



Sky Valley Amateur Radio Club

November 21, 2020 Virtual Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 0900 hours by David KB7GFL via ZOOM

Introductions: 17 members on ZOOM

Old Minutes: Read and approved

Treasurers Report: \$349.18 in bank account. \$30.00 in cash

Webmaster Report: Webmaster Kathy K7THY reported that the web site has been modified to include a tab showing check-ins on the 6 meter net hosted by Bruce W7BCW. The location of the membership application form and the recruiting form was demonstrated.

Repeater Status/Net Report: Bruce W7BCW reported that the repeater is continuing to work well on all three bands. He mapped out a strategy describing linking all three frequencies thus providing more opportunities for contacts during the net. There was a lot of enthusiasm for this strategy. John AC7LC suggested that members check out the new Baofeng three band handheld as a powerful yet inexpensive radio. There was also a general discussion of using the 220 band as it is an underutilized resource and may provide more contact opportunities. Net schedule is 12/22 Bruce W7BCW and 12/28 Kathy K7THY.

Old Business: Kathy K7THY reports that the PayPal account will be activated soon thus making dues and other payments possible on line. Tom K8TOM reported that the non-profit application has been submitted to the Feds but could take up to six weeks for processing. He added that PayPal charges a 2.9% plus a 30-cent fee per transaction. Jim KI7WXT suggested that a \$1.00 be added to the dues to cover the fee.

New Business: Bruce W7BCW described a strategy for repeater site maintenance and upgrades for next spring. It includes moving the repeater inside the shelter and elaborating the antenna assembly. Two key features were discussed: eliminating the need to go up on the water tower and enhanced propagation. This strategy to be studied during the winter and an action plan formulated. Holly offered appreciation for the help she received from "Tech Support". She now has connectivity to the net. "Tech Support" was originally suggested by Sharon KJ7EZB. There was a vigorous discussion of the utilization of a drone or balloon to gain antenna elevation and antenna length. Both ideas were placed in a "Long Range Planning" status.

Good of the Order: Holly KJ7KIU suggested a plan to heighten amateur radio knowledge for students requiring science learning. As she is an accredited teacher, her help in this area will be quite valuable. Jim KI7WXT offered assistance. John AC7LC reminded the meeting that our club was originally founded as a student awareness group.

Adjournment: 9:45