

Mobile Hamfest 2006 Alabama Repeater Council Meeting Minutes– 4/22/06

An informal meeting was held at 10:30 with 7 attendees as listed below. ARC president Ron Shaffer provided a brief update of recent ARC activities and future goals. Ron indicated that the focus of our efforts is in two areas: 1. Proactive communication with SERA to minimize issues related to the NOPC process and band planning and 2. To update our coordination policies where needed to ensure accurate & timely data for coordination. Time limited coordination has been discussed at several ARC meetings as a means to combat stale data. As with other recent meetings, the Mobile group was receptive to these changes. Votes are targeted for Huntsville Hamfest. ARC coordinator Howard Grant had indicated through Ron that all coordination activities were current. The only minor issues were somewhat slow NOPC responses from some SERA states.

Ron gave an informal treasurer's report indicating our balance of just over 5 thousand in a 1 year CD and right at 2 thousand in ARC checking. The last 4 ARC maps were sold at Mobile Hamfest, completing the project.

There was significant discussion about what ARC could do to be supportive of emergency communication in the wake of gulf coast hurricanes and what lessons we have learned. Ron gave a 15 minute power point presentation summarizing his role in ARES support to Jackson County Mississippi following hurricane Katrina. This presentation was given just after AL ARRL SM Greg Surratte's Katrina Debrief and just prior to the ARC meeting. Discussion followed in this theme after Ron's ARC activity comments. There was considerable interest in how to handle portable repeaters and how best to work with local groups to quickly restore repeater capabilities in a disaster aftermath. One of the most valuable outcomes of going ahead with an ARC meeting at Mobile (even though we had a Southern region meeting at Greenville) was the much enhanced communication between ARC leadership and AL Gulf Coast repeater trustees. This will posture ARC to be of better assistance to our own should another hurricane strike. Ron concluded by inviting the group to consider the challenges that lie ahead and to become and stay involved in ARC. He expressed the desire for ARC to stay on the cutting edge with emerging technologies such as VoIP, Digital (DSTAR) and more.

Note from Ron: I would like to nominate Danny Carpenter: N4UXY to fill the Vacancy for Southern Region Vice director. Danny is knowledgeable of repeaters in the Mobile area and is a mover & shaker. I hope he will accept the nomination. He is a busy individual and is carefully weighing the time he could devote. On another note, I attempted to access (with tones) every 2 meter and 440 repeater that I could on my trek across the state from Huntsville to Mobile. Many of the 440 machines were down and even a few of the 2 meter machines did not come up.

Attendance:

W4VM Ron Shaffer
N4UXY Danny Carpenter
KF4MH Red McDonald
N4SWR Lou Aiken
KD4QZP Philip Tims
WB4SWG David Roberts
KI4EYO Doug Roberts
W4RH Frank Butler
W4MPQ Bob Luman