

# Alabama Repeater Council Meeting Minutes for Huntsville Hamfest 2005

1. Welcome and Address to Repeater Users  
Ron Shaffer: W4VM opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and asked if there were any repeater users (other than repeater owners, trustees & custodians) present. There were none. The idea is that Ron was prepared to address users and potential / future repeater owners about ARC's mission and how we can help.
2. Reading & Approval of Birminghamfest meeting minutes  
The Birmingham minutes are posted in the members area of the ARC web site and Ron read a brief synopsis of them to the group. They were approved as written.
3. President's Report:
  - a. Map Project Update  
Sold lots of them in Huntsville & at Birminghamfest. About 35 so far – Initial printing of 50 and recent printing of 25. Will consider mailing if still many left after Huntsville. Note, we sold 17 maps during Huntsville Hamfest which leaves 23 to sell at Montgomery & Greenville & by mail. There will be no more printings for 2005 & we don't expect to do another until perhaps 2007. Howard offered to sent out information about maps with coordination information.
  - b. FCC Liaison Report  
Ron Spoke with Riley at Dayton about procedure for contacting him in interference issues – followed up with e-mail – need clarification of dealing with FCC vs NFCC. Ron's Trip report on the web page covers both the FCC meeting and the NFCC meeting. Ron fielded a question about when we might need to do this. Hopefully never in that we would be able to resolve any interference disputes locally without outside help but we need to be prepared in case we ever do.
  - c. NFCC Meeting Report  
Ron attended the NFCC meeting at Dayton. There is a significant move a-foot to rejuvenate the NFCC. – We have 4 ARC representatives – W4VM, K4WWN, KX4I and Kirk Junkin. The NFCC is in the process of holding elections. Ron asked if anyone want to run for NFCC office. No one responded. Ron asked that anyone interested contact him.
  - d. SERA / FRC Liaison Report  
Ron and Sandie attended the 2005 SERA winter meeting in January. Ron provided a detailed trip report which is posted on the web site. There is also an article on the web site soliciting feedback from the ARC membership in regard to how folks feel about joining SERA. Ron sited the pos and cons. Pros include uniformity of coordination practices and extensively developed coordination policys & guidelines. Perhaps the biggest advantages are the cash flow and worker base to be able to develop a custom online database tool and afford expensive commercial quality propagation study software such as Comstudy (see the evaluation report on the ARC web page) Ron also cited a few disadvantages including the fact that the current SERA database appears to be inefficient and plagued with troubles. Hopefully this will be overcome when the new database

tool is completed. The other disadvantage appears to be the fact that SERA is resisting updating their band plans to make way for more linking frequencies. It is believed that this may also be due in part to their lack of proper tracking of link frequency utilization due to database issues. In other words, they may not realize they are running low on links because they are not tracking them like ARC does. Hopefully, this too will be corrected with the new software. Howard also mentioned that they had problems with their e-mail server which blocked NOPCs from getting through. NOPCs are the lifeblood of coordination activities for all coordination bodies and ARC has been able to keep their e-mail channels open. Ron handed out hard copy surveys soliciting feedback from those present. This document will be attached to these minutes. 11 folks responded in the meeting and Ron is e-mailing the document to all of the dues paid ARC members. The results will be tallied and posted on the ARC web site.

With regard to the FRC (Florida Repeater Council) Ron just mentioned their web page & the fact that we watch them for good ideas.

- e. State of the Council  
Ron's summary: In general, the state of the council is very good thanks for Howard's tireless efforts.
4. Treasurer's Report
- Deposits and Expenditures since April 30, 2005
  - Balance as of April 30, 2005: \$6,113.15
  - Deposits: \$895.00 Maps and Membership Dues
  - Expenditures: \$748.55 Antivirus Software, Ron's expenses for Birmingham Hamfest and Dayton (NFCC meeting), maps, supplies and postage.
  - Antivirus software: \$123.00
  - Hotel Room: \$194.55
  - Millennia Arts Maps: \$300.00
  - Postage and Supplies: \$131.00
  - Balance as of August 20, 2005: \$6,259.60

Dave Baughn asked if we had ever made a donation to Dave Karr in support of the Coordinators toolkit software that we use. The answer is yes, we did. \$100 per the vote at 2003 Montgomery Hamfest.

Also, membership report – Ron mentioned that ARC By-Laws call for calendar year dues. We plan to wipe the members web page user list clean on January 15<sup>th</sup> and only paid members may vote at ARC meetings approximately 43 memberships were received at Huntsville Hamfest and via mail in response to the mail-out.

