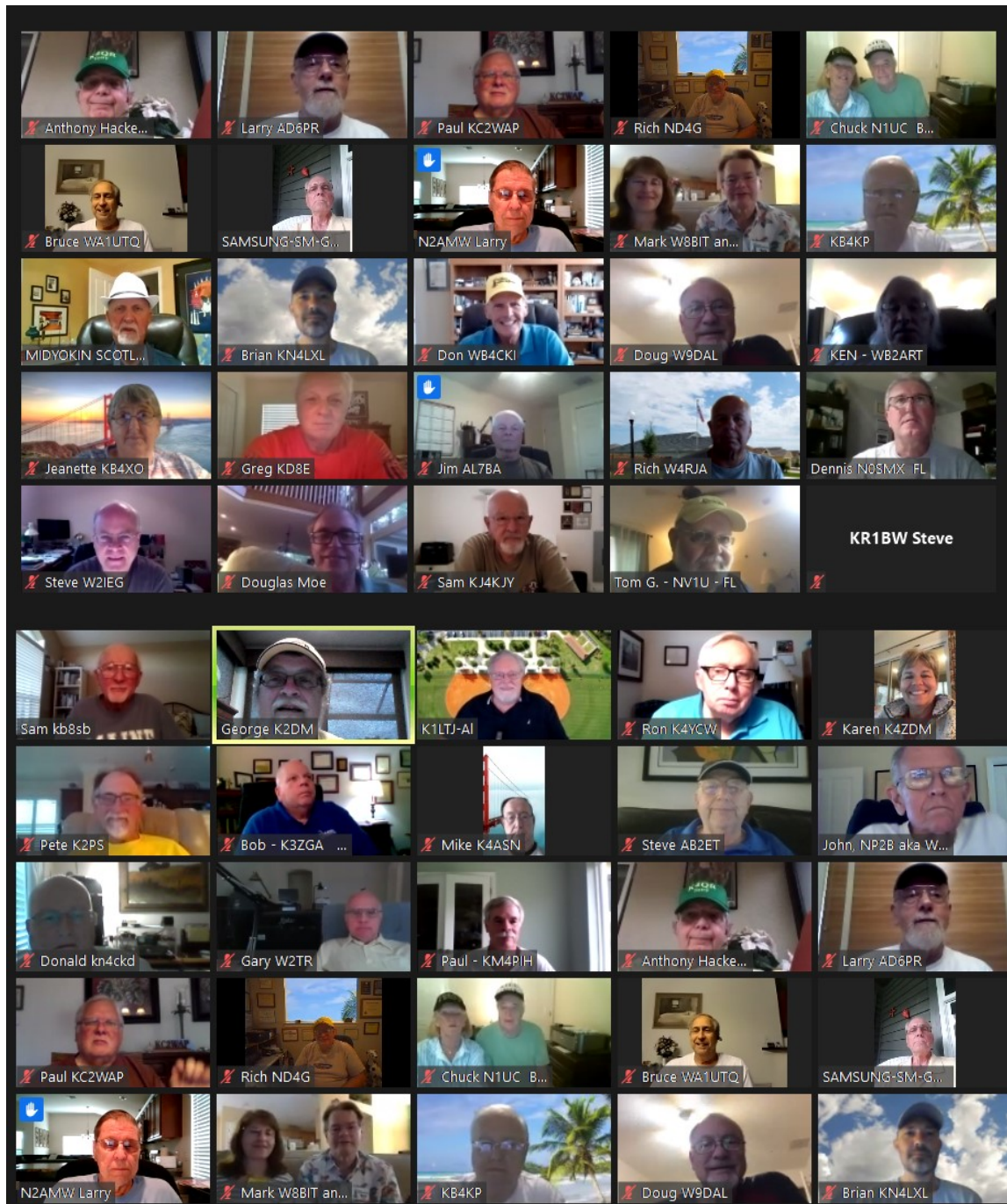
We also had two new members attend, Brian Majesky, KN4LXL and Paul Kraska, KC2WAP.

Following our usual business and committee reports, we conducted a program on Field Day 2020. Presenters included George, K2DM, Mark, W8BIT and Bob, K3ZGA. Two one-time changes in the rules for this year are 1) Class D stations can work all classes, including other class D stations for points. 2) while there are not club competitions this year due to Covid19, individuals can report their individual scores and list their club names. The scores will be aggregated to show the group participation during the event.

The focus was to encourage everyone regardless of license class to get on the air have fun and make contacts. We highlighted how Technician class license holders can make contacts, even with a handheld on 2 meter or 440 simplex. We asked for all advanced class operators in and around The Villages to check out the Technician authorized frequencies to help provide them contacts and have a good time on Field Day.

If everyone in the club submits their individual scores to the ARRL and lists The Villages Amateur Radio Club as their club, we should have an outstanding showing when the club scores are aggregated in the reporting for 2020.

Pictured below are the attendees from our Zoom screen shot:



Posted by K3ZGA, Secretary