

Minutes of the Coconino Amateur Radio Club Meeting

1/08/2026

The business meeting was preceded by a presentation on the recent club member survey by Jeff at 6pm. Jeff presented the results of a survey on future club presentations, which received about 25% response from the club's 42 members. The top topics of interest were digital modes, emergency communications, antenna construction, portable field operations, and weather monitoring/Skywarn.

The Zoom business meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Vice President Jeff Thomson. The following members participated:

Jeff Thomson, Vice President	KK7ZGY
Ken Held, Treasurer	W7SS
John Nelson, Secretary	N7MLS
Al Simmons	AB6VO
Joe Hobart	W7LUX
Tom Whalen	KK7WAG
Erik Gustafson (at end of meeting)	

Introductions: No new members or visitors

BOD Message: John voiced appreciation for the recent updates to the email list, club roster, and web site.

Vice President's Message: Jeff noted that he was leading the meeting as Vice President because the President position is still not filled.

Secretary's Report: The minutes for the November meeting were previously distributed via the email list and were discussed briefly. Jeff made a motion to accept as distributed. Al seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ken presented the Treasurer's report for the end of 2025. We received \$500 from the Arizona Trail Association in recognition of our support for the Stagecoach 100. We also received \$25 for dues, resulting in a year end balance of \$5523.50. Ken will be sending out a notice that 2026 dues are now payable by each member. Al made a motion to accept the report and Joe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business-

Club Laptop – Al reported that the club laptop is all set up with security software and is ready for use.

Website, Maintenance – Phil has agreed to take the lead on website maintenance and management of the roster and the email distribution list. Jeff said that will work with Phil to

update website with presentation materials and survey results, and to get all event dates on calendar. Joe will send a list of current ARES members to Jeff for coordination with Phil to update roster/affiliation status

Zoom Subscription: Ken has purchased a subscription for the club. It is available for club members to use for any club business.

Nominations for Officer Positions: Jeff has agreed to serve as Vice President, Ken agreed to continue as Treasurer, and John agreed to continue as Secretary. There is still no nominee for the President position, but a new candidate is welcome to come forward at any time.

ARES Report – Joe reported 45 total hours for December., including on-air exercises, and nets. Skywarn Recognition Day was canceled and is uncertain for 2026. Glen is conducting a weekly ARES net in Williams. Joe commented that Coconino ARES has some new participants: W7HWK in Happy Jack, and KM7DLI. The club agreed to create a separate roster list for ARES members who are not club members, and to include them on our email distribution list.

**** Note:** Prospective ARES members need to complete the FEMA Independent Study courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800 if they expect to be at the Coconino EOC. The courses are available at <https://training.fema.gov/is/> (Just click on the Independent Study link)

Club Changes and Future Direction – Jeff summarized our anticipated way forward:

- The club will continue as it is regarding constitutional structure, retaining the elected officer positions enumerated within the constitution
- The CARC board will be acting collectively as ‘President’, but the club is open for candidates interested in the position
- The club's focus will be two-fold: Public Service and Emergency Communications
- With the club focus on Emergency Communications and Public Services, CARC is transforming to include various communications modes and methods, such as GMRS, various digital modes, Starlink communications access, and open to other communication methods that could augment our club duties in these areas

Upcoming Events

The club will support three public service events in 2026. We must get the Dates/Times of these events on calendar in January to secure long term commitments for participation, and event coordinators must be assigned. No commitment to provide communications support for any event will be made until a full roster of licensed participants is confirmed and necessary equipment secured.

Big Brothers Big Sisters: August 8. Jeff will work with Joe to coordinate this one, with a plan to then take the lead for this event in 2027.

Sacred Mountain Prayer Run: June 6. Dan will coordinate.

Stagecoach 100: September 19-20. This event remains challenging to coordinate due to its large scale, overnight duration, remote positioning, radio link challenges, and difficulty in securing volunteers. We agreed to open participation to non-club members while maintaining club oversight. A coordinator has not yet been identified. The group also discussed alternative communication methods like Starlink as a backup for locations without amateur radio operators.

Field Day: June 27-28. Al will coordinate this event for the club, and plans to set up the club trailer as the radio base station. The focus will be more on training and exhibition than on a contest score.

STEM Celebration: April 25. Janice and Morgan were the primary club participants in past years. Joe is looking for new participants this year.

Weekly Get-Together on Rimlink: Every Monday evening at 19:30 MST. John will coordinate an informal ragchew with any members that join in on the Rimlink linked repeater system (147.14 MHz on Mt. Elden for Flagstaff area participants). All members are encouraged to join in as often as they can.

Ad Hoc Events: Ad hoc events are encouraged but are not club sponsored, so there is no pressure to participate in a formal structure. Members can gather in person, on line, or on the air to share interests and activities. Some event ideas are contesting, POTA/SOTA, digital, weather, astronomy, STEM, Skywarn Recognition Day, fox hunting, etc.) The club's email list and Zoom account are available for coordination. The club has equipment for member use (trailer, radios, antennas, etc.)

Joe will also help in consolidating past event information to help facilitate future events and standardize a Public Service event platform for use by the club.

NADXA Events: Al welcomed club member participation in the 6th Annual Pluto Discovery Anniversary Special Event (W7P) at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, February 14th-22nd, and the upcoming Route 66 On-The-Air special event station. Al plans to use the club trailer for the Route 66 event.

Club Newsletter: Jeff proposed starting a monthly newsletter to document club activities and events, which will also include member highlights and club updates. He will send out a draft template for discussion. Our newsletter could be included in future editions for the ADAW state-wide newsletter.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 12. Jeff will be on travel, so John will lead that meeting. Tom volunteered to take the minutes. Dave Brilliant plans to precede the meeting with a technical presentation.

Adjournment: Jeff made a motion to adjourn. Ken seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully Submitted,
John Nelson – N7MLS, Secretary*