

Alabama Repeater Council
Montgomery Hamfest Meeting Minutes
November, 13, 2004
Sandie Shaffer, KE4LRX ARC Secretary/Treasurer

ARC President, Ron Shaffer, opened meeting at 11:30 am.
Welcome and introduction of ARC officers and directors.

Persons present:

Ron Shaffer, W4VM, President
Sandie Shaffer, KE4LRX, Secretary/Treasurer
Stan Hurst, KG4NAE
John Brown, KE4HIE
Bob Luman, W4MPQ
Ed Pitchford, KO4AY
Ron Arant, N4PHP
Wiely Boswell, KE4LTT
Frank Butler, W4RH from Florida

Minutes from Huntsville Hamfest and Treasurer's report.

Minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

August 21, 2004 Balance: \$6,080.54

Expenditures:	19.75	Checks
	13.00	Bad Check
	70.0	Reimburse Ron, \$52 for new name badges, rest for Supplies
	100.0	Donation for David Karr---Coordinator's Toolkit

Total: \$5877.79

Deposits: \$515.00

Total as of November 13. 2004: \$6,392.79

President's Report

Discussion of Coordinator's Toolkit

The ARC Booth at Huntsville Hamfest was a big success – Does anyone want to be in change of doing one at Montgomery or B'ham?

Coordinator's Report, Howard Grant

15 New UHF coordinations since April

Update sheets sent in July....238 returned: 90 VHF not returned.

Stress importance of returning data sheets to update info.

How to clean up what's left?

Email files to directors...check info

Frank Butler said this is what FL does.....list on web site after 2 yrs.

Don't send info to ARRL Then de-coordinate

Stan suggested sending info via registered letter – this is already done in limited cases

Wiely.....put info link on web site for those who could give information about off-air repeaters

Ron Arant....motion to publish info on web site about those repeaters not heard from in 2 yrs. Motion seconded and so ordered. (this was done several weeks later)

There was some discussion of a de-coordination time frame but no motion or definite plan – still largely a “coordinator discretion” item. Ron mentioned that policies regarding de-coordination conditions are printed on the back of each NFC.

Directors Reports:

K4WWN – Howard for North East – Nothing significant

W4VM – Ron for North Central – 2 hardship cases involving forced loss of tower space – both are re-locating with extensions granted. (147.29 & 147.14)

Jack Lambert K4YVV – Former ARC coordinator is an SK – his 146.88 Machine went to Jimmy Lee: AE4HF and his 146.76 machine went to the Colbert Co. EMA (Billy Tompkins).

AICN (145.23) Huntsville is up & functional along with Tuscaloosa Hub & Birmingham KO4AY (Ed – not Director) for Birmingham area – 147.39 formally in Dora moved to Jasper due to loss of tower space & coordinated with waiver from Guntersville 147.38.

KE4LTT Wiely for South Central – all OK – 146.64 is no-longer used by Club – need a note or verbal from club president to turn in – (obtained verbal after meeting)

John Brown (KE4HIE – Not Director) for Southern Region – 147.26 Andalusia is back up – talk of link sites to AICN – new site in Opp ?

Bob W4MPQ for Southern Region – AICN Greenville Hub Down – due to Hurricane Ivan – may be a coax connection.

Updates need to be to Howard by Dec 27 to support Repeater Directory updates. Will send proof files to Directors

Discussion about 440 link frequencies – only 12 channels on the two SERA band plan sub-bands and we are running very low in the Northern Region – Will bring up as an Agenda Item at the Winter SERA meeting – to re-visit the SERA band plan. There is an overlap in the upper ATV sub-band with repeater links but we want to be ATV friendly. There are many un-used Packet Sub-bands and we wish to be spectrum efficient but also follow the SERA band plan.

Short term fix is to begin utilizing the 441.300 to 441.500 duplex link sub-band & discuss SERA band plan at SERA winter meeting.

Long Term fix is to postpone a decision on which ATV sub-band to use and continue to gather info and do some smart band planning – considering packet, ATV and repeater links.

Discussion on Comstudy ...

We have been discussing the prospect of getting commercial quality VHF / UHF propagation analysis software for some time – SERA uses Comstudy by Radio Soft. The cost is around \$4500 which is high.

SERA has a deal worked where they bought something like 1 full package (higher than the cost quoted above) and then get extra licensee copies for \$100 each. Bob Luman raised the question of “could we not join SERA and get copies that way ?” Ron answered that joining SERA carries a lot more connotations that just getting software – we would have to ultimately dissolve ARC. Ron said that he is “pro Alabama Trustees” weather we ever Join SERA or not. In the round of discussions last spring concerning joining SERA, only a few trustees spoke out but among those that did, slightly more were in favor of not joining SERA at this time. Stan: KG4NAE volunteered to help Ron Evaluate the software with the free 15 day Demo. A Motion was made by Ron Shaffer to empower Ron & Stan to make the go-no-go decision to buy after the evaluation. Motion seconded by Ron Arnet and passed. There was a question raised to find out if the software could be transferred.

Millinia Arts Map. Discussion

Laminated Alabama Wall Map project which sprung from the display copy of the Alabama repeater map at Huntsville Hamfest. Many people were interested in buying a copy. Ron Shaffer has been e-mailing Millinia Arts & got a quote Ron got quote for 50 maps – group wanted to go back & get quote for 100. Final report on the project in an e-mail to directors will be forth coming.

Discussion on New Coordination Fees:

We have discussed adding a minimal fee for new coordination applications (say \$5) for the last several meetings. Stan suggested that for most folks maintaining a repeater, \$20 would be a reasonable fee. Ron Shaffer had a written proposal – basically summed up as – No charge for ARC members for the first 2 each calender year, then \$5 each for non-ARC members. Motion was made for discussion but then tabled due to lack of time for adequate discussion. Could be discussion for Winter E-mail business.

Meeting Adjourned at about 1:45 (running about 45 minutes over planned time)

Respectfully submitted: Sandie Shaffer KE4LRX ARC Secretary / Treasurer –
with updates from Ron: W4VM.