Meeting Minutes for
May 26, 2020
Present were

Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign
Tyson Brooks	KI7FXJ	Michael Abernathy	KK7MA
Joel Hinshaw	KD7JG		
Dennis Bottorff	FCC Pending		
John Britschgi	W7GQE		
Joe Nolan	KB7WDI		
Jason Fouts	W7JSN		
Gary Anger	W7GFA		
Mike Rose	KJ7MFV		

Tyson KI7FXJ opened the May meeting of the Grande Ronde Radio Amateurs Association at 18:00 (01:00 UTC, 6:00 PM Pacific). The meeting was held at Grace Bible Church in La Grande.

Introductions:

Minutes Read & Treasury report:

Joel KD7JG read the minutes from the April meeting and were accepted as read.
Mike KF7STP was not present for the treasurer's report but stated via email the balance was $2274.59.

Old Business:

- The May meeting was held at the Grace Bible Church in La Grande thanks to Ted N7NSL for setting that up. The meeting room at the La Grande Fire Station is still not available however Ted thought we could continue to use the Church for future meetings until the Fire station meeting room comes available.

- Tyson KI7FXJ reported the banquet room at Denney's is now open but limited to 10 persons or less with no exceptions. Mike KJ7MFV suggested we could meet at Riverside Park and do a bring your own breakfast (BYOB) starting at 10:00 on the second Saturday of the month. The idea was voted on and passed by those present so the next Club Breakfast will be at the park Saturday June 13.

- Tyson KI7FXJ was in contact with the My PI group to discuss having a radio class for the group next year. This year's class has been canceled due to the Covid 19. The young people involved in the group will be trained on several different Emergency Response platforms to assist in case of emergency. The group leaders expressed an interest in doing a camp out with a portable radio demo. The group is now under the 4H umbrella.

- The sky warn class scheduled earlier this year has been canceled and Tyson KI7FXJ will contact Allan KE4TRR to see about a new date for the class.

New Business:

- Lynn Wilson K7LW is now operator of the Cabbage Hill repeaters at 146.88 and 444.975. The 2 meter machine is a Yaesu system fusion and is working fine however the 70 CM machine is not operational at this time but Lynn hopes to have it up and running soon.

- The 147.26 repeater on Mt Fanny is still experiencing intermittent problems with noise and low receive sensitivity. Julian KK7JX will be making a trip to the repeater site as soon as snow is melted and weather permits to see about fixing the problem. The repeater is owned and operated by the Amateur Radio Relay Group.

- The Club repeater at the Grande Ronde Hospital is operational with the exception of the Wires-x portion. Tyson needs to access the repeater which is at the hospital and due to the Covid 19 problem access is limited at this time.

ARES Report:

- Updated ARES software is soon to be available for the VARA modem. VARA users will need to download the new version 4 after May 31 and install it to their computers. The new version 4 will not run until after May 31 in order for everyone in ARES to have access to the same software since the new and old versions are not compatible. Jason W7JSN reported the ARES group is working with the weekly exercises using Winlink and the 80-meter voice Net on 3.955. The Winlink portion starts at 18:00 local time on Sunday afternoon and the 80 meter Net starts at 18:15. Jason encouraged everyone to take a turn at Net Control operator for the voice Net on 3.955 as well as encouraging anyone to join in the Winlink and or the voice net. Union Co. has purchased Mike's KK7MA packet hardware which is used by the ARES group for traffic handling as an RMS server which is part of the Winlink system. The group hopes to install the packet node at the Union Co radio site on Mt Emily. JB Brock the county Emergency Manager said he would be good with a voice repeater as well as the packet node to be installed on Mt Emily as well.

VE Report:

- Gary W7GFA reported the VE group held a test session on Saturday May 16 with 2 new licenses issued for Technician Class to Ron Wilson and Dennis Bottorff and 1 upgrade to General Class to Mike Rose KJ7MFV and 1 upgrade to Amateur Extra to Don Magee KD7CEM. Congratulations guys!

Upcoming Contests / Events:

- It was decided that there would be a Fox Hunt after the Club breakfast in the park Saturday June 13. Anyone interested be sure to bring your equipment.
- Field day. We have not decided on a location as of yet due to not knowing if the number 1 location will be open. That would be Bird Track Spring campground where we have held field day activities for the past several years. Tyson made a drive to the campground after the meeting and reported that the gate was closed and no signage to indicate when it might open. Tyson said he would contact the Forest

Service to see if he could find out when the campground might open. Mike KK7MA said another location in the Spring Creek area might work if we could not use Bird Track. There was some talk about isolation stubs / filters to reduce cross band interference like we experienced last year with the digital and CW operators.

- Mike KK7MA stated that there were several good contests coming up and that the Contest Calendar information is available on the Club web site.

Other

- The tri-fold pamphlet Tyson KI7FXJ put together promoting Ham Radio was given the green light to print and place around town and the area.
- John W7GQE reported that the upper HF bands have been open at times and it appears propagation may be improving a little. John said he was able to work the East Coast and into Florida using his converted CB running 5 watts on 10 meters. If you haven't been checking 10 and 15 meters you may be missing some good contacts.

- Following up John's operations on 10 meters Tyson mentioned that Tamitha Skov has a web site that has a wealth of information about Space Weather and how it effects the HF bands. The website is: http://www.spaceweatherwoman.com/ She also has a youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/SpWxfx/

The meeting was adjourned at 19:13 (02:13 UTC, 7:13 PM) 73

Joel KD7JG