

## Minutes of the Socorro Amateur Radio Association, August 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Reese Janca

There was no formal program; there were reports and discussions on the Chile Harvest Triathlon. Jon Spargo reported on the Friday afternoon portion, which could have used more operators; there were some traffic hazards. Saturday went well, though golf course coordination was lacking; there was a tournament going on at the same time as the triathlon course went through the area.

### Announcements

- Duke City Hamfest this coming weekend, August 11-13; we will have a table there, noon to 5 on Friday, 8 to 5 on Saturday, and 8 to noon on Sunday. Need people.
- Harvey House in Belen will have a special event station on September 9, for the "Harvey Houses On The Air". It is being organized by the Valencia County Amateur Radio Association (KC5OUR) [for more information, see <http://www.qsl.net/vcara/> and <http://www.qsl.net/vcara/info-activators.pdf>]
- Quebradas Bike Sept 23, several operators have signed up already; could use more. Runs 7 AM to 2 PM; Doug May is coordinating. There will be an orientation meeting week before; exact time and place not set yet.
- Bill Brundage NM5WB is giving away the remains of three storm-damaged Yagi antennas. The mast snapped off just above the tower, which itself survived.

Motion to adopt the agenda by Bear Albrecht, seconded and passed.

Motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting by Jim Lommen, seconded and passed.

### Reports

President's report by Reese Janca: met with various people about the repeater site. Dr. S. Wells, later Joe Franklin and Jim Ottino. We need to document the value of services to be provided "in-kind". Formal papers, such as pro-forma invoices describing services, will well serve all parties.

Treasurer's report: No activity this month.

Opening & closing balances: SARA \$10,326.29; TARA \$645.45; total \$10,971.74. Some memberships are up for renewal. It was noted that Ryan Snyder's membership is an ongoing trade for web hosting.

ARES report: nets as usual, SARA on Wednesdays, HF on Sundays, Tri-county net.

Doug May: we have good line-of-sight coverage to Las Nutrias.

Need more people to be active in ARES; currently there are 7 or 8; need 10 to 12.

Charter School: Tomorrow evening 5:30 there will be a gathering at the school; kids, parents, teachers, staff; Jon will be able to speak a bit and will have a table.

Have tried in the past to promote ham radio to various schools including the homeschoolers; typical response has been studied indifference. Classes at Cottonwood Charter School are 3 to 4 PM on Tuesdays. Even adults are welcome to attend.

Old Business:

Quebradas Bike Race — Doug May will be coordinating volunteer operators

Hamfest — we need prize donations. The VLA tour is on, and the lodger's tax application is in to support the mailing. About September 1 the copy for the flyers needs to be solidified. The label party will be mid-month (last year's was on the 12th). Banquet issue: Need to bring the price back down. Venue is unsettled.

State ARES convention and ARRL sessions are confirmed. VE session planned.

Food at the Academy needs to be arranged. There are some ideas to investigate.

Repeaters — a committee has been appointed for maintenance & management tradeout: Reese Janca, Jim Boswell, Ray Calkins, Brad Smith, Bear Albrecht, and Robert Greiner.

Extended discussion about repeater types: there is some sentiment to replace the D-Star system with Fusion DR-1 (the old model, available on closeout prices).

Lengthy discussion about various options to study; discussion to be taken up later.

New Business:

Reese Janca broached the idea of an "Association House" (Clubhouse).

Jim Lommen noted that the Alamogordo club has a house. Dues to support something like that would be rather high. Discussions ensued with no actions.

The other SARA (Radio Astronomy) was discussed.

Recruitment: Not only are new hams needed, but we also need to try to attract hams who already live in the area.

Lab night will be the fourth Wednesday this month (August 23).

We need VEs (volunteer examiners). Extra Class license is required.

It was noted that Los Lunas has exams once a month.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.