

The Casper Amateur Radio Club – W7VNJ

March 2, 2011

I. Call to order

The CARC President, Mike Coley, KE7AZF, called to order the monthly business meeting of the Casper Amateur Radio Club at 1900 MST on March 2, 2011 at the Natrona County Emergency Operations Center.

II. Attendance Roster

The following persons were present. Note: Asterisk indicates an associate member or a visitor. Per club by-laws meetings are open 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
Jay – W7DRJ
Mike – KE7WQP
Chuck – KF7GNB
Kirk – KI7YY
Warren – KU7D
Josh – KA7JUN
Steve – WY7W
Ben – KF7LFN
Mike – AE7EC
Shawn – N7RRB
Charles – N7RQW
Shawn – visitor*
Gary – W7GRL*
Andrea – visitor*

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. Mike, AE7EC, seconded the motion and the club passed it unanimously.

IV. Old business

Update on Dr. Dave's, N0AXE equipment disposition committee

Tate, KA7O, inquired into the progress on Dr. Dave's, N0AXE, equipment disposition. As Josh, KA7JUN, only recently returned to Casper, the committee has not progressed on the inventory or the proposed use of Dr. Dave's, N0AXE, equipment as of yet. Josh, assured the club that progress would be forthcoming in the near future.

Mass mailing for prospective members

Tate, KA7O, thanked Paul, K7RXC, for a completed and successful mass mailing to prospective members. Paul acknowledged and stated appreciation for the gratitude expressed by the club.

Wyoming hamfest

According to Tate, KA7O, the Cheyenne and Laramie Amateur Radio Clubs have confirmed that the Wyoming hamfest will occur on the weekend following Memorial Day at Cheyenne's Little America. That period is the weekend of June 3 to June 5, 2011.

VE's checking account

According to Tate, KA7O, the VE's funds have now been separated from the Casper Amateur Radio Club's funds.

Planetarium committee update

Tate, KA7O, asked Jay, W7DRJ, for any updates on the Planetarium project. Jay stated that the University of Wyoming Atmospheric Studies Department was not able to provide any assistance in our upcoming special event at this time, but to inform them how it went after its completion. Tate also asked Jay if he had contacted the "Edge of Space Science" committee, and Jay stated he had not at this time, but would email them in the near future.

Marathon tracker acquisition

Tate, KA7O, presented the new tracker that the club has recently acquired. Tate also stated that there are smaller, and lighter trackers that might be more appropriate for use in the balloon launch project that will be going on later this year. Paul, K7RXC, inquired into how much the tracker cost, and Tate stated it was \$266.

Investment Plan

Tate, KA7O thanked Paul, K7RXC, for getting the prospectus and other information from Ms. Kathy Sasser of Lincoln Financial Advisors. Tate also stated that those members who had looked it over were very positive about it, even those who were concerned about the appropriate timing of this investment plan. Kirk, KI7YY, stated that the presence of 50% foreign investment in the plan was what convinced him that it was a good diversified portfolio. Paul stated that he had touched bases with Ms. Kathy Sasser and he felt positive about this portfolio as “doable” and capable of doing what the club wanted it to do. Tate asked the club membership’s permission to allow the board to investigate the details and if the board believed it to be in the interests of the club to implement its execution. Bruce, KF7CFY, stated that he also had a portfolio that might better meet the needs of the club. This one is from Mr. Robert Thunselle of Thrivent Investments and consisted of industrial bonds with a similar investment outcome as the other. He stated that this plan had a two- prong balancing technique that might increase the revenue gathering for the club. Bruce presented this portfolio to the board for further consideration. Tate accepted this alternate plan for the board’s consideration. Jay, W7DRJ, asked about the desirability of a dividend re-investment technique to compound the money. Tate stated that was a later concern the club could consider after it observed the plan’s short-term performance.

Committee updates

Marathon update

Tate, KA7O, stated that he had not contacted anyone from the marathon committee as of yet.

Pony Express re-ride

Tate, KA7O, asked Mike, KE7WQP, what progress, if any, had occurred since we last met concerning Pony Express re-ride. Mike stated that he had contacted Donnie, but had just recently acquired a new job that had made him unavailable for future planning. Tate asked the club membership if anyone else was willing to take the committee assignment. Mike, KE7AZF, stated that he would. Mike stated that the club would get in touch with the ride captains in our segments and coordinate the event, and as he said: “go chase ponies”.

Field Day

Again, Mike's, KE7WQP, new job had precluded him from any further planning of the field day event, so he had gotten in contact with Jay, W7DRJ, to take over the planning of field day 2011.

Repeater controller

Tate, KA7O, stated that he has taken possession of the S-Comm controller from Warren, KU7D, and will prepare it for installation into one of our repeaters.

Letter of acknowledgment

Bruce, KF7CFY, asked the club if it had sent a letter of acknowledgement to Rental Equipment, Inc. Warren, KU7D, stated that he didn't think it had ever been done. Paul, K7RXC, stated that he would complete the task with Josh, KA7JUN, helping with a picture of the lift taken at field day to accompany it.

V. New business

Threat to 70cm. Band privileges

According to Tate, KA7O, bill, HR607 is being considered to assign some of the amateur radio spectrum to commercial interests for auction. This would include a big chunk of our 420 to 450 MHz. Band. Tate thought it advantageous to mail any letters to the ARRL lobbyists in Washington, DC, so that they could deliver those letters to Cynthia Lummis, who is on the committee dealing with this matter.

Possible presence of Slow-scan TV on our repeaters

Tate, KA7O, told the club that the members should expect the presence of SSTV on our more limited coverage repeaters in the near future. Tate said this is being done to expand our capabilities for special events. Charles, N7RQW, stated that he had some 900MHz. equipment that the club might be interested in for other television capabilities. Tate was every receptive to this possibility.

Upcoming VE test session

Warren, KU7D, stated that there would be a testing session on Saturday, March, 12, 2011 at 10AM at the Paradise Valley Christian School. All classes of amateur privileges would be available for testing. Mike, KE7AZF, asked if there had been any response from Tim, AB7BJ. Warren said that up to now no response has been received from the Platte River Radio community.

A 1950's radio event with the car show on Memorial Day

Tate, KA7O, is currently exploring the possibility of doing a cooperative effort with the Casper Car Club during their Memorial Day Classic Cars happening.

Exploration for a future clubhouse

Jay, W7DRJ, asked the club membership if the club was still interested in looking for a space for The Casper Amateur Radio Club clubhouse. There was a spirited discussion on the pros and cons of getting the KVOG transmission site for our future clubhouse. Jay suggested that the building be called the Alice Bubeck Educational Center and Museum. The club recommended that Jay continue exploring that possibility.

VI. Adjournment

As there was no further business for the club, Mike, KE7WQP, moved that the meeting adjourn, Warren, KU7D, seconded the motion and the club voted to adjourn at 1954 MST.

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