

Minutes Jan 12, 2009

7:30 PM at the Platt Training Center, Ocean Drive, Gualala CA

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Jack Haverty K3FIV. Approximately 27 people were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 9, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Ken KE6WC and seconded by Bob WA6M that the meeting minutes as distributed via email and posted on the ABARC web site be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marcia KG6NHX reported that the club as of tonight has a total of 26 members who have paid dues for 2009. The total funds in our account excluding the dues received at this evening's meeting is **\$1613.04**

2009 ABARC OFFICERS ELECTED

Dennis KI6HHA reported that the nominating committee composed of Bob AA6VS, Don, KG6KLP Fred W6WTI and Dennis KI6HHA met on December 17, 2008 at Bob Sears' home and reviewed the club membership roster for possible nominees for club officer positions. All officers who served in 2008 indicated willingness to continue on in their respective positions for 2009 if no other members wished to serve. Therefore the recommended slate from the committee was as follows: President, Jack K3FIV; Vice President, Fred W6WTI; Secretary, Dennis KI6HHA; Treasurer, Marcia KG6NHX; Activities Manager, Ken KE6WC. Nominations from the floor were opened, but no one volunteered to run for any position. Donna KG6TOI, moved and Bob WA6M seconded to approve the nomination committee's recommended slate of officers for 2009 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS VAN FUTURE STATUS

Ken gave a history of how ABARC obtained the communications van and how radios and other equipment was installed. Within the past year a generator and one radio were stolen out of the van which have a combined value of about \$2000. No one has expressed interest in using or maintaining the van. Ken believes the van is a liability unless someone wants to maintain it. Since no one seems willing to maintain the van, Ken recommended disposing of it by giving it back to the fire department. Fred believes the van could be an asset to the club but it depends on how much time and money the club would want to spend each year maintaining it. Technician class operators using their own vehicles and mobile radios or handy talkies can perform the same functions for communication without the van. The advantage of the van is really for General or Extra class operators to communicate using the van's HF capabilities. Donna suggested bringing the van to a future ABARC function which may increase interest. Lynn suggested the van could be used as an educational tool in the community at schools, parades or other civic events to promote amateur radio. Cathleen suggested we not make any decision tonight but establish a group to study the

options. Jack asked for volunteers to form a committee and look at this issue. Bob, WA6M, Jim KG6PTX, Don KG6KLP and Marcia KG6NHX volunteered to serve on this committee and report back to the club at our next quarterly meeting regarding their recommendations concerning what the club could or should do with the van.

ELMER NIGHT DISCUSSION

Fred W6WTI gave a history of some of the Elmer night activities during the past year. The group discussed possible reasons for the low attendance at Elmer nights. Bonnie KI6CHC and Dennis KI6DJL indicated that the third Wednesday of the month caused a scheduling conflict with other community activities. After additional discussion and numerous suggestions, it was proposed that we rotate the night of the week when Elmer meetings are held or even consider Saturday morning meetings to try and encourage more people to attend and participate. There was a show of hands of those in attendance at tonight's club meeting that indicated most people could attend meetings on Monday and Thursday evenings. The next Elmer night will be held on Wednesday January 21 because the facility has already been reserved, but after this meeting, we will begin rotating the night to see if more people attend. Interested persons should check the ABARC website home page for the date and time of upcoming Elmer meetings including the topics to be discussed. We will bring this item back again at our next club meeting to see if rotating the meeting time has resulted in better attendance. Elmer type questions can also be asked on our Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/w6abr/> Suggestions for future topics are always welcome.

REPEATER STATUS REPORT

Bob WA6M, the technical support person for our club repeaters announced that he and Ken KE6WC made several trips to both the 146.610 Point Area Repeater and the 147.825 Anchor Bay Repeater to repair the link which has been down recently. A fuse was replaced on the 610 repeater as was parts for the controller. Though the link works, there is a great deal of distortion that remains so the link is still inoperable at this time until this problem is resolved. Bob WA6M is doing additional analysis to determine what may be the cause of this elusive and on-going problem. We hope to have the link repaired soon so that persons from Northern Mendocino County will be able to reach the 147.825 repeater.

