



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

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Club Meeting held May 16, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 18:30 hours CDT by Vice-President , Joe McIntosh, K4JOM . There were 35 members and 3 guests present. There was a quorum.

Open Meeting, recite pledge of allegiance

Visitors:

Joe welcomed: Carl Robb, Richard Musgrove, and Corey Mosley.

Secretary's report- Christine Ryan

Minutes from previous meetings are posted to the website. There was no correspondence to report.

Treasurer's Report- Tom Wallace

Tom reported club treasury activity and balances as of 04/30/2024. 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

May 4, 2024: 6 candidates presented themselves for the BCARC VE Testing at Daphne Public Library. The results were 5 Technicians and 1 General. Next BCARC/Daphne Public Library/VE Testing session is scheduled for July 6. Currently there are 3 open spots. Contact Joel, W2BJN, for more information.

The next VE testing session at Westminster Village in Spanish Fort is scheduled for the last weekend in August. 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.
- ARES meetings take place prior to regular club meetings 5:30-6:30pm. May topic was Fox Hunt/hidden transmitter. Ron Thomas, N4RT demonstrated the 2meter/70cm “Tape Measure” (diy) antenna. A fox hunt was held downstairs and the transmitter was found by Rick, K4LLL. If interested in ARES, contact Ken Bell.
- We will not participate in the First Responder Touch the Truck activity due to possible strong thunderstorms. It takes place at the Home Depot in Daphne.
- New laptops for the club.

New Business:

- The Red Cross (shelters, food, water, communications) had a Hurricane Preparedness Lunch and Learn. Ken Bell, K4EES, was in attendance. The Red Cross follows up after FEMA in disaster situations.
- State-wide Hurricane Response Testing and Communications Testing took place on April 30. Ken, K4EES and Ron, N4RT ran a 2 meter net at the EOC. Ken reports that many contacts were made via 40 meter, D-Star, DMR and a good number of Winlink messages; including contacts with the Montgomery station. Three shelter sites were visited. BCARC was recognized for its successful participation in the event by Mike Watkins, WX4AL, AL Section Emergency Coordinator.
- Time to break out a Go Box and check it out. Summer Field Day is coming up, June 22/23. It will take place at Scout Camp Silverhill.



Good of the Club:

-POTA activation opportunity at Battleship Alabama. Battleship Alabama is listed as a Parks on the Air activation site.

-Battleship Alabama is looking for volunteer operators to participate in Museum Ships on the Air Weekend, June 1-2, 2024. Contact Ken Bell, K4EES for more info.

-Greg Powers, WG0MEZ, and Ken Bell, K4EES, helped out as communications volunteers for the Make-A-Wish Foundation Trailblazer Challenge at Cheaha State Park in Talledega National Forest, May 3-5. Over 1 million \$\$ has been raised.

-MFJ has announced that it is ending its retail business; but it will continue to manufacture and repair in Starkville, MS.

-Tour de Beach 2024 is looking for volunteers: Sept. 29/29.

Program – Solar eclipse effect on RF communications – John Coyle W4PJC

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