



Baldwin County Amateur Radio Club (N4MZ)

PO Box 491

Robertsdale, AL 36567

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Club Meeting was held FEBRUARY 19, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 18:00 hours CDT by President Jared Budlong, KQ4UAQ. There were 27 members and two guests present. There was a quorum.

Meeting Opened with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome Members & Visitors - Jared Budlong, KQ4UAQ

Secretary's Report – Pattilynne Miller, N5PLM

Pattilynne reported minutes posted on website and received several QSLs and gave them to Joel Emmett, W2BJN for response.

Report of Treasurer – Tom Wallace, KN4DND reported treasury activity during the months of January and balances as of 01/31/2026.

Report from VE Team Leaders - Joel Emmett, W2BJN & Ron Thomas, N4RT

Joel reported the February testing session yielded 5 applicants: 1 Technician; 2 Generals and 2 Extras. Are now using online validation of sessions through Exam Tools, as ARRL requires. Good news is the applicants upgrading were processed on Monday and the new license for Technician completed on Tuesday after the Saturday test. In April test date moved to second Saturday 4/11 due to Easter.

Ron reported next testing at Westminster Village Bayside Clubhouse on March 21st @ 9:30am.

Winlink Activity - John Acton, K7ACT,

John reported that the weekly check-ins on Winlink continue.

Repeater and Trustee Report - Chuck Pharis, WA4USA & Joel Emmett, W2BJN

Repeaters functioned well.

ARES Report – Greg Powers, N4RAI

Ken on vacation and so Greg Powers, N4RAI reported for ARES group: On Tuesday, February 10th members worked with EOC to do a set up day for evacuations at the Robertsdale Coliseum. At meeting tonight members-built J-pole antennas for 2 meter/70cm.

Old Business – Jared Budlong, KQ4UAQ

Winter Field Day we had 1048 contacts. Jared thanked all who participated.

EMA Shelter exercise: Jared thanked all who participated in the EOC pleased with our performance.



New Business - Jared Budlong, KQ4UAQ

Jared presented the **2026 Budget**. After review and discussion, a motion was made to accept the budget by Hayden Montgomery, WB4MBV and second by Skip Bollens, N4XXO. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Wallace, KN4DND, presented opportunity to obtain a Motorola XRR repeater that has UHF, DMR and analog capabilities from Gary Hand, N4FIV and he will install for us. We could establish a Gulf Coast Talk Group as we have internet access available in our cabinet. Ron Thomas, N4RT suggested how we might use antennas. Tom encouraged by members to proceed.

Coming Events – Jared Budlong, KQ4UAQ

- April 18th and May 2nd is Cheaha State Park Event and will need volunteer operators for these weekends Let Jared or Ken know if you are interested.
- Date TBA in March to have Fox hunt to improve geolocating skills.
- May 30th 9am to 12 noon Fairhope having a Hurricane Preparedness Expo and invited BCARC. Jared will be there with table others can come and help let Jared know of your interest.

Good of the Club – Jared Budlong, KQ4UAQ

Reminder there is a DMR Talkabout after the ARES net Check-ins on Thursdays at 8:00pm on the Gulf Coast 31011 DMR repeater.

Evening Program –Greg Powers, N4RAI

Greg led discussion on Meshtastic and Mesh-Core networks and their use. There does seem to be interest among members in exploring the use of these new technologies. Check out the utube on Meshtastic for Dummies: https://youtu.be/igWP0O_VuUo?si=9xVHjUyYXUY06wAF.

The meeting adjourned at 19:30 pm CDT Submitted,
Pattilynne Miller, N5PLM, Secretary.