

## **The Casper Amateur Radio Club – W7VNJ**

### **Business Meeting Minutes**

April 6, 2011

#### **I. Call to order**

The CARC Vice President, Tate Belden, KA7O, called to order the monthly business meeting of the Casper Amateur Radio Club at 1906 MDT on April 6, 2011 at the Natrona County Emergency Operations Center. The CARC President, Mike Coley, KE7AZF, took over the meeting at 1907 MDT and presided over it until its conclusion.

#### **II. Attendance Roster**

The following persons were present. Note: Asterisk indicates an associate member or a visitor. Per club by-laws meeting are opened to the public, but only full members in good standing are allowed to vote on club business.

Mike – KE7AZF, President  
Tate – KA7O, Vice President  
Paul – K7RXC, Secretary  
Bruce – KF7CFY, Treasurer  
Shawn – KF7OPS  
Mike – KE7WQP  
Chuck – KF7GNB  
Jay – W7DRJ  
Charles – N7RQW  
Warren – KU7D  
Shawn – N7RRB  
Andrea – KF7OPT  
Gary – AE7LS\*  
Kirk – KI7YY  
Mike – AE7EC  
Ben – KF7LFN

#### **III. Minutes from the last meeting**

CARC Secretary, Paul, K7RXC, read the minutes from the last meeting. Mike, KE7WQP, made a motion for the club to accept the minutes as read. Jay, W7DRJ, seconded the motion and the club passed it unanimously.

#### IV. Old Business

Dave's, N0AXE, equipment disposition committee update

Tate, KA7O, suggested, that as Josh, KA7JUN, was out of town and the committee had not met yet, that agenda be tabled. It was tabled.

Wyoming hamfest

Tate, KA7O, announced that the Wyoming hamfest now has a website: [www.Wyominghamcon.org](http://www.Wyominghamcon.org). Presently, the hamfest is a work in progress with information being presented when available. The hamfest will be held during the weekend of June 3-5, 2011, at Cheyenne's Little America and Tate stated that he did know that the convention rate for a room at the hotel was \$104/night.

Casper Planetarium Project

Jay, W7DRJ, reported that he had contacted Land Management, High Plains District Office, and was told that a balloon launch at Muddy Mountain site was not possible. After some discussion, the district office was willing to be our sponsor. Jay presented the club with the necessary papers to apply for the event, being at the Muddy Mountain campsite. Jay, also, brought up some restrictions, concerning the club's behavior during the event and the need for some necessary information that would apply to the utilization of the campsite. The proposed event will be held Wednesday, July 20, 2011, the darkest night of the month and the highest point of the meteor shower. Hydrogen is the only gas that is available for the balloon. The time of the launch would be around 9PM MDT. Mike, KE7AZF, wanted to know more about the balloon particulars for the launch. Jay told the club about the setup and weight of the rig. Tate, KA7O, stated FAA regulations mandate a minimum of at least two independent takedown methods for emergency abortion of the balloon launch. Tate stated that the primary category for these regulations was a balloon that was capable of attaining more than 60,000 feet adjusted pressure elevation. Tate, also, said that we would also need a radar reflector device on the balloon for a night launch, and permission from the FAA to launch during that certain date and time. This is to keep the FAA informed of the ongoing project. We are also required to maintain two-way communications with the air traffic control for the possibility of ending the project for airman safety reasons. Also, we need to report elevation, airspeed, and direction relative to the ground every two hours during the launch and a projected landing site. Tate mentioned that a tethered balloon, which doesn't go closer than 500 feet to a cloud layer, had no complicated restrictions. Jay stated that he would investigate further.

### Marathon update

Tate, KA7O, stated that he had done two avenues of communication with the Marathon committee, but as of today had not heard back from them. Tate suggested that those hams interested in participation in future events get an activities hat. This hat helps to communicate to other participants, that communications personnel are present and capable of passing on necessary information to others. The cost is \$17.00/ea plus shipping and handling. The shipping and handling cost goes down dramatically, if the shipping is pooled together with several purchases. Tate also stated that the tracker for the marathon is in need of AA batteries. Members in the club said that they could provide the necessary batteries for the marathon. There was a concern for a projector, but that was still in the works.

