S.A.R.A.
Your Provincial Linking Organization.
Radio Amateurs Serving the Communities of Alberta
SOUTHERN ALBERTA REPEATER ASSOCIATION

SARA Board Meeting September 24, 2026

Secretary's Note: These minutes were approved at the Google Meet SARA Board Meeting of October 29, 2026/John Allen, VA6SJA, SARA Secretary

Minutes

1. Call to Order:
President Ken VE6AFO called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:
President: Ken Oelke, VE6AFO
Vice President: Garry Jacobs VE6CIA
Secretary: John Allen, VA6SJA
Director Paul Wilson, VA6PW
Director Tom Anderson, VA6TA
Director Iain Wilson, VA6IW

Not Present:
Treasurer: Melanie Humphrey, VE6MSH
Director Brian Davies, VE6CKC
Director Ed Pitts, VA6EJP
President Ken VE6AFO declared a quorum existed.

2. a) Honouring Silent Key Brian Crissal VE6BCA
President Ken VE6AFO remarked that Silent Key Brian Crissal VE6BCA had been a real contributor to SARA and also provided a lot of common sense. President Ken VE6AFO then led the observation of a moment of silence for Brian.

3. Approval of Agenda
Paul VA6PW moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Garry VE6CIA seconded.
Carried unanimously.

4. Old Business
a) Bylaw Revisions – Update - Filing with Alberta Consumer Affairs
Melanie VE6MSH had reported that the bylaw change of paperwork is "in process".
b) Filing of Annual Report – 2025-2026
VE6MSH had reported that the Annual Report paperwork is complete.

5. New Business:
a) Approval of May 28, 2026 Minutes

Garry Jacobs VE6CIA moved to approve these minutes as distributed. Seconded by Ken VE6AFO. John VA6SJA abstained. Motion carried.
Paul VA6PW said that he would send the approved minutes to Ray for inclusion on the SARA website. He will cc his correspondence to Secretary John VA6SJA so John will know the procedure.

b) Repeater - VE6OIL

Ken made some remarks summarizing the situation with the transfer of the building presently owned and used by Prairie Mobile to the ownership of SARA. Doug VE6CID has copied an email to a CBC representative to the SARA executive. He has also written us an email explaining the situation and schedule.
The Calgary Communications Club repeater will be taken out of the Prairie Mobile building. Prairie Mobile is removing their services from the building and SARA will have rights to the building.
We hope that we will be able to find a better electrical rate than $0.12 per kilowatt-hour. Ken VE6AFO stated that there is a long list of potential electric providers. It was noted that various delivery fees for electricity added up to more than $100 per month. That seems a lot for a building with no heat and only one repeater.
There was discussion of approaching CBC to provide power. CBC had provided power in the past when VE6OIL had its own building.
Garry wondered if solar panels could substitute for the commercial electrical feed.
Garry has provided batteries amounting to 180 amp-hours.
John VA6SJA moved that "President Ken VE6AFO be authorized to take sufficient action with electricity to keep the repeater on the air in the short term to the extent of $200." Seconded by Garry VE6CIA. Carried.

6. Other Business:

a. Garry VE6CIA had had a videoconference with the operator of the facility where repeater VE6REP is installed. There had been discussion of some payments to be required. There has been no further communication. Garry speculates that the cost of electricity used would be too small to justify paperwork to charge us.
b. TransCanada net - Garry VE6CIA had asked for volunteers to be net controller for the Wednesday morning net. He and Melanie are sharing these duties for now. More net controllers would be welcome.

7. Directors' Reports

President: Ken Oelke, VE6AFO – nothing to report
Vice President: Garry Jacobs VE6CIA - nothing to report
Secretary: John Allen, VA6SJA – nothing to report
Treasurer: Melanie Humphrey, VE6MSH – Not present. She had sent an email with the current financial statement.
Director Paul Wilson, VA6PW – nothing to report
Director Tom Anderson, VA6TA – nothing to report
Director Iain Wilson, VA6IW – Iain remarked that in his review of the ISED data base he had noticed that the address for SARA repeaters was shown as in Calgary. He agreed to send the correct address to ISED. Garry VE6CIA sent him the correct current address via the Google Meet Chat function.
Director Brian Davies, VE6CKC - Not Present:
Director Ed Pitts, VA6EJP - Not Present:
Membership Coordinator - Garry VE6CIA reported that there are now 71 members. Ken VE6AFO mentioned that this was the biggest membership of SARA since he had been president.

8. Date & Time of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on October 29, 2026, agreed to by consensus.

9. Adjournment:
Paul VA6PW moved that the meeting adjourn, Seconded by Tom Anderson, VA6TA.
Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Post-meeting note – Ken VE6AFO reported that the Calgary Communications Club will be removing their VA6CAL repeater equipment from the Prairie Mobile building Saturday September 26th.