

Minutes May 18, 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 7:34 by President Jack Haverty K3FIV. Approximately 26 people were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting. Everyone in attendance introduced himself/herself with name and call sign. The following persons in attendance were acknowledged for upgrading their license or becoming a new amateur radio operator on Saturday May 16: Don KG6KLP upgraded to Amateur Extra Class; The following people upgraded to General Class License, Jan K1JRW, Marcia KG6NHX, Donna KG6TOI and David KI6VEU; Barbara Rice earned her Technician Class License.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 9, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Ken KE6WC and seconded by Fred W6WTI that the meeting minutes from Jan 12, 2009 be approved as published on the club web site and as distributed via email previously to all club members. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marcia KG6NHX reported that the club as of tonight has a total of 85 members who have paid dues for 2009. The total funds in our account excluding the dues received at this evening's meeting is **\$2,411.90.**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

On behalf of the Anchor Bay Amateur Radio Club, Treasurer Marcia KG6NHX presented to Bob Dickson, WA6M a gift certificate for dinner for two at the Timber Cove Lodge. This small gesture of appreciation is in recognition of the many hours that Bob spends maintaining the two club repeaters on 147.825 and 146.610.

PRESENTATION FROM ARRL FOR BECOMING AN AFFILIATED CLUB

President Jack K3FIV introduced Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, San Francisco Section Manager for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) who attended our meeting in order to present a certificate recognizing ABARC for becoming an ARRL affiliated club. Unfortunately, the certificate did not arrive in time, but it will be sent to our club as soon as Bill receives it from ARRL. Bill then made part one of a presentation delineating the benefits of club affiliation with ARRL and described in detail how ARRL benefits all amateur radio operators through its various activities such as advocacy, education, training and lobbying.

ELMER DISCUSSION

Fred W6WTI gave a brief history of some of the Elmer night activities during the past year. The group discussed possible reasons for the low attendance at Elmer nights. It was proposed that we hold Elmer nights on a quarterly basis instead of monthly and that we conduct Elmer meetings on a weekday afternoon rather than in the evening. Possible future topics were considered for upcoming Elmer meetings. It was decided to hold the next Elmer meeting on Wednesday August 19, 2009 at 1:00 PM immediately following the club luncheon. Fred will check with Terry Bold to see if the Platt Center is available for our use at that time. Dennis will post the date on the club web site when the

date, location and topic is finalized. Fred stated that suggestions for Elmer meeting future topics are always welcome.

REPEATER STATUS REPORT

Bob WA6M, the technical support person for our club repeaters announced that the 146.610 Point Arena Repeater and link are working well. The 147.825 Anchor Bay Repeater and link has had some propagation issues, but for the most part has been working well. The Sea Ranch repeater of 147.945 is working, but the link to Pt Reyes and Petaluma has been down since April. Bob is analyzing the problem and hopes to have the issue diagnosed soon so the link can be put back up within a few weeks. It was also announced that there is a new repeater on 147.270 (+) PL 114.8 on Fish Rock Road that is linked to the 147.470 repeater in Hopland, the 147.390 repeater in Ukiah and the 145.430 repeater in Laytonville which now allows South Coast area amateur radio operators to talk with other amateur operators all over Mendocino County. Thanks to Greg Glavich WA6RQX, the repeater system owner, for installing this new repeater that will be very beneficial in expanding communication capabilities for ABARC members.

CLUB ACTIVITIES REPORT

Activities Manager Ken, KE6WC reported that antennas, radios and power supplies have been installed at both RCMS (Redwood Coast Medical Services) and CLSD (Coast Life Support District) facilities. Ken hopes to install an antenna and power supply at the Point Arena RCMS facility in the near future. Ken asked who was interested in helping out with the Point Arena Fourth of July Parade and who was interested in participating in Field Day which will be June 27 & 28. Lee N6MIV volunteered to have interested amateurs use his ranch for field day activities. Ken also volunteered his house as a possible field day site. Persons interested in participating in either the Field Day or the Fourth of July Parade activity is asked to contact Ken at ke6wc@arrl.net or on the radio. Fred W6Wti outlined the upcoming drill supporting CLSD planned for July 15.

