

**Minutes of Alabama Repeater Council Meeting:
April 30th 2005 at Birminghamfest 12:00 – Forum Room 2**

1. Reading and approval on Montgomery Hamfest meeting minutes.

... Given in Highlight verbal report: referred to members only web site for detailed reading – minutes approved.

2. President's Report:

a. Map Project Report

Ron Showed a sample Map and passed one around for viewing.

Costs were as previously presented at Montgomery: ARC is making only between 3 and 4 dollars per copy for the first printing of 50 Maps which are sold for \$20 per copy. These are nice laminated wall maps: latest data

Question raised about putting part of the map on the web site. This would deter map sales which benefit ARC and would be very difficult to accomplish. Many folks purchased maps at the meeting and at ARC's flea market table.

b. Comstudy evaluation report

Basically we decided not to purchase it at this time given that we did not think we would use it enough to warrant the cost. A full report is on the members web page.

c. SERA winter meeting report

Ron and Sandie attended the 2005 SERA winter meeting in Pigeon Forge Tenn. Ron addressed the SERA board (power point file on members web page) It was a productive meeting from a standpoint of seeing SERA internal workings and making them aware of ARC activities. There were a couple of articles written in the February Repeater Journal re-capping these discussions. SERA provided us with a pdf version of extracts of this journal and Ron has written a short discussion from the ARC perspective with the purpose of putting it on the ARC web page to solicit feedback from ARC members and in general Alabama repeater users.

d. Working with SERA on 440 band planning and linking

During the SERA meeting Ron met with Steve Granthem of MS who has authored much of the SERA 440 band plan. There are limited numbers of channels for localized duplex links and all of those pairs are exhausted in some Alabama areas. Steve understands the issues and is working to draft proposed changes to the SERA 440 band plan so that we can encourage uniform usage across MS, TN, GA and AL.

3. Treasurer's report

Deposits and Expenditures since November, 2004:

Expenditures: \$150.64 Postage, phone card and long distance charges, gas for SERA trip in January....ARC President, W4VM

\$800.00 Millennia Arts....maps

Deposits: \$733.00 ARC dues and donations, map sales

Balance as of April 30, 2005 \$6,113.15

4. Coordinator's Report

Howard indicated there have been approximately 85 to 90 coordinations since April 04. All activities are going smoothly and there are no known outstanding issues that don't have potential to be worked. For database updates, the focus has been on VHF

primarily. UHF activity is increasing however. There are still some 2 meter pairs available in south Alabama only.

5. Vice President Report

Dave Baughn (former ARC Coordinator & Past President) made a speech heaping accolades on Ron and Howard for all the good work they have been doing.

6. Web Master Report

Kirk Junkin gave a short report on the ARC web site. It is up to date, user friendly and at no cost to ARC. The SERA extract is already online – Ron needs to catch up on his write up !

7. Director's Reports:

a. Northern

Ralph Hogan: W4XE – No problems or issues

b. North Central

Dan James: Howard is doing a good job – no problems in his area

Jack Evans: 146.98 repeater is aging – some problems – remote receiver link is back up after issues with vandalism.

c. South Central

Stuart May: talked about EchoLink & IRLP activities in Montgomery, 444.625

Wiely Boswell talked about UHF repeaters with AlaBears & SBDR – He is working with Greg Saratt & Jay Isbell on several machines around the state being linked for E-Coms support.

d. Southern

Bob Luman gave a report on Andalusia, Greenville and Opp systems and ARES operations during the Hurricanes.

8. Discussion about tracking Packet in the database

ARC would like to track but not formally coordinate packet as in the past. There are situations where awareness of activity (in or out of packet sub-bands) would help us come to quick resolution of problems. Reporting information to ARC for this purpose is solicited and encouraged.

9. Discussion about the annual newsletter & database updates

The newsletter will likely be compiled in the June / July time frame to be published before Huntsville Hamfest. There was some discussion about how to do datasheet mailing and updates. One suggestion was to stagger the dates by ARC regions to make it more manageable. The primary purpose of this exercise is to keep the database current !

10. Discussion about future ARC policies: Expiration dates on coordinations.

Regarding the preverbal problems with disappearing trustees and paper repeaters, it was suggested that we consider a new policy where in the future, coordinations would have expiration dates. This would put the burden on trustees to keep in contact with ARC rather than the coordinator who is already overworked in these areas. There was good support around the room for this idea. We will pursue it in the future. Florida has just enacted a policy like this so we will watch for their experiences with it.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 to return to the Hamfest !

Respectfully submitted:

Sandie Shaffer: KE4LRX ARC Secretary / Treasurer.