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### Alabama Repeater Council Meeting Minutes for Greenville Hamfest 2006

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 by ARC President Ron Shaffer W4VM
2. Printed Montgomery Hamfest meeting minutes were handed out and there was a vote to approve as printed – Thanks for Southern Region Dir Brent Gourley KE4MZ for taking these minutes. They will be posted to the ARC web site
3. President's Report –
  - a. Map Project Update – As of this morning, we had 15 maps left – Given that 2006 data will be coming out soon, we decided it prudent to dispose of our remaining stock. We had them for \$15 clearance at Montgomery & on our web site – we sold them for a Hamfest Special of \$12 this weekend (50 cents above cost on the second batch) and sold 9. We gave away one as a door prize to draw attention to them. N4AU won that one ! When the remaining 5 maps are sold, we will have netted approximately \$340 – surpassing our dues income for 2005. We don't intend to repeat this type of project until the data has changed significantly – possibly 3 to 5 years out.
  - b. NFCC Report – The NFCC has been revitalized with the recent election of officers. There has been a lull in activity since the election
  - c. SERA / FRC Liaison Report – Ron reported that since our straw poll at Huntsville Hamfest, we have set aside all discussions about joining SERA. The poll clearly indicated that the overwhelming majority of active ARC members are not interested. Ron indicated that he had communicated this to SERA president Roger Gregory along with the desire to continue the excellent working relationships with SERA coordinators and attend SERA meetings to participate in Band planning and other coordination activities. Our relationship with FRC also continues to be a smooth one.
  - d. Misc: Ron mentioned that Dynetics Inc donated an 800 Mhz PC to ARC. It was offered to K4WWN who declined - It is being used by W4VM Ron mentioned that our 501(c) 3 status is current & that we have sent the paperwork to the IRS as requested for update. We are exempt from filing taxes. Ron indicated we would try to put together a small newsletter for e-mail and or snail mail out within the next month. That would be potentially in addition to the summer newsletter.
4. Treasurer's Report – Relayed from ARC Secretary/Treasurer Sandie Shaffer: KE4LRX - \$137 in expenses since Montgomery (Postage & Katrina Toy Drive Donation) and dues & Map deposits totaling \$190 for a 1/26/06 Bank Balance of \$7009.60. The report was approved by vote as given.
5. Coordinator's Report – Howard reported that there are no major problems and that things were going smoothly. There have been around 6-10 NOPCs per month since the last hamfest with a large percentage of them now being 440 links in addition to the normal 2M re-locations and new 440 repeaters. There have even been some 220 links. We are having some challenges working with SERA on links but there are now some measures in place to mitigate that. Additionally, there has been some interest in portable repeaters since the 2005 Hurricane season. While we are a bit more understanding of this given recent events, the

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requests often present challenges which we must consider carefully in order to avoid interference. Howard mentioned that NOPC response has been timely from Ga and east and west Tn but slow from Mississippi and very slow from middle Tn. These was some discussion that middle Tn has a new coordinator who is still getting organized.

6. Directors Reports:
  - a. Northern Region: Steve Florey W9KOP (No Region Director) provided several comments / ideas regarding experimentation at UHF and above. Ron also mentioned the desire to see ARC support experimentation with leading edge things like D-Star. He reminded the group that our constitution makes this a clear part of our mission statement.
  - b. North Central Region: BARC President Ed Pitchford indicated they are considering a move for the Birmingham area 145.41 and 443.900 repeaters to help fill in coverage for Shelby County.
  - c. South Central Region: SC Dir Wiely Boswell: KE4LTT gave a short report for the Montgomery area. SC Region Vice Dir Bobby \_\_ N4AU indicated the Troy area group was considering raising the antenna height of the 146.865 machine. Ron Checked the HAAT of the Ranborne / THM '865 machine and voiced moderate concern for interference. SC Region Dir Stuary May WB4JRB gave some Kudos to Ron & Howard for their efforts in cleaning up "paper repeaters" from the ARRL listings.
  - d. Southern Region: SO Region director Bob Luman W4MPQ indicated a potential move of the Gordonsville '67 machine to Ft Deposit. He also apologized for the Failure of the 146.88 Greenville Machine 2 days before the Hamfest. (Editor's note: The hamfest crowd was good sized despite the lack of a talk-in repeater GRIN Many Thanks to Bob & the rest of the Greenville Hamfest hosts for a great fest ! )
7. Election of any Vacant Positions per agenda - Only open slot is Vice Director – Southern Region – Ron mentioned that we really need a representative from the Mobile Area. No one from Mobile has been present at ARC meetings in over half a decade despite the election of Philip Tims to the Board last year. No Election was held.
8. General Items of Discussion:
  - a. Ron handed out hard copies of interest rates & terms for Certificates of Deposit offered through Security Bank of Tuscaloosa where ARC has its account. He reminded the group that all of the 7 thousand indicated above resides in a non interest bearing "Casual Business" checking account. This type of account allows us to exempt from fees changed to normal business accounts. 3 different proposals regarding how much of our funds might be committed for how long to CDs. A motion was made and seconded to deposit 5k for 36 months at 5%. The motion was amended to allow Ron to call for absentee votes from directors via e-mail before the final go-ahead. The vote among those present was unanimously in favor. *In a series of e-mails following the meeting, there was a nearly unanimous vote among the directors to take out a 12 month CD instead of a 36 month CD. This was done at Compass Bank.*

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- b. Ron Handed out hard copies containing 3 different draft proposals (policy changes) for further reducing paper repeaters both in the ARRL listings and in CTK itself. At the heart of this discussion was the concept of expiration dates on coordinations. We have watched the Florida Repeater Council: FRC as they have implemented it several years ago. Ron indicated that we wanted to discuss and solicit Ideas on this for several meetings before actually voting on a formal policy change (target date: Huntsville Hamfest in August 2006). This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time these concepts have been discussed so it should be no surprise when they come up for formal vote in the near future. There was a lot of good discussion with the consensus that the final policy might become a combination of the 3 draft proposals discussed. Ron will submit a separate draft copy of what was discussed for the ARC members only web site. When it takes shape we intend to put it on the open ARC web site.
- c. Ron gave a rough verbal budget for 2006. Included were Postage & Printing costs as well as Virus & other coordination tool software and travel expenses for officers for meetings. The rough estimate was between 500 and 600 dollars. Wiely made a motion to see to it that Howard & Ron were reimbursed for travel expenses for Greenville. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Meeting was Adjourned at 11:30

In attendance were :

Ron Shaffer: W4VM  
Howard Grant: K4WWN  
Steve Florey: W4KOP  
Jacque Florey: N4VCN  
Bob Chandler: N4AU  
Stuart May: WD4JRB  
Bob Luman: W4MPQ  
Wiely Boswell: KE4LTT  
Ed Pitchford KJ4AY  
Frank Butler: W4RH

Respectfully submitted:

Ron Shaffer: W4VM for ARC Secretary / Treasurer: Sandie Shaffer KE4LRX – 1/30/06

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