

NEVADA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (www.ncarc.org)
MEETING MINUTES: 7 pm, December 9, 2024, Salvation Army, 10725 Alta Street, Grass Valley

This gathering was the NCARC Christmas Party. Thirty attendees enjoyed the turkey cooked by John KE6FIQ, the ham cooked by Mark N6PVI, and the sides and deserts provided by the attendees in the warm and pleasant surroundings of the Salvation Army meeting room. Paul KO6GQU's family provided a side dish since he could not attend. All enjoyed the chance for conversation and the completion of a good year for NCARC.

1.0 President Ken KA6SUB called a short meeting to order after 7 PM after the dinner with the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was called to vote on issues identified by the board and needing action in accordance with the outdated by-laws.

The Pledge of Allegiance starts NCARC meetings to remember "Part 97 - Amateur Radio Service", the rules and regulations designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill

2.0 Guests & Attendees Check-in: 30 were present

3.0 President Ken KA6SUB made the following announcements

(1) DUES: Dues will remain at \$20; if you already paid the \$25 see Geoff KO6AKE for a refund. 2025 dues are to be paid before March 2025 to remain on the net call list. Of course non-members can always check-in on nets after members are called and non-members are also always invited to attend meetings or other club events. The dues are important as the club has significant expenses such as facility use cost, liability insurance, website fees, etc. and with the increasing membership age and declining membership, current dues do not fully cover yearly fixed expenses. Auction sales and other actions of previous years have allowed costs to be met at present, but certain new expenditures are needed to manage the club finances, and in the long run, club changes will be required. During 2024 the board voted to increase dues to \$25 but the 22 year old by-laws prevented this action. As described below, a by-laws update will be undertaken in 2025 and members are encouraged to participate.

(2) ELECTION: The 2025 leadership team and board voted-in are as follows:

President: Cal AI6MC
Vice President: Peter N6ERL
Treasurer: Geoff KO6AKE
Secretary: John WA6NRG
Board Member: John KE6FIQ
Board Member: Mark N6PVI
Past President: Ken KA6SUB

(3) LAPTOP: The 2024 board voted (6 yes, one not present) to expend up to \$1,000 for purchase of a name brand laptop computer to be used by the treasurer to maintain club membership roles and finances. Membership/finance has been done on personal computers in the past and the board decided to separate club information from personal information. The actual spending target for a computer is the \$600 range. Cal AI6MC will purchase the computer and will be reimbursed. This expenditure requires club member approval. The show of hands vote at the meeting by members-only was 20 yes, 0 no.

(4) BI-LAWS: The new board will undertake an update to the club by-laws in January 2025 as a 6-month project - this is a 22 years overdue project. Members will be encouraged to participate during zoom meetings to be scheduled in advance to consider the by-laws paragraph by paragraph - watch Ham&Coffee for details. NCARC is a small club and the by-laws must provide a means for visibility and member participation while encouraging responsible leadership to meet the unique needs of the Nevada County area. In the past, members have been reluctant to take leadership positions and this has placed the full burden on a few. For the club to be successful, active participation by all members is encouraged.

(5) BUDGET: The new board plans to prepare a club 2025 budget by the February 2025 board meeting. The budget was delayed due to a new treasurer coming up to speed and they bank account signatures which were wildly out of date. If you have interest in participating, see Geoff KO6AKE and plan to attend the February Zoom board meeting - all paid members are invited to participate

(6) DONATION: The 2024 board voted for a club donation of \$200 to local radio station KVMR to support its community service. This expenditure requires approval by the club members. Show of hands vote by members-only during the meeting was 21 yes, 0 no.

(7) JANUARY 2025 PRESENTATION: Martin AJ6OH will present Raspberry Pi and Ham Radio.

(8) HAM CLOCK RAFFLE: Those present were able to purchase raffle tickets for \$5 for a ham clock. Ham clock is a microcomputer that when connected to a display or TV (HDMI) shows propagation, satellites, etc. and other useful ham information. James KN6NVQ had the winning ticket.

(9) NET GIFT CARDS: Ken KA6SUB announced that during 2024 each Tuesday net check-in was secretly awarded a raffle ticket. These raffle tickets cannot be purchased. The board approved the expenditure of \$50 for (5) \$10 Starbucks gift cards to be awarded by drawing from the total of tickets earned during 2024 for net check-ins. The current by-laws allow the board to approve expenditures up to \$50 and the vote was 6 yes and 1 not present. The drawing did not require being present to win. The gift cards were won by the following:

Tom W6FTC
Noah KN6DZE
James K9JM
Dave WB6RBE
Jim KB6PUK

(10) SPECIAL MENTION: As an addition to the agenda, President Ken KA6SUB awarded 5 special certificates:

Dave WB6RBE for the most net check-ins during 2024.
Chuck KI6CM for his extensive support to the club for many years
Phil W6PD for his participation over the years and his board member participation
Peter N6ERL for his work to Zoom the board meetings and especially the club meetings
John WA6NRG for preparing agendas and scheduling meeting presentations

4.0 Old Club Business - The November Club Meeting Minutes were approved.

5.0. Club Routine Business

- Treasurer Report: Geoff KO6AKE reports \$6,459.85, 72 or 73 members, 25 paid members for 2025
- VE Report: VE testing will resume in February 2025
- Repeater Report - no issues with the repeaters were noted
- Net Report - Ken KA6SUB reported a net control for first Tuesday is needed for a few months starting in January.
- ARES Report - Peter N6ERL reports ARES will recess until January 2025.
- Media Report (website and Ham&Coffee) - nothing new to report -- **Special thanks to Cal for keeping the club informed during this year with Ham&Coffee - it is always interesting, helpful, colorful, and even amusing -- NCARC cannot survive without it!**
- Facebook Report - Phil W6PD - not able to attend

6.0 General Discussion

Cal AI6MC, new club President, was asked about plans for 2025. The club will consider the usual activities including the Rotary Race, Field Day, and Fair with the Fair getting careful consideration since the cost is more than \$400. The by-law rewrite and budget will also take club energy. Cal mentioned that the January ARRL VHF contest has been supported in the past with a auto drive around the county, up on 20 to Omega, down 80 to Applegate with mobile and fixed stops for fun and lunch. Cal AI6MC and Clay K6SQY are experimenting with microwave and this too might be tried. A mobile caravan is envisioned - watch Ham&Coffee for more details.

6.0 Meeting closed 8:06 PM