



Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club (N4MZ)
PO Box 491
Robertsdale, AL 36567

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Club Meeting held February 15, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 18:30 hours CDT by President Greg Powers, WG0MEZ. There were 39 members and guests present. There was a quorum.

Open Meeting, recite pledge of allegiance

Visitors:

President Greg welcomed the visitors.

Secretary's report- Christine Ryan

Minutes from previous meetings are posted to the website. No correspondence to report.

Treasurer's Report- Tom Wallace

Tom reported club treasury activity and balances as of 01/31/2024. Remember that you do not have a vote if your dues are not paid up. If you are newly licensed, dues are free, but you will need to complete an application to receive club emails.

Report of VE Team – Joel Emmett

The next BCARC Testing Session will take place March 2, 2024 at the Daphne Public Library. Contact Joel, W2BJN, for more information.

An inaugural VE testing session was scheduled for February 17, at Westminster Village in Spanish Fort. Testing sessions at Westminster Village will take place on even numbered months. Contact Ron Thomas, N4RT, for more information.

WinLink Activity- John Acton, K7ACT:

The software for Winlink is free. John posts a new question for the BCARC Winlink Net every Tuesday and assignments are due by the preceding Monday, noon. The weekly question is posted to the club website: N4MZ.com. John, K7ACT, can help you get started if you are interested in participating in the net.



OLD Business:

- BCARC now owns 4 Baofeng HT “loaners” to be made available to newly licensed hams – with some stipulations.
- VARA FM gateway is up and running on 145.040 and is listed as K4EES.
- Signage – the need for club signage to be used at public events was discussed.

New Business:

A Club Budget for 2024 was discussed, but a final vote was postponed until the March meeting. Pending questions included a potential deficit mostly caused by the proposed acquisition of new laptops for the club. The expenses for the Christmas Party and Winter and Summer Field Days were also questioned.

Good of the Club:

Several Silent Auction items were bid on: they were from W4RLT, Thomas “Steve” Warren SK.

2024 BCARC club dues are due!

ARES Meetings will begin 1 hour prior to the next club meeting, March 21, at 5:30pm. Talk to Ken Bell, K4EES, if you are interested in participating in ARES.

Program – Ken Bell

Ken gave a review of BCARC Winter Field 2024. The club scored better than it had in 2023. Total qsos = 722 / cw-452 / phone-247 / psk31-23 / satellite-1. Points total = 20,315. The Fox 10 news clip that showed Matthew Foutch, AE4JC, making a satellite qso; and interviews with Greg Powers, WG0MEZ; and Joe McIntosh, K4JOM was especially nice.

The evening’s program was about the Baofeng handheld radio (base price - \$24), the Digirig (Digital Modes Interface Module for amateur radio; +/- \$59), and proper cables to interconnect the devices (computer). The rig/setup is meant for mobile emergency communications using Winlink VARA.



The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm CDT
Submitted, Christine Ryan, Secretary.