

VARC Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026

The monthly meeting of the Victoria Amateur Radio Club (VARC) was called to order at 7:01 pm on January 15, 2026, by President Darrell (KI5GAP) at Detar Navarro MEDI Center Training room. 10 out of 19 members were present for a quorum.

The minutes from the November 20, 2025 meeting were presented by Secretary Bryan and approved.

Treasurer Steve reported a balance of \$939.70 after payment of \$999.36 to Yaesu for the repeater and collection of \$140 in dues. His report was approved.

Public Relations Committee – Joe did not have anything to report this month but will be working to find out which organization will be hosting the former Kiwanis Bike Ride.

President Darrell noted that we are a Special Service Club under ARRL. Gary will investigate renewing our status which is every two years. Also, we need to complete a Form 990 to maintain our 501c3 status. Joe will check with Bob Whitaker.

Vice President's Report – Gary reported that two members have upgraded licenses – one to General and one to Extra. He also noted that Steve has Echolink up and running on the 19 repeater and several members have been using it. He also thanked everyone that assisted with cleaning and organizing Harvey's equipment for Pat.

Repeater Committee - Gary reported all 5 repeaters are up and running. The 5.19 has been upgraded to a Yaesu DR2 like our others but will remain in analog mode and be connected to Echolink. Darrell participated in programming and is caretaker for it. Steve and Bob worked on the 350 and have it in better shape.

Old Business – Darrell presented the committee report on the club trailer which recommended removing usable equipment for it and selling the trailer due to many needed repairs. Steve moved and Bryan seconded to approve and act on the report.

ARES & RACES Committee – Jose represented ARES and Noel represented RACES. It was noted that we support both organizations and that during emergencies, both the 5.19 and 235 repeaters are dedicated for priority emergency traffic. ARES allows for member affiliations and tracks volunteer hours during disasters which helps with FEMA reimbursement.

New Business – Winter Field Day is next weekend. We currently do not have a location as City of Victoria no longer permits RVs to remain overnight except in the RV park. Possible locations include Quail Creek Park and the Field of Dreams.

More volunteers are needed to conduct the Monday night net. The club would also like to host VE testing sessions before each monthly meeting between 6 and 7pm. We would like to have this started in March.

Training ideas for the year include ARRL National Traffic System, Stop the Bleed, CPR, Skywarn, and radio topics including Winlink, Echolink, AllStar, and HF digital modes.

It was noted that we also need to remove Harvey's old repeater equipment in Goliad.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.