

Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes, December 5, 2009

The meeting was held at Ropers Restaurant, 8810 Central SE, just East of Wyoming.

Ray Hill, KB5SF, called the meeting to order at 8:04 A.M.

Those present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Invocation was given by Don Grab, K5BIS.

The visitor present was Danny Young, the husband of Paula High. Self-introductions took place with 27 persons present.

Health and Welfare: Don Grab reported the passing of Dick Sons, N5CU. Dick was a long-time active member of local clubs including the Caravan Club. He was a master modeler, a member of the Rio Grande Model Railroad Club and the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).

Mike Eaton,, K5MJE is fully recovered from H1N1.

Kermit Goettsche, KB5HA has been ill.

Don Wood, W5FHA has been re-elected as Section Manger, ARRL New Mexico Section.

Program: Don Wood talked on the current status of 97.113, Emergency Communications and Amateur Radio. There is a lot happening with the FCC, Homeland Security and FEMA. "It's a mess." After 9-11, the federal government determined it has to control all aspects of Emergency Communications. Amateur Radio was not considered into the equation until just recently. "Why are we not publicizing our efforts?" New Mexico radio amateurs expend 300-500 volunteer hours per month in public service. In terms of dollars, the city, county and state couldn't afford to replace us. We need PIOs in every area of the state to make our efforts known.

Specific training is being required by Homeland Security and FEMA for radio amateur operators to participate in Emergency Communications. A minimum set of training must be completed to participate in even local emergencies. Another level of accomplishment will be required for participating out of the local area.

Don finished his remarks by saying "Hams in New Mexico are great."

Captain Bob has talked to us in the past about the movie he is producing on Amateur Radio and public service. The movie is nearing completion. A professional movie maker is now on-board. The movie is being sponsored by National Geographic and other organizations.

Ray Hill would like to see the club restored to ARRL Special-Service Club status as it was in the past. Many members volunteer at the Veterans Hospital, both in the patient units and at the club station, N5VA. In addition, club members support bike rides, marathons and other activities requiring radio communications support. As usual, these activities are supported by just a few. We need to recruit the many area hams that don't normally participate. Remember our motto – "When all else fails, Amateur Radio."

Caravan Club – Pat Wood, KE5FVS. The next meeting will be Friday, December 11 at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, corner of Academy and Moon, 7:00 P.M., doors open at 6:30.

Upper Rio – Mike, K5ATM and Don, K5BIS. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 12 at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 7:30 P.M. The cavities for the 0.90 repeater were recently replaced. There is no pressure to move the hub now or in the foreseeable future. The Air Force hasn't awarded the contract for development of the planned research park and the Hub site isn't included in any existing plans.

High Desert Radio Club – Having their Christmas party tonight.

QCWA – Robbie Hill, KC5FT. Will meet Saturday December 12, 12:30 P.M. at Ropers. No program is set.

N5VA – Merryl May, N5OTI. A new multi-band dipole has been installed. If you are interested in visiting the station, it is open without appointment Tuesday thru Friday, usually from 8:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. An operator is needed for Mondays.

Transmitter Hunters, Mike, K5ATM. A hunt is scheduled for tomorrow but probably won't occur because it is too cold. Jerry Boyd continues to make progress on the Software Defined Radio and will soon finish the project.

ARES – No Report

ARRL – Don, W5FHA. The FCC will clarify Vanity Call Sign rules.

Treasurer's Report – The report was available for all to read. A motion to accept the report was made by Capt. Bob, Bob Grant, KD4HCR, and seconded by Glenn, KK5UZ. The motion carried.

Minutes – Minutes of the November 7 meeting were available for all to read. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Don, K5BIS and seconded by Glenn, KK5UZ. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

SCAT Net, Paula High, KE5DDZ. Paula reminded everyone that the SCAT Net is on the 145.33 repeater weekday mornings from 7:06 to 8:06.

Christmas Party, Steve Keithley, WD9FJL reminds everyone that the Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 13 at the Marriot Courtyard. Anyone who has not yet made reservations can contact Mike Pendley at K5ATM@ARRL.net

Steve, WD9FJL is encouraging participation in "ARRL Straight Key Night," 0000Z January 1 to 2359Z January 1, 2010. Steve showed us a straight key that he has had for many years. You can get more information on the contest from www.arrl.org/contests. Both Steve and Ray have participated in Straight Key Night and related some of their experiences.

Steve McWilliams brought up the fact that we have traditionally approved a savings bond prize for the Northwest Science Fair. It is to be awarded for an entry that demonstrates radio communication. The prize is not awarded years where no fair entry meets the specification. The prize is a \$400 face value bond or a cost of \$200. Debbie Pendley, KD5LOK moved that we approve the award for 2010. The motion was seconded by Glenn, KK5UZ. After a brief discussion, the motion carried.

Capt. Bob earlier had given everyone a ticket. He would like to establish a tradition of awarding a door prize at the end of the meeting. Capt. Bob provided the prize for this meeting. After a drawing, the prize was awarded to Glenn, KK5UZ.

Capt. Bob also related the story of a short wave listener in Denver, Colorado who heard his call on the Rag Chewers' Net and gave him a telephone call. The gentleman is a Rabbi in a Synagogue and related that 1/4 of the men in the Synagogue are studying for their Technician license.

A motion was made for adjournment at 8:58 A.M. The motion carried.