COMMUNICATIONS VAN FUTURE STATUS

Don KG6KLP announced that the subcommittee composed of Bob, WA6M, Jim KG6PTX, Marcia KG6NHX and him met to look at the communications van issue and examined the van. Ken KE6WC also met with the subcommittee when they examined the van. It is currently not in good mechanical condition with numerous fluid leaks noted. A professional mechanic has been hired for \$100 to analyze the current mechanical condition of the van and provide an estimate of the cost to restore the van to safe running condition and approximate the cost of maintaining the van in operating condition in the future. The committee will present its recommendation on the future of the van based on this mechanic's report at our next meeting. In the event it is determined that restoring or maintaining the van is too costly for the club, it would be recommended that the van would be stripped of its radio equipment and returned to the South Coast Fire District who donated this vehicle to the club previously. The possibility that a trailer might be an alternative to a van as a mobile emergency communication center was also discussed. The subcommittee was also asked to consider possible future use of the Amateur Radio club room in the Anchor Bay Fire Station.

ABARC FUTURE LUNCHEON IN FORT BRAGG

Marcia KG6NHX explored the possibility of ABARC meeting for one future luncheon in the Fort Bragg area to enable ABARC members from the Albion or north county areas to meet with the group. Only one of the ABARC members in the north county area could be contacted so no decision could be reached at this time. This item will be brought back for discussion at our next quarterly meeting.

MENDOCINO COUNTY REPORT

Ken KE6WC, the Mendocino County coast unit leader reported that Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman attended a meeting at the Gualala Community Center on Thursday May 14 and swore in 18 Amateur Radio Operators who attended for emergency communication service. He discussed future plans to improve communications throughout the county and updated the group on the status of filling vacant law enforcement positions in the South Coast Area. The Sheriff hopes to get 2 meter antennas installed at each school district office with a coax drop. Amateur radio operators would bring their own radio to the school district office in times of need. It is anticipated that the Sheriff will hold his next meeting in August or September in Gualala. We will try to get earlier confirmation of the date so we can notify any members who wish to attend.

SONOMA COUNTY REPORT

Fred W6WTI Sonoma County coast unit leader discussed the need for more training of our members. If we did it as an Elmer meeting activity ACS would need to know how many people would make a firm commitment to attend in order to put on the class. David KI6VEU said in a conversation he had with Roger Singtermans in April, he was told that ACS had no plans to hold a class anywhere at this time because of being very busy with his day job. He also said he would try to schedule a class in June or sooner if there were a sufficient number of signups. Fred indicated he had not been told that and he will check as the coast unit leader to obtain any additional information. Bill KH6GJV indicated that coast amateurs could do our own thing if we couldn't get training from the County such as a level one ARES training course on line.

NEXT ABARC MEETING

Jack contacted Alice Nelsen WA6EXM regarding the possibility of holding our annual club BBQ meeting at her home. Alice said she and Leighton KG6FPP would be glad to host ABARC in late August or early September. We need to let her know what date the club wanted to have the BBQ. After considering several dates, the club selected Saturday September 12. Jack proposed that the club make some type of gesture of gratitude toward the Nelsen's for extending their hospitality to the club each year for our BBQ. Installing a VHF antenna was one suggestion. Lee N6MIV suggested we give Alice and Leighton a gift certificate for dinner. After discussion the group asked Marcia our treasurer to get a gift certificate for 2 for dinner at the Redwood Grille and present it to Alice and Leighton at our BBQ meeting in September.

ADJOURNMENT

Jack K3FIV adjourned the meeting at 9:08 PM. Thanks to Marcia KG6NHX for bringing brownies and beverages, Lynn KI6QZV for bringing cookies and Jack K3FIV for bringing cookies for club refreshments. From 9:30 to 9:50, Bill KH6GLV made the second part of his ARRL presentation which was attended by approximately 15 persons.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Kelleher KI6HHA,
ABARC Secretary-Webmaster

Revised May 21, 2009