### Pony Express re-ride update.

Mike, KE7AZF, stated that as the event is still very much in the future, there had been no contact with the Pony Express Re-ride committee, as of yet.

### Field Day committee update

Mike, KE7WQP, stated that he would resume chairmanship of the Field Day committee. Mike, KE7AZF, suggested that the club apply to the State Parks Department to allow the club the use of Centennial Pavilion at Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park during the weekend of June 25-26, 2011, Field Day. Mike, KE7WQP, stated he would type a letter, and Paul, K7RXC, said he would help Mike with the composition of the letter. Paul said that he would be responsible for the logging of this year's Field Day QSO's. Tate reiterated that the Field Day Event is a dry (non-alcoholic) event.

### S-Comm repeater controller

Tate, KA7O, stated that the S-comm controller programming was in progress. The Echolink and IRLP node on the .64 and the 70CM repeaters were presently down. The repeaters are still in operation without these capabilities. Tate also suggested that the club might help improve the grounding at the Wyoming Medical Center and in return allow the club to place repeater equipment on their premises. The club thought that a good idea, which would require further investigation.

### CARC Clubhouse Committee update

Jay, W7DRJ, suggested that the Sky Room at First and Center be investigated as a possible site for the CARC clubhouse. The club told Jay to go ahead and investigate the possibility.

### Letter of Acknowledgment

A letter of acknowledgment for Rental Equipment, Inc, has been composed by Paul, K7RXC, but a CARC letterhead needs to be done, so that the letter and accompanying picture could be suitable for framing. The club is still working on that. Tate, KA7O, stated that a person in the dispatch department had some original 1938 CARC letterhead and that she would give it to us in the near future. This might be useful for our acknowledgment letter.

### Threat to 70CM band privilege

Tate, KA7O, suggested, that those who had not written a letter to the Honorable Cynthia Lummis , concerning the upcoming vote on auctioning off of some of the 70 CM amateur band, to please do so.

### VE session

Warren, KU7D, stated that the testing session held last month was a complete success with two new Technicians, two upgrades to Extra Class, and a person from Riverton upgrading to General Class. Warren also stated that there had been some discussion, concerning the possibility of the VE team going to Riverton, WY to setup a testing site for those in the Riverton area.

### 1950's radio event

Tate, KA7O, stated that he had contacted the Casper Car Club twice, but had not received any response to date.

### Investment Plan

Bruce, KF7CFY, stated that the alternate plan was very similar. Kirk moved that the club allow the board to make the decision for the club and Warren, KU7D seconded the motion. The club voted, that the board make the decision for the club with Jay, W7DRJ, abstaining from the vote.

## V. New Business

### Possible Involvement with Midwest Community Clinic

Mike, KE7WQP, stated that he had been in contact with Mr. Mike Smith of the Midwest Community Clinic in Midwest, WY, and that they would be interested in being involved with our club for communication purposes. Tate, KA7O, stated that in the past Casper Amateur Radio Club had not formally entered into ongoing mutual alliances with other community organizations. If a member of the club would like to participate, that would be another matter. As it stood, this matter becomes an obligation entered into by each individual member.

### Repeater controller information dissemination

Mike, AE7EC, suggested that the new S-Comm controllers be programmed to announce the PL tone that is necessary to access the repeater. Tate, KA7O, stated that that was a good idea. Warren, KU7D, said that there had been some discussion on acquiring that type of information by dialing 411 on the DTMF keypad. Bruce, KF7CFY, asked the club: "Why do we have different tones on the different repeaters?" Tate stated that this is just good engineering practices.

### CARC business cards

Mike, AE7EC, suggested that the club have a general business card. Tate, KA7O, stated that in the past the club had problems with this. People tried to represent the club using these cards, when they weren't authorized. Tate suggested a brochure be designed that would serve the same purpose and get around the abovementioned problem. Mike, AE7EC, said he would do that. Bruce, KF7CFY, stated that he thought a general business card was very important in advertising the CARC's meetings.

## VI. Adjournment

As there was no further business for the club, Kirk, KI7YY moved that the meeting adjourn. Jay, W7DRJ, seconded the motion and the club voted to adjourn at 2038 MDT.