

San Luis Valley Amateur Radio Association November Meeting Minutes

11/7/2020

Attendees: List of those in attendance.

Online-Robert Austin, James McCloskey, Frank Flohr, Josh Hill.

Here-Bob Galey, Adam Lock, Troy Dieckman, Don McDonald, Robert & Christy Cozadd, Michael Benavidez, Skip Randall.

Call to Order: Pledge & Prayer. Start at: 10:03AM.

Minutes: Approval of minutes from October meeting. Troy moves, Michael seconds. Motion carries.

Addition of Items to Agenda: Additional items to add for discussion. None.

Old Business/Open Issues:

-QSL cards ordered by Frank, per officers & directors meeting on 9/24. The cards are in & being sent out.

-Elections are in December for officers positions. Up for grabs. Dave moves that everyone keep their position for another year. Interesting thought, but no one moved to second.

-Going to operate in December, 1 year anniversary, after the Dec meeting. Getting a list together of who is on the air when & where, under the KOSLV call sign.

New Business:

-Loaning out available equipment for those in need. Let Bob know what you need to get on the air. If anyone is radio poor, or wants to use loaner equipment, let Bob know if there is a need.

-New Alamosa EOC simplex repeater information. Tied to Monte Vista 449.625 machine. 146.415 simplex, 94.5 tone. Running just a few watts. Provides handheld coverage in Alamosa area. May change frequency.

-Setting up node(s) for Mineral County members. Allstar presentation to follow.

Officers & Directors:

-Robert, VP. Report. Paperwork for 501c3, didn't complete as it wasn't paid. Previously approved payment. \$275.00 to file. Motion to reimburse Robert? Already approved. Claiming the tax deduction is retroactive to the time we established the club.

-Adam, Secretary. Website & Social Media Report. Gave monthly report. When asked how, the Cozadd's said they found us via our FB group.

-Josh, Treasurer. Report. Financial report. Good news. Continue to collect dues. \$987.94 total now. Low because of a service charge, imposed by the bank, but they are not supposed to be doing so. Josh is trying to get them reimbursed. With payments of \$86 to Frank (cards) and reimburse \$275 to Robert for IRS, that leaves \$626 in the account. Who is going to stand on a desk and get the service charge dropped, asked Bob? He will run by the bank and see what can be done.

-Dave, Trustee. Report. Past week, 146.94 repeater work. Checked antenna & duplexer for SWR. Raised power up to 50 watts. About a 20 watt drop out of the duplexer. Need to replace it. Linking to internet. Fiber cable there at the site. Talked to net provider who is activating the fiber line now. Should know in a few days. No cost involved immediately. Looks like new duplexer will be bought. Need to figure out which one is most suitable. Will be purchased and that will help. Should improve the reception, clarity & coverage. Club has all the equipment to turn it into an Allstar repeater, once fiber is turned on. Next year, the tower will cost 50 a month rental space and the internet will be about \$40 a month. This cost has already been covered for 1 year. But, come next August (2021), the club will have to be able to cover the cost, or move the repeater site. About \$90 a month total. If we want to keep it, we will have to pay for it. The question is, is there enough support in the club to do this? The party that covered the cost does not want everyone to know who they are. Old AT&T tower. Unknown who the owner is. Tower in South Fork that could be considered. Jim McCloskey suggested we keep this in mind. We are in a position to think about this and explore alternates before August 2021. Current position of repeaters enhances

our position, allows for emergency communications. General consensus? Do we think the club can maintain? President (Bob) says yes. So we keep going until such time as we can't.

-Frank, Net/Outreach:

-Net Controls for November? No net on Thanksgiving (11/26). Frank covered this and other nights.

-Upcoming contests and events. 1 year anniversary operations. 12/5. Covered. Provide time and operating band to Frank ahead of time.

-James, Testing/Education. ARRL VEC's can now provide testing remotely. Testing now offered on the first Saturday of every quarter. Not through club actually, but another group that is doing it. Moving forward with 1st Sat of every quarter, online and in person. Good step for the club.

-Phil, EMCOMM: ARES Recall Roster. Get information where needed. Phil has a roster, but couldn't attend the meeting. Bob covered getting the roster together, emails, phone, address, for emergency times. Will only be shared with those involved. One of the reasons is for disasters, what we originally set out to accomplish as a group.

Presentations: Dave Newmyer. Echolink. Computer based. Means for people to connect via radio to others. Skyhublink.com. Dave covered different aspects of Sky Hub.

Allstar – See repeater-builder.com. Allstar interface. Can you connect through phone and echolink? Should be able to. WOSKY – try interface...worked. Used echolink program, typed in WOSKY, & it came up. Bob ran a live demo & talked to someone in Lakewood who was using C4FM/Wires X. Club needs to put out a general outline of how to connect, once the repeater is connected, to help others to do so. Agreed. Methodist Mtn is tied in all the time. Allstarlink.org is the other reference website. This will help, by setting up a simplex node in Mineral County, for the folks there. Also Wild Horse Mesa, we want to do the same thing for the folks there. Don't have to register for Allstar to use it. But to put up a node, go to the website to log in, sign up, & go from there. Net will shift to the 2 meter repeater once everything is hooked up and working.

-Don's new repeater is up. 447.900, tone 100. Only Sheriff's office in the valley with a functional VHF repeater. Working to move the repeater. Several officers want to get their license too.

-146.58 Simples. 6PM. N0MC, Wild Horse Mesa net on Sunday evening. Consider checking in.

- Josh Hill. Proposal for a Saturday Night emergency communications monitoring net. Wants it every night, but for now, just Saturday. In part to give the repeaters more use. Centralized to the valley. Use 449 machine. Josh will take responsibility for the Saturday net. Bringing it to the club for approval? Is there? Yes. Start in mid-December. 8-9PM. Bob suggested to check other nets so there isn't a conflict with them. Dave, when checking in, will also be on a 60 meter channel. Dave can manually relay them in. Before starting, we need to have protocols, a start time, date, etc. Mike motions to have SLV emergency communications net, starting 12/12. Troy seconds. Motion carries. Josh will have a time by next meeting, so no conflict. This is separate from ARES, but will concede to ARES if the need arises. A building block for ARES in the future. More training.

Adam covered briefly the conversation with Jay Cummings about linking into the Fun machine. Very positive conversation with Jay. Offered to have our officers and theirs participate in a joint phone call if needed. Part time linking makes sense and they are OK with it. If club is to do the weekly net via Fun Machine too, then consistency is key and no tones or ID's.

Next Meeting: December 5. Working on an APRS gateway for next month.

Adjournment. Dave motions and Adam seconds to adjourn, second. Meeting ended at: 11:33AM.