



Coconino Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Agenda; Nov 12, 2020; 7:00 PM

Call to order

Introductions

President's Report-

Vice President's Report- Cocoradio.club updates

Secretary's Report –

Minutes of the Coconino Amateur Radio Club
10/08/2020

Meeting called to order at 1903 hours on Zoom via a virtual environment by Pres Janice KI6WCK. [This was a meeting held in a virtual environment due to the COVID crisis.] Roll was obtained via a check-in while online.

Introductions. 10 Attendees/Members.

President's Report: Intros - Janice – Hope all are happy and healthy. Janice stated that people should slow down due to the delay in Zoom so people can see what is going on.

Vice-President's Report: Phil Brunner quickly reported that MARS will be operating on 60 meters Channel 1 in exercises throughout the month. More in New business.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were sent out early in the day. If anyone had an issue about the minutes, they were to speak up. Phil AE7OH moved to accept Secretary's Report. Mike AG7XQ 2nd. Passed with no objection.

Treasurer's Report: Ken was not here tonight, but Janice had the report. We have a forward balance of \$3692.75. Dues income \$25. Current balance to \$3717.75. Currently 52 paid members and 3 life members - total 55 members. Motion to accept Glen KG7YDJ – 2nd Mike AG7XQ Passed.

Old Business:

Nothing stated as old business

New Business:

Event – Army – MARS – Phil

Per Phil, MARS will be operating on a schedule at 1200 every 3rd day. If possible, stations should use E-power if possible. No use of internet or telephones permitted for this exercise. Report Name/Location

Exercise- Arizona Shakeout – Joe

This Thursday the 15th starting at 1015 local. Community status reports are to be passed to net control.

Simulated repeater loss will be tried. 146.98 Elden and 146.78 [Williams] Glen will be monitoring - Hourly reports to net control. Between 1700 and 1800 local – use of alt power. – Simplex after that. Not many agencies involved as this is mostly HAM. People will need to see if they can hit repeaters and use simplex to communicate.

Exercise Red Cross/WinLink – Joe

October thru November – WinLink a very useful tool for passing messages. It depends on the internet for the most part. HF mostly – Mt Elden digital repeater 145.01 if HF is not usable.

News – Hurricane Delta – Joe

Joe sent out an email – Army /MARS available for Hurricane traffic on 60 meters. The hurricane is to hit Louisiana.

Classes – Technician – Glen

Glen is teaching classes via Zoom. Only 1 student is in the class.

License Exams

At Janice's house on the 17th. Only 3 people signed up currently.

Training – Ham Boot Camp – Glen

ARRL and local clubs are doing Ham Boot Camps. Subjects include Antennas, Digital Modes, Repeaters and HAM basics. Contact Glen if there is interest.

ARES – Joe W7LUX

Yavapai County has 4 tower trailers. There is a problem with the NADXA trailer and it takes quite a few people to set it up. No one knows who owns them, but they are available if we would like one of them. They are 30 foot crank up towers and only need 2 people to get them set up. Good for portable OPS in real or practice environments. We would need to do maintenance and upkeep on it if we decide to take one. Maybe we could get NADXA to work with us on this. Not sure if the County can assist with this.

Thanked Ron and Phil for working and Glen for volunteering for late hours although not needed.

Hurricane Laura

Joe noted half of all deaths due to carbon monoxide poisoning from generators. Generators need to be checked and maintained and not used indoors.

Southwestern Communication Drill

Joe could hear them, but they could not hear him. A repeater problem was cause.

Elden Repeater Outage

Monitored 146.980 simplex. Repeaters repaired though we do not know the cause.

There will be a simulated emergency exercise in early October. Does anyone have suggestions?

50/50 – No drawing this month.

Anything Radio – Discussion

Joe – Satarn/MARS Sunday/Wednesday schedules - 1200 to 1230 -Every third day Community status reports – No broadcasts at this time. Phil states to log in with ARS/Ham calls – WWV has info – broadcast at 10 and 40 minutes past the hour.

Joe – Satarn training exercises – The net is Saturday morning and he relays – FLDIGI – 10 am Saturday on 14.065

WinLink training is available – Contact Joe – Salvation Army will send out info /messages for agencies.

Glen showed off an inexpensive radio that had DMR capabilities

Janice asked about CW code practice and many links were given.

AZ QSO party this Saturday – Also the fees for AZ HAM plates benefits ARAC and other HAM organizations in the state. FCC proposed fee increases were discussed including a \$50 fee for vanity calls.

Next meeting November 12 on Zoom

Mike moved to close the meeting - Joe 2nd. Passed without objection 2016

Respectfully Submitted

Dan Shearer – N7YIQ

Secretary

Old Business – Continuing Business:

New Business:

Net Control for Skywarn

Red Cross exercise Saturday

December meeting or similar

January license exams, where, weather issues

Supporting public service events next year

ARES Report

Event Calendar:

Red Cross Exercise 14 November. This is primarily a High Frequency Winlink exercise with some local VHF communications. Those with Winlink capability are encouraged to participate.

Training Opportunities: Glen

ARES Report – Joe Hobart

From Joe regarding the Red Cross Exercise

The Winlink Express (formerly RMS Express) tried to make the program similar to other email programs. They were partly successful. VARA is an improvement over Winmor, the original Winlink sound card mode.

Pactor modems are very good hardware boxes. I have older Pactor modems; they use modes up to 3, but that is all that is allowed by the FCC. Pactor 4 is significantly faster, but regulations.... Cost is a problem: a new Pactor III modem is around \$13000. Pactor 4 modems are up to \$2200. Not a problem if one is going into your ocean going yacht or sailboat where your life may depend on being able to call for help!

Winlink was originally intended for sailors and RVers who needed communications from remote locations. (Many became hams because of Winlink.) Pactor was chosen because (like NavTex) once you write and post an email and tell the radio system to go, it is pretty much automatic. Fldigi and similar programs require more operator intervention. This could be a distraction when you are desperately bailing water out of your yacht.

Telnet is handy for me: I have to rearrange the ham shack and replace the RPi computer I use for digital with a laptop running Windows and RMS Express. It also gives Red Cross and ARES volunteers a chance to practice with Red Cross and ICS forms without having to set up a radio system.

Winlink would be useful during a regional Internet outage. One could contact distant stations to access email, like was done from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. I doubt Winlink, which is an Internet based system, will hold up during a large scale Internet outage. My Winlink Packet Gateway is useless without an

Internet connection.

A problem during the deployment to Puerto Rico was lack of familiarity with Red Cross forms and HF propagation. Red Cross volunteers are trying to remedy that situation - hence this Saturday exercise. Also, people don't do well reading and following instructions. I have also been seen this problem with other programs, like Fldigi, used by SATERN and ORCA digital training nets.

Do you have a Winlink account? If not please see:

<https://winlink.org/>

How to Get an Account to get one.

I am here to help. I will be available anytime this afternoon, tomorrow, and Saturday after the SATERN 20 meter Digital Net (about noon or 1300) when I help NCS. There are also videos on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=winlink