REPEATER PROGRESSION DURING EMERGENCIES

Fred W6WTI reminded everyone that in the event that our Anchor Bay Repeater on 147.825 becomes non-functional during an emergency, everyone should tune their radios to 147.825 **SIMPLEX** first. Net Control may request people to go to other frequencies, such as the Sea Ranch Repeater on 147.945. Refer to the wallet card developed by W6WTI and KE6WC for area frequencies to check in an emergency. This list of local repeater frequencies may be found on the club web site at: <http://www.abarc.net/files/CoastUnitVHFChannels2.pdf>

ABARC FUTURE LUNCHEON IN FORT BRAGG

Marcia KG6NHX raised the possibility of holding an ABARC luncheon in the Northern Mendocino County area. The purpose is to meet people in person who belong to ABARC and live in Northern Mendocino County that check in using the 610 repeater. There was brief discussion and Marcia agreed to contact some of the Northern Mendocino ABARC members to see if they would be interested in attending such a luncheon in Ft. Bragg. If she receives a positive response, she will

attempt to identify a location in Ft. Bragg and set up a date sometime during the second quarter of 2009 and announce it to all ABARC members via email and the website.

ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

Fred W6WTI presented the advantages for our club to become an ARRL affiliated club. There is no cost and if our club members join or renew their ARRL memberships through ABARC, we would be able to retain a small portion of the dues paid. ABARC must have greater than 50% of our members belong to ARRL in order to become an affiliated club. Marcia and Dennis will provide the necessary information to Fred and if we meet this criteria, Fred will submit an application to ARRL on behalf of ABARC.

MENDOCINO COUNTY REPORT

Ken KE6WC, the Mendocino County coast unit leader had no report from Mendocino County, but did announce that on Thursday January 29 at 6:00 PM Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman will attend a meeting at the Gualala Community Center that will be of interest to amateur radio operators.

SONOMA COUNTY REPORT

Fred W6WTI Sonoma County coast unit leader asked for a show of hands to indicate how many people are Sonoma County ACS members. He recommended that interested persons who wish to take the training and become registered as Disaster Service Workers with ACS visit to the following web page; <http://Sonoma-county-accs.org> to get information about ACS training. He also stated that ACS and CLSD are currently discussing CLSD's installing a 2 meter transceiver and antenna at the CLSD Office. Jack Haverty discussed CLSD's development of a disaster plan for our coastal area.

NEXT ABARC MEETING

On a motion by Ken KE6WC with a second by Jim KG6PTX which was passed unanimously, the next ABARC meeting was set for Monday April 27, 2009 at 7:00 PM here at the Platt Center in Gualala. **THE DATE WAS CHANGED TO MAY 4 BECAUSE THE PLATT CENTER IS NOT AVAILABLE ON APRIL 27.**

OTHER ITEMS AS INTRODUCED

There were three announcements. Marcia KG6NHX announced that she had some extra copies of the "Short Skip" for distribution to anyone who was interested. This is the newsletter of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Inc. Ken, KE6WC announced that the Amateur Radio magazine "World Radio" is no longer being published. Jack, K3FIV announced there is a new 70 CM repeater in southern Mendocino County on 443.075, PL 100 which will eventually be connected to the IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) that will enable users to talk to persons anywhere there is IRLP Internet linked repeaters in this band. This repeater is on the ridge above Point Arena and is part of the CARLA network (see <http://carlaradio.net>). Later in 2009, it will be linked in to the extensive CARLA system, which means that we can communicate with a large part of California and even Nevada – which will be very useful in emergencies. Because it's on 440, it doesn't require an advanced license like HF - anyone who has a Technician class license can use it. If you haven't seen a reason yet to try out 440 here on the coast, this is it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Jack K3FIV adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Kelleher KI6HHA,
ABARC Secretary-Webmaster