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 (formar 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
      Wiley 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 Hurricains.

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.