



Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club (N4MZ)

PO Box 491
Robertsdale, AL 36567

Minutes of the regular monthly club meeting held July 18, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 18:31 hours CDT by President Greg Powers, WG0MEZ. There were 27 members and 3 guests 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 and Christine had reported that there has been no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report – Tom Wallace

Tom reported club treasury activity and balances as of 2024-06-30. 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 reported that at the July 6th testing there were 2 who upgraded to Extra, one who passed both Technician and General, and a 11 year that passed his Technician exam.

Ron Thomas reported that Westminster Village Will hold a testing session August 24th. They are also planning a Technician class in September.

Old Business:

- Reminder that the club has BaoFeng radios available for newly licensed members use with some stipulations.
- The Winlink net continues to grow, contact John Acton K7ACT if interested.
- If interested in participating in the ARES group contact Ken Bell K4EES.
- The MS Bike the Beach is still needing radio volunteers, it's a great chance to practice your emergency communications. Contact Ken Bell or Greg Powers if interested.

New Business:

The PC for the VARA FM Gateway keeps overheating and shutting down even though it's relatively cool inside the cabinet. A new mini PC has been ordered and should have the gateway running for some time to come.

Good of the Club:

President Greg advised he had received an email from a ham who happened to be passing through the area and was concerned about what he had heard on the 147.090 repeater. His first concern was that two gentlemen were carrying on a QSO for what he believed to be over 20 minutes without identifying themselves. A reminder was given that the FCC requires identification at least every 10 minutes. His other concern was that another operator tried to break in for a radio check and was told to try a different frequency. While etiquette states that the person requesting a radio check should have waited until the first conversation was completed, it is good practice to always be courteous. Also remember that the 147.090 repeater belongs to the EOC and we are allowed to use it as a courtesy. The 146.685 and 443.375 repeaters are also available for our use.

Joel reported on the Voice Of America Coverage Analysis Program and advised they have a new and improved user's manual.

Program:

Ken Bell gave a report along with statistics for Summer Field Day 2024 and included a video of Joel making a satellite CW contact! The group was excited, especially Joel as that was a first for him in his illustrious career.

Joe McIntosh gave a program on radio etiquette in general and repeater etiquette in particular as further follow up on the email we received.

The meeting was adjourned at 1945 hours CDT (give or take)
Submitted, Greg Powers, WG0MEZ / N4RAI

