



## The Villages Amateur Radio Club Minutes for May 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.

### **May 7, 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. Absent was Vice President Mark Graybill, W8BIT.

Guests in attendance included: Sam Brown, KB8SB, Ed Williams, W8APE, Jim Shaw, AL7BA and Steve Sawicki, AB2ET.

April financials were reviewed and approved. George reported that he had signed up TVARC for a Zoom membership. The account will be billed \$14.99 per month until such time as the account may be closed by TVARC.

The club's storage locker payment is due on May 22 for an amount of \$78.82 per month. Last year George negotiated a discount that included a free month rent for paying a year in advance. George is going to visit the storage facility and investigate a similar arrangement for the coming year.

The status of The Villages recreation centers was discussed. Organized club meetings are not permitted at the current time. We have learned that social distancing room layouts would prohibit a club of our size to meet anyway. In addition, food, water, coffee, or soft drinks are prohibited, and meetings are limited to one hour in length. The recreation centers are closed at 8 PM each evening.

Given the current situation, the Board decided and approved that we will hold our May 2020 meeting via Zoom. We will share our normal Power Point slides as part of the

business meeting. Birthdays and anniversaries will be acknowledged, but we will have no education program for the month of May.

For the same reasons already noted, even though we could probably secure Firehouse No. 44 for the use of our June board meeting, it was agreed that the board will meet via Zoom in June as well.

As to the June meeting, it is unclear what the status of the recreation centers will be at that time. The Board believes it will still be too early to put our membership at risk by meeting in a large group, so the recommendation was made and approved to plan for our June meeting to be also held via Zoom.

Field Day was discussed. It is unknown if The Villages will grant us permission to use a Regional Recreation Center for a Field Day Site, or if the Sumter County Sheriff will grant us usage of their Emcomm trailer again this year. The Board is also not comfortable with the idea of our members gathering in an enclosed area to operate a Field Day station.

As of this date, the ARRL has not weighed in on recommendations for conducting Field Day in this time of Covid19 contagion. Steve Sawicki, AB2ET, Field Day Co-Chair for 2020 has agreed to investigate the ARRL's Field Day plans and any rule revisions and report back to the Board. It is envisioned that we will be conducting a distributed Field Day in 2020 to assure the safety of our members.

Bruce reported that the Hurricane Expo scheduled for the Savannah Center has been postponed until further notice. Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ, and George Rutkoskie, W4GOR, are monitoring the situation with The Villages and will report back to the board whenever plans are announced for a new date.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Schwer, K3ZGA  
Secretary, TVARC

## **May 21, 2020 General Membership Meeting**

Due to health issues surrounding the Coronavirus, all large meetings and gatherings in recreation centers have been severely curtailed, including the May meeting of The Villages Amateur Radio Club. It has been decided by the Board of Directors to hold our May meeting via Zoom.

Posted by K3ZGA, Secretary