5. Coordinator's Report
- Howard reported that all current coordinations and re-coordinations are proceeding smoothly and that as of the recent mailing, there were 526 repeaters and links in the database. In last years series of mail outs, all but 7 VHF repeater entries were updated. This year, the mail out focus will be on UHF systems. No datasheets were sent out on VHF systems this year. Thus far, there has been about a 5% return from the post office and about 20% response from members. We plan to use every means possible to contact

those who either bounce or do not respond including e-mail, phone calls, follow-up mailings and director contacts. Ultimately, those for which we have lost all contact will be de-coordinated and removed from the database.

6. Comments from Vice President Dave Baughn. Dave just re-iterated what a great job Howard is doing as coordinator.
7. Discussion about Vice Directors & Nominations  
Ron commented that the Vice Director positions are called out in our By-Laws. Our goal is to have 1 for each of the 4 ARC regions. These Vice directors may vote in place of directors who are not present at ARC meetings. Representation is needed from the east side of the state. In an effort to get back in better alignment with the By-laws, a motion was made & seconded to re-instate the northern area directors for another 4 year term given this meeting was in the northern region.
8. Directors Reports:
  - a. Northern Region – Bill Rodgers reported that AICN is back up on 145.41 in his area. Ralph Hogan reported that big work in the Huntsville area was on getting the new 146.94 antenna system and a well performing machine amidst the heavy RF environment on Monte Sano – In time to support the hamfest. This took a team of 8 guys over 80 man hours. The Huntsville AICN is currently local VHF only. Working on hardware to get the UHF link to Tuscaloosa back operational.
  - b. North Central Region – Dan James referred to his report in the ARC newsletter – nothing to add to that. Rusty Hoyt reported most all machines in Tuscaloosa area functioning – There has been new antenna system work at the hospital & new PL tone usage in the area on 131.8 Hz. Ron mentioned continued efforts to get the 146.66 machine in Vernon re-coordinated.
  - c. South Central Region Southern Region – Wiley Bozwell reported a UHF repeater had been coordinated in his area for the Baptist Disaster Relief team and that the Montgomery Skywarn established a link to Birmingham. There was also mention of coordination activities for Ken.
  - d. Southern Region – Bob Luman reported the Andelusia '94 machine is back up with new coax but the Greenville 145.29 is down. The Greenville AICN hub is working. There is move in process for the '67 machine from TV tower to water tank in Ft Deposit. Also an application pending for a new Greenville repeater.
9. Election of any Vacant Positions  
Vice directors if needed. – Barry Harbin was nominated for Northern region Vice director – approved. Bobby Chandler was nominated for Vice Director of South Central Region – approved. David Drummond was nominated for Vice director of North Central – approved.
10. General Items for Discussion:
  - a. Constitution, By-Law and Articles of Incorporation – Committee Update  
There was no progress indicated from the committee appointed at the 2004 Birmingham meeting. Ron indicated there were no known soft copies of these documents in existence. Motion was made, seconded and approved to have Kelley: KI4IAW type in the documents at \$3 per page. Kelley is 12 years old. This will allow us to make updates and KX4I agreed to convert it to an adobe file. Volunteers for the By-Law committee were solicited. No one responded. Ron indicated that we will work this issue as time and resources permit.

- b. Coordination Policy: Informational Discussion
  - i. Ron handed out our “coordination guideline” sheet and indicated we have some work to do to make these policies more robust in covering a diversity of situations. Expiration dates on coordination was discussed (this being the second meeting that has been discussed). Some policy change recommendations may be coming.
  - ii. Coordination application fees were mentioned again but Ron indicated this is low priority for now.
  - iii. Packet Tracking was again mentioned – this is being done on a low priority basis – data entry remains
  - iv. A short discussion about the FCC’s possible changing of the Aux Stations rules & what effects it might have on coordination.
- c. Potential Grants – ALN, Hurricane - Toys, VoIP ?, **RDF equipment for clubs & repeater groups** – Discussion about last years ARRL AL section toy drive for hurricane Ivan victims & how ARC missed the opportunity to participate. (Editor’s note: Hurricane Katrina will likely provide an opportunity to make that up !) Also, a discussion took place about how several recent incidents of repeater jamming (most un-intentional) have gone on for days without being tracked down. Ron stated he would like to see ARC funds be used to help local clubs & repeater groups purchase RDF equipment to help. Bill Clingan: KC0ONR had recently purchased a Doppler RDF unit and is testing it. A motion was made to investigate equipment & options and report at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Oct 05  
Sandie Shaffer, KE4LRX , ARC Secretary