

Green Valley Radio Club Monthly Meeting Minutes

The October 2020 monthly meeting of the Green Valley Amateur Radio Club (GVARC) was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Tom Smith. Due to social distancing requirements, the meeting was held on Zoom. There were 26 members and guests.

New Members and those new to club meetings:

A big welcome to new member David Laity and new participants Jim and Linda Lauletta.

Program:

The meeting opened with a detailed and informative program on Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) presented by Earle Cates. Additional contributions to the presentation were made by Rick, Tom and Rudy.

DMR was developed over 20 years ago, and became available to the Ham Radio community in 2016. The club has members who are quite familiar with DMR, and they are willing to Elmer novices as the club moves in this direction. President Tom Smith gave a show and tell type presentation of his new DMR handheld. Jon Otto will be creating a DMR page on the club website where members can share downloads, links and information. Tonight's presentation will be made available on the website for reference. The Amateur Radio Guide to DMR is available at <http://www.dmr-marc.net> and there are also several good videos posted on YouTube.

Club business followed the presentation.

President's Report -

Elections:

Elections will be held at our club meeting next month via Zoom. Zoom offers polling which should suffice for voting, and backup methods to vote will also be provided. Instructions will be sent prior to the meeting.

The club recognized the nomination committee (Tom Lang, Bruce Tewksbury and Earle Cates) for their efforts in developing a slate of nominees.

Christmas:

The Christmas party has been canceled this year due to concerns about the pandemic. To prevent Scrooge from ruining the season, an alternative celebration will be arranged, perhaps in the Zoom format. Creative ideas on how to make this a fun and memorable event are actively being solicited.

V/E Testing:

Currently 14 people are ready to test and coordination is on-going.

Vice President's Report -

DMR Repeater:

While initially stalled due to a scarcity of frequency pairs, a solution was found and progress is now being made. Radio IDs have been obtained for the call sign and the repeater. Our equipment donor is preprogramming the repeater. A delivery date is yet to be determined.

Treasurer's Report -

The Treasurer provided his report including income and expenses. The Treasurer applied to the DMV for our trailer license plate, and the trailer will sport the vanity plate "GVARC", a nice touch. The Treasurer also applied for a debit card for the club which will make financial transactions easier. In addition, the Treasurer will provide club passwords to the board for contingency purposes.

Miscellaneous Updates -

eBay:

Bruce Tewksbury is working on obtaining an eBay Account in the name of the club. Items that do not sell through the Country Store will be offered for sale online.

SAV:

Tom Smith is working with the SAV to obtain a contract renewal. Progress has been hampered by the COVID-19 virus.

Driveouts:

The Tennis Shoe Tour is still on for October 28th.

Website:

The club website had over 400 visitors last month. Our website is starting to be recognized outside our immediate community due to the excellent quality of information being offered. A huge "Thank you!" goes out from the club to Jon Otto, our webmaster extraordinaire.

The meeting ended with our now traditional social exchanges, with participants giving updates and expressing appreciation for the efforts of others. This has become an important aspect to our Zoom meetings; kudos to President Tom Smith for this warm personalization of technology.

Jeanne Crane
Secretary, GVARC