



The Villages Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes for September, 2023

September 7, 2023 TVARC Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting, which was held via Zoom, began at 5:30. Officers present: President George Briggs, (K2DM), Vice President Mike Regan, (KM4ZTE) and Secretary Faith Olen, (N4FMO).

K2DM stated that the TVARC Website was up to date and pictures of several events are posted.

The Board decided the September TVARC meeting will include an open discussion about what weekend in November to hold the Radio on the Square. Two to three people are needed to volunteer to organize the event. Also at the September meeting, KM4ZTE, Mike, will take the floor to request five to seven volunteers who will speak at the November meeting about what type of antenna/s they are using in various formats within the Villages. KM4ZTE has created a criteria list for participants to follow. Submissions will need to be completed by November 9th.

The Board reviewed possible future meeting topics which included: October- presentation given by the TVARC repeater team about the club's repeaters. The November meeting will be TVARC club member antenna talks and December will be the TVARC Holiday party. Possible topics for January and February include setting up and using a Buddipole and Weather stations.

Holiday party in December: It has been decided to have a potluck dinner for the TVARC club Holiday party. The club will pay for Ham and Turkey and Rich, ND4G, will set up the app "Punchbowl" for those wishing to sign up to attend. More details to follow. No music is planned. The evening attendance will be limited to the first 80 people to sign up. K4ZDM, Karen and KB0ZUQ, Sharon will be in charge of the party. They will recruit people to help them as needed. The board approved prizes for the night which will include 5 FMK gift certificates of \$50 each and 15 TVARC Tee shirts at \$15 each.

No other discussions or actions were taken.

September 21, 2023 TVARC General Meeting Minutes

After the 45-minute period of socializing, the president opened the meeting at 6:45. There were 54 members and 8 guests in attendance. The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Marty Brown, N4GL, invited new members and visitors to introduce themselves. This was followed by members announcing significant anniversaries and birthdays.

President's Report

Greg Madore, K1MGR, the Sumter RACES officer, read a letter of commendation recognizing the efforts of RACES club members during the recent Hurricane Idalia.

K2DM presented summary slides reporting on two recent Silent Keys who were active members of the club. Richard Bauer, W3RHB, was a frequent participant in club meetings and had been interested in amateur radio from a very young age. Dick's wife Rosalind, K3ROZ, was in attendance and spoke briefly about Dick to the membership.

Rich Antolick, W4RJA, was also an active club member, as well as an active member of QCWA, and a noted radio and electronics technician, and a former skydiver. Both members will be sorely missed.

George explained that we have just posted a silent auction of Dick Bauer's station equipment which was donated by his wife Rosalind. The process for placing bids for this equipment was detailed.

"Radio On the Square" will be held on Saturday Nov 25th at Lake Sumter Landing. This traditional club event needs a person or persons to volunteer to lead this effort. K2DM asked for volunteers to take on this role, but no one stepped forward during the meeting. We expect that we will have volunteers for this very soon.

Karen Erickson, K4ZDM, and Sharon McKinney, KB0ZUQ, have volunteered to organize the December Holiday Party, which will be held at Eisenhower Rec Center on Dec. 23rd. Punchbowl will be used for members to make reservations for themselves and up to one guest, and for selecting what type of dessert or side dish they will be contributing. Ken Burstall, WB8PKK, and Sam Miceli, KJ4KJY, have volunteered to assist with the event setup.

K2DM gave a brief overview of the wide variety of information and resources available on our TVARC webpage www.k4vrc.com.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce Cusanelli, WA1UTQ, presented the September treasurer's report. The club has a current balance of \$6,668.66.

Bruce also presented a status report on the club's three repeaters.

Gary Sienkiewicz, W2TR, gave a brief presentation on GMRS radio and the associated repeater, and how it differs from amateur radio. Gary also explained how to apply for a GMRS license.

DXCC Standings

K2DM provided a brief update of the latest DXCC standings and member accomplishments. George also noted that John Ellis NP2B has achieved 8 band Worked All States.

Sumter County ARES Presentation

Mark Newby KX4LEO regional coordinator for ARES gave an outstanding overview of what ARES is, and how it provides emergency communications services when normal infrastructure is unavailable. Mark explained the regional structure of Sumter County ARES within the state and the southeast region. KX4LEO outlined how there are 3 levels of membership in ARES with increasing levels of responsibility, certification and training. Mark explained that ARES utilizes and maintains the SAR network, which is an inter-connected network of 38 repeaters across Florida which assist in emergency communication using linked local repeaters. There are 4 levels of escalating emergency operations plans, which Mark explained in detail. The ARES trailer was made available for tours before and after the meeting, and Mark provided a series of slides showing the trailer's layout and capabilities.

Mark concluded his presentation with an invitation to any TVARC members who may be interested in joining Sumter County ARES. The presentation will be available on www.k4vrc.com

General Membership Adjourned

After 50/50 tickets were drawn, and \$78 was awarded, George adjourned the general membership meeting at 8:30 P.M.