

Cascade Amateur Radio Enthusiasts (CARE), KG7JPA April 2017 Meeting:

Date: Tuesday April 11, 2017

Time: 18:30 hours

Venue: New Far East Restaurant, 236 N Front St, Medford, OR

Vice President Darrell, N7ZCX, presided.

Visitors were introduced by Darrell. Ron, Fern, Leonard, and Karen were some of the names of visitors. Apologies if your name was missed. The secretary's notepad was sticking to the table top and a small battle was ensuing.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the March meeting were approved after one correction – Charlie Albrecht is not yet a General Class, but is in our classes studying to become a General. It was suggested that the Secretary provide a verbal summary version of the minutes at each meeting.

Treasurer's Report: There is \$2,050.81 in the Club's account. Of that amount \$207.99 is reserved for class training manuals and \$459.39 is reserved for Field Day. This leaves \$1,383.43 of the total which is not dedicated for specific funding purposes.

Darrell made several calls for KI7FQQ, Terry Burkhead. Terry, a strong club member, has become a Silent Key. Terry will be missed. Condolences to Terry's loved ones, family, and friends.

Old Business: Joseph, W3JVC; Johnny, WA6RHK; Randy, KG7RMS; and Kirk, KF7N were all on the ballot for the vacant Member at Large position in the club. Ballots were filled out and counted. There was a tie between Joseph and Johnny. Darrell asked the two members to leave the room so a hand vote could be made. Congratulations, Johnny, WA6RHK. You are the new Member at Large. As such, you and Bill, K7WGD, will represent the general membership at the board meetings.

Chris, N7CGD, is this year's Field Day Chairman. Chris has identified several subset organizational activities of the Field Day weekend which need volunteers to help setup. The volunteers will coordinate club membership assistance to help smoothly guarantee a successful weekend Ham event. One person can't do it all. It takes a club to have a successful Field Day.

The following Field Day aspects need assistance:

- Hardware – Assist in securing volunteer radios, laptops, antennas and masting, plus coordinate band usage for each station;

- Safety – Ensure area is safe for people on the ground and overhead;

- Legal – Verify necessary permits, reservations, and club insurance;

- Computers – Help set up logging software for laptops connected to receivers;

- Comfort – Tee up members bringing chairs, tent covers, RVs, etc.;

- Membership – The person who coordinates volunteers for each band station and the hours they will man the radios;

- Contesting – A volunteer to register the club, collect the contact stats, and to share the results.

Chris has volunteers to assist with public relations and arranging for power for the stations.

Please touch base with him and volunteer in one of the needed areas. As was presented, the Field Day weekend is a fantastic way to get exposure to a huge variety of ham oriented activities. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June - 1800 UTC (11:00 AM) Saturday and running through 2059 UTC (1:59PM) Sunday. Field Day 2017 is June 24-25. Setup needs to be done earlier and Chris will advise us.

Curt, KF7VZV, gave a brief update as to the Club Lending Library. We now have 5 books available, and a library card system has been developed for Members checking them out. More titles are needed to flesh out the Library, see Curt with your book donations.

New Business: Nikki, KI7LUD, and Scott, KI7HSR, attended this year's Pear Blossom Parade. They came away jazzed with a wonderful "What if". Nikki spearheaded the suggestion that the club enter a float next year. She presented several suggestions regarding the float's motif. No formal commitment was made at the meeting, however, Nikki and Scott generated significant interest. The Pear Blossom Parade could definitely be a tremendous source of exposure for the CARE club. We will be hearing more ideas in meetings to come. Thank you Nikki and Scott for the idea. Kudos.

Bill, W7QMU, will be holding a beginner's Code Class at the Smullin Center. The first class will be at 2pm, Sunday May 28th. The next three Sunday's in June will complete the four classes in Bill's course. You may have learned code as a scout and have long forgotten it due to non-use. It may not be quite the same as remembering how to ride a bike, but if you want to get up to speed on the basics of CW and QRP techniques this is your opportunity. The club's May meeting will be the time for you to let Bill know that you want to join him for the classes. Thank you, Bill, for this great opportunity.

Darrell requested a short break from the evening's excitement. The meeting reconvened at 7:51pm.

The members were eager to find out who would be the lucky winner of tonight's raffle drawing. Bill, N7EU, will present some ideas to Johnny for future raffle ideas. Johnny is looking forward to introducing diversity into things that will be raffled. He will be offering antennas for the next raffle.

Tonight's winner was David, KL1XI. David knows the transceiver to be a very good one and he is proud to be its new owner. Congrats, David.

Presentation: Bill, W7QMU, had a service career which gave him a unique opportunity to become an extraordinary expert in long range ham communications. Tonight Bill shared with us some of his DX Adventures.

DXing is the hobby of making two-way radio contact with distant stations, usually out of one's country, in amateur radio. Many DXers also attempt to obtain written verifications of reception or contact, referred to as "QSLs". The name of the hobby comes from DX, telegraphic shorthand for "distance" or "distant"

Bill began by telling us about his first radio experience, at age 15. He built a crystal set which carried him from Grants Pass all the way down to middle California. To Bill, those distances were DX successes.

As a young man, Bill was stationed at some of the earth's most remote and desolate LORAN radio sites. He told of his ham experiences while he kept watch over the base's radios. Cape Christian, S.E. Asia, Japan, St Paul Island, Jan Mayen Island, The Vatican, London, and Cook Island. From these places, and more, with over 65 years as a ham Bill has logged contacts with every country in the world. A ham cannot achieve such successes without becoming a DX expert. The adventures of W7QMU are unlike any other Ham's. Thank you, Bill, for bringing your story to us. This was a night for great travels.

Darrell brought the meeting to a close.

Respectfully submitted

Rob Duncan, N7RFD
Secretary