Meeting Minutes for
June 23,2020
Present were

Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign
Tyson Brooks	KI7FXJ	Joel Hinshaw	KD7JG
Mike Abernathy	KK7MA	Gary Anger	W7GFA
Dennis Bottorff	KJ7ODW	Graham Hicks	W4PJS
John Britschgi	W7GQE	Jason Fouts	W7JSN
Mike Rose	KJ7MFV	Gail Hinshaw	K7KKM

The June 23 meeting of the Grande Ronde Radio Armature Association was held on the 147.26 repeater with Tyson KI7FXJ presiding. Tyson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM (18:00, 01:00 UTC)

Introductions:

Roll Call over the air.

Minutes Read & Treasury report:

- The minutes from our May meeting were accepted as they were emailed out to the membership without being read.
- Mike KF7STP was not able to attend the meeting but emailed Tyson that the balance in the checking account is $2294.59 with one new membership payment. That brought the paid membership to 15.

Old Business:

- The Club meeting last month was held at the Grace Bible Church due to our regular meeting room at the La Grande Fire Station not being available. It was decided to hold the meeting this month on the repeater due to the recent outbreak of the virus here in Union Co.

- The Club breakfast is still on hold due to restrictions on the number of people allowed into Denney's meeting room. We held a BYOB (bring your own breakfast) at River side park, which had to be moved to Pioneer park due to a wedding at Riverside. The weather was cold and rainy and only about 6 attended.

- Sky Warn class has been in the works for those wanting to attend the training however that is still not pinned down to a particular date due, once again, to the virus issue. Tyson spoke to Allen KE4TRR in an effort to move the training forward. Allen wants to do a presentation on operating a Sky Warn Net and the way that should be done. If you are interested you should take the online Weather Spotting class as a prerequisite.

- The local repeater on Mt. Fanny 147.26 has been having issues and was down for a couple of days but is now up and running again. Tyson contacted Julian KK7JX about the problem but Julian was heading out of town to work and couldn't make a trip to the repeater site to look at it.

- The Club repeater 146.98 at the Grande Ronde Hospital is working normally and Tyson was able to activate the Wires-X feature and make some contacts with that mode. Access to the repeater in the hospital is very restricted due to, you guessed it, the Covid 19 bug.

New Business:

- Field Day activities will be held this coming weekend June 27-28 at Bird Track Spring campground. Tyson and Mike KK7MA have been working on the computer network with some new hardware and are pleased with how it works. The logging software you will need is by N3FJP Field Day Logger version 6.3. Also, if you are operating FT8 the latest software version of WSJT-x is 2.2.2 and can be downloaded from the WSJT website.

  We are not sure exactly how many stations will be active this year but it looks like 5 or 6. Mike KK7MA and Jason W7JSN have done some testing using stubs and filters to reduce the amount of cross band interference we experienced last year with 7 stations.

The designated safety officer this year is Tyson KI7FXJ and everyone needs to help out in this roll not only for issues related to Radio operation but also to the, yes once again, the Covid 19 bug. Social distancing will be encouraged when visiting other stations and face masks are also encouraged.

Operators can start setting up stations Thursday afternoon at 5:00 PM (00:00 UTC Friday)

ARES Report:

- Jason W7JSN gave a short run down on ARES. The group is doing a weekly exercise starting at 18:00 (6:00 PM, 01:00 UTC) using Winlink software to send information and also a voice net on 80 meters at 3.955 khz. Everyone is encouraged to take part.

- Union Co. has purchased a packet node built by Mike KK7MA for ARES use and will be moved to county facilities ASAP.

- One of the software modems used with Winlink is scheduled for upgrade June 30. The old version of VARA will no longer function after June 30.

VE Report:

- Gary W7GFA reminded everyone that the Extra Class question pool will change July 1. There are several people interested in testing for a new or upgraded license but with the pandemic still being a problem test dates have not been set. Tyson suggested we should see how the latest effects things before setting a test date.

- Gary encouraged anyone with a General or Extra class license to become a VE. It's not difficult and is a great way to ensure our hobby stays healthy and growing. Contact any of the Club officers for more information.