

Meeting Minutes for 07/27/17

Meeting started with traditional introductions.

Marcus talked about field day, good run although we missed the submission to ARRL due to missing logs. We need a field day chairman for next year.

Marcus led a discussion about the state of the 147.320 repeater. Finals are blown. The Kenwood standby is now running, although it lacks some features the original unit had, such as the courtesy tone. Robert (not secretary Robert), Jim and Michael worked on it. Michael KA4VCA will contact them to see about repair costs, as well as to see if the \$600 price to clubs for a new unit is still valid.

Marcus mentioned J Vann Martin posted about the readiness response on Facebook, more info at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/262498693868314/permalink/1379339042184268/>

This information was also in the ARRL Section email newsletter that came out on 7/26. Full text of the post is at the bottom of this meeting document.

Michael KA4VCA mentioned the post office had first class stamps to celebrate the eclipse.

Robert, N4IXT, gave Secretary report.

1. Last meeting is now up. Robert reminded the group about the website, Facebook, and Twitter social media accounts.
2. Robert mentioned the Foundations of Amateur Radio podcast (<https://poddirectory.com/foundationsofamateurradio>). A recent podcast reminded the group to do their maintenance when they had time, and to not discover things needed to be fixed in the middle of an emergency. Marcus mentioned to be sure and check your ground rods, and to clear the leaves and dirt away from the base of your tower to avoid corrosion from setting in.

Jim, W4XWA, gave the Treasurer report:

1. Just over 12,500 in bank. All bills paid.
2. One new member

The group voted to approve the purchase of video switching equipment to make it easier to do presentations. Robert, N4IXT, will make the purchases and handle installation.

The annual election for officers was held. The current slate of officers was re-elected except for Vice President. For that position Michael KA4VCA volunteered and was voted in. The only exception was emergency coordinator, Geno N4GNO was tentatively voted in until he was contacted to confirm his acceptance. *[UPDATE: After the meeting, we heard from Geno who agreed to continue in the position.]*

The Board of Directors needed to be elected. The President, VP, and Treasurer are automatically on the board, leaving a need for two more people who will hold the title Director at Large. Dave WH6BDR and Mike KE4DZU volunteered. Group voted to approve.

MFJ is doing tours at their factory at the end of September. More info on their site.

KI4UGS Ronnie had an accident, is in hospital at St Vincent's. Someone suggested we get a few cards and pre-sign them so we'll have them on hand. Jim W4XWA will handle it, as well as sending Ronnie a card. [Best wishes Ronnie!]

Robert N4IXT gave a presentation on the history of Amateur Radio Licensing. If you missed the presentation or want to see it again, it was recorded and can be found on Robert's YouTube channel at <http://arcanetube.com>.

Meeting adjourned.

Subject: ALABAMA ARES IS HEATING UP -
RRD AUG 12-13, 2017

Hello Alabama Section,

With Summer in full swing and Alabama temperatures very hot, we want to continue our training and drills in our districts and counties so that we maintain a constant means of exposing others to this great technology and also use this time to fine tune our gear and our ability to deploy with short notice.

HERE IS OUR NEXT RRD for late summer in Alabama!
Summer Rapid Response Drill is August 12th and 13th.

FREQUENCIES

80 meters = 3.888

40 meters = 7.215

20 meters = 14.280

10 meters and 6 meters whole band.

The Summer Rapid Response Drill is our quarterly short notice exercise.

The goal with the RRD is to help all interested operators become more familiar with operating away from their home shack – off the grid so to speak. There is no scoring as this is not a contest. There are no formal messages, unless you choose to create and send one, and there is no set time frame, except the dates of Aug 12th and 13th.

We encourage operators to use the RRD as a way to introduce people and local served agency representatives to amateur radio and our communications capabilities. This can be a way to expose non-hams to what goes on during an emergency such as a severe weather event.

This RRD concept will grow and expand, but it will always remain flexible as we know disasters have a way of trumping (no political inference intended) all the planning and preparation efforts. RRDs and disasters test our ability to quickly respond to situations where we may not have all the information, equipment, access, or resources we do on blue sky days.

Some of the things we encourage operators to test include:

- **Can you program your handheld radio** – on the fly (without software)?
- **Can you operate on battery/generator/solar power?**
- **Can you operate remotely?**
- **Can you operate HF remotely?**
- **Can you stand up a temporary antenna?**
- **Can you make contacts outside your local footprint?**
- **Can you pass formal traffic using the ARRL Radiogram format?**

This will be similar to Field Day events held by the ARRL and other groups of Amateur Radio Operators across the country and world – **but tailored to each local group's needs, ideas and capabilities**. Each ARES group is encouraged to make this drill fit their needs. Make this your program, your drill, your success story!

One idea is to operate from a public area (with permission of course) and set up some sort of amateur radio station that is independent of utility power. Consider a location that might draw attention and entice people to come see what is going on. While operating the RRD, operators may want to demonstrate how Amateur Radio functions to those that do not hold a license in hopes of planting a desire to become a licensed operator.

Please share this AUG 12/13 date on your club pages, Facebook pages, nets, and social networks so that everyone is aware and knows how to get involved.

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