

Quick AL Section Update from Huntsville Hamfest

Sorry for the long post, but I attended the AL Section meeting at Hamfest and wanted to report back to our club a few things that are happening with the AL Section.

Dennis Littleton, Section Manager, opened the meeting. We have a new Section Emergency Coordinator in Kevin Turley (K9ADE). Mike Watkins (WX4AL) will continue as Assistant Sec EC. Kevin introduced a few County ECs that were in attendance. Since taking over, Kevin has filled 4 county EC to help fill in missing slots. Way to go Kevin!!

Other Assistant Section Managers in attendance were Stan Cole (NX3P) whose primary area is working with youth, Johnnie Knoblock (Clubs), and Clif Homan (KK4PKR) primary interest is Scouting.

The biggest issue is that we are almost certainly about to change ARRL Divisions. We will be leaving Southeastern Division and join Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee in the Delta Division. We will be sent a post card in the coming weeks to return to ARRL to let them know what we think about the change. Some feel that the outcome of our vote will not matter much and may be more for show than to really understand what we think.

Why is this happening? FL/GA Sections are growing with leaps and bounds and our representation is being diluted a bit. Delta is small and we will probably fit better there than with our rapidly expanding SE Division brothers.

I've only seen our Division Mgr. once and wouldn't recognize him if I saw him. David Morris (K4UZ) Delta Division Mgr was at the meeting and spoke for about 15 minutes. Very nice guy and Dennis Littleton knows him and recommends him.

The biggest difference the average Ham might notice is that new callsigns will have a 5 rather than a 4. No, we won't have to change callsigns. I really don't get involved with ARRL politics, but if this change is better for us and we have a more approachable Division Mgr. then I'm probably going to vote for the move. This isn't a recommendation, and you should vote YOUR heart.

Clif Homan asked us to make additional efforts to work with the Scouts in our area. He suggested perhaps having a merit badge day where we work with the troop to get as close to done as possible on a single day.

Johnnie Knoblock asked that we make sure our club is in good standing and our dues are up-to-date. He and Clif both thanked us for finally putting on a Tailgater in Foley. They mentioned that this was the ONLY hamfest / tailgate they missed so far this year, but they were rained out in the north part of the state and our situation was iffy... if you remember we were on hold til the evening before. Expect to see them next year.

Johnnie thanked us for hospitality at our Field Day. He and his wife have joined us for the past 4 years (at least) on our Field Day adventures. We appreciate them showing up.

Morrighan E. Phillips KR4FTP was the recipient of the 2026 Outstanding Youth Ham Award. You may have heard her on D-Star as she leads a youth net on the Alabama D-Star reflector. She is an Alabama Youth Coordinator and the AL Section is looking for at least one more youth coordinator to help get the message out. (Attn Ms. Margaret Franklin!). Check Morrighan's activity bio here: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/alarrl/permalink/27533015736389908/>

You are encouraged to join the Alabama ARRL Section Facebook Group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/262498693868314>

And some quick notes on the Alabama Repeater Council meeting, which followed.

There has been discussion about an unlicensed individual running a repeater in Central Alabama who claims to have taken over a local repeater. He has been identified and is in the process of being prosecuted at this time.

If you have issues with unlicensed individuals or any radio harassment, it is suggested that preserve any evidence you might have, your iPhone has a recorder, and present it to the Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator, Riley Hollingsworth (K4ZDH), at K4ZDH@arrl.net.

It will take time to get the wheels of justice rolling, but as you can see from the incident above, it will eventually happen.

ALSO, the South Alabama repeater council group has been without 2 of its 3 directors for sometime. Wendy (last name?) from Mobile was added at the last council meeting, but her family moved out of state. Tom Heard (EC from Mobile County) volunteered and Ken Bell (K4EES) from Baldwin County accepted the post after he was volunteered.

The Alabama Repeater Council website is here: <https://alabamarepeatercouncil.org/directors/>