



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

**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Club Meeting held March 20, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 18:30 hours CDT by President Greg Powers, WG0MEZ. There were 35 members and 7 guests present. There was a quorum.**

**Open Meeting, recite pledge of allegiance**

**Visitors:**

The Club welcomed: Ron Holyfield, N9LNK; Sharon Holyfield, KB9OGL; Lowell Lowman (Jeff), KQ4PIL; Lionel Williams, K5LW; Buddy Franklin, N8CRC; Henry Battaglia, KQ4PJM; and Beth Butler.

**Secretary's report- Christine Ryan**

Minutes from previous meetings are posted to the website.

Christine reported an email from BCEMA Shelter Committee, Amanda Thweat, Emergency Management Specialist. The next meeting of the committee is to be held on April 10, 9-10am, in the EMA Training Room.

Greg Powers, WG0MEZ, and Joe McIntosh, K4JOM, attended the meeting held January 10, 2024. They provided an update on amateur radio capabilities for emergency service.

**Treasurer's Report- Tom Wallace**

Tom reported club treasury activity and balances as of 02/29/2024. 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;Ron Thomas**

March 2, 2024: 7 candidates presented themselves for the BCARC VE Testing at Daphne Public Library. Two General candidates passed their Extra Class exams; and five other candidates passed their Technician Class exams.

Next BCARC/Daphne Public Library/VE Testing session is scheduled for May4. Currently there are 4 registered candidates and 2 open spots. Contact Joel, W2BJN, for more information.



An inaugural VE testing session took place February 17, at Westminster Village in Spanish Fort. One Tech passed the General Class exam.

Next VE Testing at Westminster Village is scheduled for April 20. So far, there are 5 candidates who have registered. Testing sessions at Westminster Village will take place 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 following 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.
- ARES first meeting was today, 5:30-6:30pm. If interested, contact Ken Bell.
- 2024 BCARC BUDGET – the 2024 proposed budget was again reviewed with several changes from last month. After a vote , the 2024 BCARC Budget was approved.

### **New Business:**

The county EMA has been offered 2 repeaters; 1 near Magnolia Springs ( D-Star), and 1 near Bay Minette on a 200foot tower and 3 acres. County will pay expenses and BCARC will be charged with maintaining them.

### **Good of the Club:**

The next scheduled SkyWarn refresher course: SkyWarn Storm Spotter Basic – ONLINE – 6PM – Wednesday, March 27. See the NOAA Weather Forecast page – type in your local zip and click on SkyWarn Schedule at top of page.

2024 BCARC club dues are due!



ARES Meetings will begin 1 hour prior to the next club meeting, April 18, at 5:30pm. Talk to Ken Bell, K4EES, if you are interested in participating in ARES.

Cheaha Make A Wish Trail Run volunteers are needed! Dates are: 4/20 and 5/4.

BB60 Radio Club organizational meeting took place 3/23. Tim Morgan is contact person.

BCARC POTA Event is scheduled to take place Saturday, April 6 at Meaher SP. It will begin about 10am and run until 4pm. Entrance pass is \$3 and discounted for Veterans.

Chuck Pharis, WA4USA, provided club members with an update on the work he has done to maintain the 090 repeater. Chuck is the Trustee of the 090 repeater. The presentation included a slide show. Chuck is hopeful that the club might approve the purchase of a SWR/Antenna Analyzer as it would be useful for repeater maintenance.

## **Program – Joe McIntosh**

Joe's program provided an introduction to D-Star radio: Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio. Technician class licensees have equal band privileges as other class operators on the D-Star frequencies. From your digitized voice to internet to worldwide communications, that's the possibility of D-Star. Icom and Kenwood manufacture D-Star compatible radios; but it's also possible to homebrew.

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