

Minutes of the Socorro Amateur Radio Association, September 13, 2017  
Emergency Management Conference Room, 198 Neel Avenue, Socorro NM

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Vice President Brad Smith

Announcements:

Bill Brundage is leaving Socorro for Rio Rancho, and donating a Ten-Tec Eagle (Model 599), Yaesu FT-1900, and some accessories. He is also donating six or so items worthy of the silent auction at the Hamfest, and a number of other objects suitable for a donation table.

Doug May talked to County Commission about amateur radio for emergency service; he noted the need for interaction with other county agencies prior to an emergency. He also reported that the Sheriff wants to get a ham license and for deputies to do so as well.

Jim Lommen said the Capilla Peak repeaters are being restored, D-Star included; possibly in the next month or so (per Ed James).

Jim Lommen: per latest QST, Skyler Fennell has been awarded the Hiram P. Maxim Award.

The proposed agenda was adopted on a motion by Bear Albrecht, seconded and passed.

Minutes of the August meeting approved on a motion by Jim Lommen, seconded and passed.

Reports:

- ARES — just the usual nets
- Treasurer — Beginning bank balance \$10,971.74, deposits \$60, paid out \$33.40; ending balance \$10,998.34 of which \$645.45 belongs to TARA.
- School — no report; Jon Spargo not in attendance.
- Repeaters:

- D-Star: It has long been planned and expected by the County that the system could provide a data connection between the Mobile Command Center and the EOC.

Upon following up after the discussions at the August meeting it came to light that a lot of work and acquisition had not been done. The County had already bought three mobile D-Star radios, the 1.2 GHz Icom ID-1 (still in the box) and two dual-band units consisting of an Icom ID-5100A, also still in the box, and an IC-2820H, installed in the Mobile Command Center although the digital module had never been installed. We did that at the last Lab Night. Since then we (Bear, Ray, and Skyler) have been up the mountain and gotten the system back on. The gateway must be re-registered because it was off for so long that it "fell off the list".

The County is buying 1.2 GHz repeater modules, along with another ID-1, so there can be an ID-1 in the Mobile Command Center and one in the EOC. This should provide a data connection either directly or through the repeater. There was some concern expressed about rack space since the SARA 146.68 repeater is to be moved into our rack. A smaller server is likely and will help with that.

- Reroofing the Garden Shack (houses the Packet and APRS machines): A work party (tentatively including Brad Smith, Bear Albrecht, and Skyler Fennel) will go up soon and install ProPanel, which Dave Johnson has already cut to length. We will also replace the GFCI outlet on the back of the building; it does not respond to the test button and maybe entirely dead.

- Maintenance agreement with NM Tech: We need to formalize the process and agreement, say what we will do, and do it. We have made trips up and we need to document them and produce Pro Forma invoices for the work.
- Repeater committee communication: an email listserv is being established to which committee members and other interested parties can and should subscribe. Details on how to sign up will be disseminated.
- TARA — getting organized for the semester. Regular TARA meeting will be tomorrow (9/14) at 7 PM upstairs at the “SAC” (the same building that Tech PD is in). The AllStar repeater is up in a temporary location, and the PL has been changed to 123.0; frequency is 442.125+
- Lab Night — at the last session, August 23, we installed the digital module into the IC-2820 and were able to connect with Doug May’s ID-91 portable; the repeater was not on the air yet.

## Old Business

### Hamfest:

- Friday afternoon VLA Tour is on, 1 PM
- Banquet: No speaker is lined up; we had one but he had a conflict arise. We must get one in the next few days if we are going to have a banquet. Jim Boswell suggested Paul Harden, perhaps on early history of the VLA. Discussion about where: attendance has been declining at the Bodega, presumably due to the cost. The Masonic Hall has approved our use. We will need to have the event catered.
- We will need insurance certificates for the Academy and the Masonic Lodge (Luis)
- Reese volunteered to get PayPal going for reservations, and for table and tailgate spaces.
- Label party needed before the end of the month.
- Need a donut chairman — Luis has volunteered.
- Friday afternoon setup: need all available hands.
- A mobile food vendor is needed for breakfast and lunch; two good possibilities discussed.
- Jim Boswell is doing the silent auction. All equipment should be checked out if possible.
- Someone is needed to put the signs out on Saturday morning.
- A "Fox Hunt" is being planned
- Schedule
  - 8:00 SDR Forum
  - 9:00 D-Star Forum with Ed James
  - 10:00 ARRL Forum
  - 11:00–12:30 ARES

Quebradas Bike Race: there will be a meeting at Rob Selina's home, 914 Bursum, Monday September 18, at 5:30 PM.

New Business: There was a suggestion that a committee evaluate club property for possible sale at the silent auction, and produce a list to be discussed and approved at the October meeting. Committee will consist of Brad Smith, Bear Albrecht, and Jim Boswell.

Jim Lommen motioned for adjournment, seconded, approved with no nays at 8:45.