



**Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club (N4MZ)**

PO Box 491  
Robertsdale, AL 36567

**Minutes of the regular monthly club meeting held April 18, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 18:31 hours CDT by President Greg Powers, WG0MEZ. There were 38 members and one guest present. There was a quorum.**

**The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance**

**There was no Secretary's Report.**

Greg noted that the minutes were available on the club website.

**Treasurer's Report – Tom Wallace**

Tom reported club treasury activity and balances as of 2024-03-31. Remember that newly licensed hams receive one year free dues but must complete and application to the club, others are encouraged to pay their dues.

**Report of VE Team – Joel Emmett, Ron Thomas**

Joel advises he has 4 registered for the May 4<sup>th</sup> test session and still has 2 seats available.

Ron advises he has 6 candidates, 2 of which will be upgrading to General on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Winlink Activity – John Acton, K7ACT**

John reported that the Winlink net continues to grow, we are up to 27 regular participants. The questions are posted on the website every Tuesday and emailed via Winlink to previous participants. If interested, see John to help you get started.

**Old Business:**

- Reminder that the club has BaoFeng radios available for newly licensed members use with some stipulations.
- The internet issue has been resolved for the VARA FM gateway, hopefully we'll not have any more issues.
- Doug Hattan reported that the Baldwin County Commission has approved the donation of 3 laptops to the club. They still need to be wiped clean but we should have them in the next couple of weeks. He noted the support of CIS Director Brian Peacock in this endeavor, if you happen to run into him please tell him thank you! The 2 towers that have been offered to the county are waiting on information as to cost to get them fully operational and ongoing costs to the county, but Doug sees no reason this project won't move forward. He also advised that the west tower by the old 911 building is being decommissioned due to rusting issues and will be removed by August 1. There is a lot to be done that will involve coordination between several departments but there will be some good things come of it. The 147.090 repeater will be down for a time, possibly 2-3 days. We are still working on an agreement with the Revenue office that occupies the old 911 building to use one room for our repeater equipment.

**New Business:**

Planning to begin soon for Summer Field Day 2024 which will be held June 22 & 23.

**Good of the Club:**

-We have been invited to participate in a Touch-a-Truck event May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Home Depot in Daphne. This is usually a well-attended event with lots of young people in attendance and a great opportunity for us to share the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

- Ken Bell reported on the Club POTA event held April 6 & 7. We set up at Fort Morgan on Saturday, on Sunday Ken and Matthew Foutch, AE4JC activated several parks which gave us a multiplier for each one. 240 contacts were made to 47 of the 50 states and several foreign countries and 48 park-to-park contacts.

- Fort Blakeley has now been recognized as a POTA park. Greg has been in contact with their director, Mike Bunn, and he see the value in operators promoting the park and therefore is very welcoming to us. There are a couple of pavilions that will make a great spot for our next club POTA activation as well as individual member activations.

**Program – Bill Dionne and Joe McIntosh**

Bill set up a radio and demonstrated how to set up both VARA HF and VARA FM and how they worked. He then used his radio, an antenna and a laptop to receive an email using VARA FM.

Joe showed a video from Dave Casler, KE0OG, on antenna types. Dave covered the different types of wire antennas; dipole, off center fed dipoles, and end fed long wires. He then went through different types of vertical antennas and ended with directional antennas.

Both were very informative!

The meeting was adjourned at 1945 hours CDT

Submitted, Kristi Powers, volunteer