

Sequoia Amateur Radio Club
General Monthly Meeting
Minutes of Club Meeting: February 9, 2019 (with corrections)

Because of heavy snow in the days preceding the meeting, both President Hesse and Vice President Bradley were unable to attend. Mike Higgins, KA6IYS, as Treasurer, formally called the meeting to order at the Elks Club in Wofford Heights at 9:30 AM. He initiated the Pledge of Allegiance with all present members and guests participating. We had 21 members present, so there was a quorum for business.

Mike asked members to identify themselves with name, call, and location of their home in KRV. New members Steve Hummel, N6XNN, and Jim Harris, KJ6HYL, were introduced.

Old Business: Skip Reymann, N6SR, invited interested Club members to assist in the formation and operations of the new ham Club, Rocky Point Amateur Radio Club, which was established to support and operate the new mountain-top facility we are trying to lease. There are no meetings or dues in this new Club, just participation in any work projects to install equipment and antennas, most of which were already on hand. Several new members signed on to the RPARC. This Club is critical for battery-powered emergency communications for our local communities in the event of serious emergencies, such as power failures, earthquakes, dam problems, and fires in the area.

New Business: Mike asked if anyone was there for an exam. No one was. Mike asked if there were any other Club concerns to be discussed. Ongoing efforts to encourage an increase membership was discussed, possibly including an open invitation to issue to folks in the local community to attend any forthcoming monthly meeting. Setting a Welcome Table especially for first-time visitors with printed resources available on ham radio and how to study for and take a ham exam offered by the Club. It was also suggested that some actual in-use ham equipment be displayed and some articles on making your own equipment, such as inexpensive antennas, be available. A membership application was requested by Dale Ripley,

Presentation:

There was no presentation for this meeting. Mike suggested adjournment and member interaction instead. A coffee/doughnut break and sale of raffle tickets was held, Mike then turned the meeting over to Don Jefferson, KC6OCA, to handle selection of door prizes and the 50-50 raffle cash prize.

Door Prize winners were as follows:

Dale, KG6TBQ, Battery tester
Ken, KM6UBC, Key chain with multi-tools
Jan Robertson, N7CCV, Bright LED Flashlight
Skip Reymann, N6SR, Small LED flashlight
Steve Hummel, N6XNN, 50/50 prize of \$22

Next Club meeting: March 9, 2019 at 9:30 AM at the Elks Club in Wofford Heights

Sequoia Amateur Radio Club
General Monthly Meeting
Minutes of Club Meeting, January 12, 2019 (with corrections)

President Hesse called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. He initiated the Pledge of Allegiance with all members participating. We had 24 members present, so there was a quorum for business.

President Hesse thanked all guests coming from Bakersfield, if there were any. Then he asked members to identify themselves with name, call, and location of their home in KRV. Brian Dowd (unlicensed) was there as a guest at Skip Reymann's invitation to learn a little more about our Club and to start the process of studying for a ham license. He asked for a Club application.

Old Business: President Hesse thanked the 2018 year's officers and Board Members for their service. President Hesse stated that Club meeting minutes, photographs, and Club history were available online on the Club Web site, n6krv.org, and that ham equipment for sale was also listed on the Web site. Bill Hesse then thanked several people who had contributed Christmas Party gifts: Torin Swinland KK6YAB,, Ellen Niduvitch, and Cheryl Ripley.

New Business: President Hesse introduced the 2019 officers: VP, Bob Bradley, KI6TLB; Secretaries: Nancy and Skip Reymann, K6NJR and N6SR; Treasurer: Mike Higgins, KA6IYS. Then he asked Vice President Bob Bradley to introduce the speaker. Bob introduced Skip Reymann, N6SR, who was going to describe his current project for the Club.

Presentation:

Skip and Nancy, K6NJR, may be moving away from their house high on Sawmill Road which has housed the 145.450 2m repeater and the CERT 152 MHz repeater. He described his concerns about covering the Valley with public service communications without a high site from which to operate. Mike, KA6IYS, told him about the possibility of obtaining a building on top of "Rocky Point Mountain" (Skip's name for it). In September 2017, Skip and member Dave Light opened discussions with the Bureau of Land Management, who owned and decided who used the mountaintop. It took several months to meet the requirements and generate the appropriate four detailed documents. Dave and Skip surveyed the site, which is a small 8' X 10' flat-roofed building abandoned by its lessee, one of three on the mountaintop. Some time later, Skip and Chuck Caudell, KI6GOG, made another trip up the mountain for a detailed examination of the site. They gained entrance to the site through the gate in the fence, and found that the metal building door could be opened and the inside wooden door had been kicked in. They found a repeater installed which belonged to Southern California Edison. Notifying the BLM of this, BLM's realty agent and electronics expert came up with Skip and were very annoyed that SCE had used the building, apparently for 2-3 years. BLM had the SCE repeater removed. The interior of the building was found to be in need of extensive clean-up. The building had a group of a dozen or more antennas already installed by the previous user, and a relatively new wooden power

pole installed by SCE outside the fence. Chuck got up onto the flat roof and found that the roof waterproofing was virtually useless.

In June 2018, BLM notified Skip that there would be a \$600 processing fee for the application, and an annual rental fee of about \$1300. They also notified Skip that fees could be avoided if our Club received a 501C7 tax exemption from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and Skip applied for that about July 1, 2018. There was a \$600 processing fee for IRS, and five Club members contributed to that. A new Club was formed, the Rocky Point Amateur Radio Club (RPARC), whose purpose was solely to provide public service (ham and CERT) communications for social purposes and for emergencies such as our 4-5 large fires each summer. BLM was very interested in leasing for public service uses.

Our purposes would be to install three ham repeaters (two 2m and one 440 repeater), two data repeaters (packet radio and APRS relays), and one or two CERT repeaters. Skip would also like to install a central relay point for Broadband HamNet (BBHN) or AREDN use, connecting KRV to Bakersfield with high-rate broadband communication (similar to Internet) for emergencies. There is a cabin on Breckenridge Mountain and also Shirley Peak as a relay point for BBHN/AREDN relay. Much of our equipment has been furnished by Dave Light (SK).

Three other applicants applied to obtain a lease to the same building, and BLM referred them to discuss with Skip to negotiate among us as to who was going to get what usage. In such discussions, the other three eventually dropped out. In summer of 2018 another possible user appeared and BLM told him to 'talk to Skip because it is his building'. That user can be considered public service because of his relatively small usage (public broadcasting) and his use of a.c. power (all of our use would be using solar-charged batteries so that an emergency which caused power outage would not affect our services to the Valley). BLM was very impressed with that.

The current situation is that government employees (including BLM and the IRS people who process our 501C7 application) are not at work. We are therefore waiting for Washington to get their problems straightened so we have a government again.

After the presentation and a coffee/doughnut break and sale of raffle tickets, President Hesse turned the meeting over to Don Jefferson, KC6OCA, to handle selection of door prizes and the 50-50 raffle cash prize.

Door Prize winners were as follows:

Volcanic gloves: Jayne Price, KK6JPZ

Multi-function key ring: Chuck Caudell, KI6GOG

Solar-powered radio with flashlight: Richard Elton, KE6TA

Measuring tape: Christine Hancock, KK6AZQ

Emergency walllight: Nancy Reymann, K6NJR

Solar charger: Le Rae Elton, KE6VRD

Raffle prize, \$14: Richard Elton, KE6TA

Next Club meeting: February 9 2019 at the Elks Club in Wofford Heights