

Alabama Repeater Council Meeting Minutes for Birmingham Hamfest 2007

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 May 5th by ARC President Ron Shaffer.
2. The ARC ID-800 D-STAR Test radio was auctioned off bringing in \$501.
3. Copies of the Greenville Hamfest Meeting minutes were handed out and re-capped. They were approved as re-capped. A copy is placed on the members web site.
4. President's Report
 - a. Ron announced that the entire first page of the D-STAR section of the ARRL Repeater directory was occupied by Alabama. With 113 band systems on the air across the state, we are leading the way nation wide !
 - b. Ron reported that the 2007 newsletter is partially drafted. He indicated that it would go out within the next 2 months – before the Huntsville meeting.
 - c. Ron gave a brief re-cap of the Winter SERA meeting. SERA is getting serious about their updated online database project. Limited pace on D-STAR coordination policy work.
 - d. Re-write of the coordination policy got delayed with the all of the attention on D-STAR coordinations. Ron and Dave are working to complete the initial draft before the Huntsville meeting.
5. Vice President's Report

Dave Baughn commented that he will work with Ron to complete the coordination policy re-write before Huntsville. He gave a report on the Tall Tower D-STAR system: The repeater operation is “stealthy” because the ICOM controller was removed in order to test an internet link for a gateway setup.
6. Treasurer's Report – fill in
7. Election of Vacant Positions: After serving nearly 3 years, Sandie Shaffer decided to step down from the Secretary / Treasurer position. Kirk Junkin: KC4ZMP was nominated to Secretary / Treasurer and was unanimously elected. Since Kirk is already the ARC webmaster, one person will now be processing memberships which should work efficiently. Ron is already looking long term for who his successor might be when his 4 year term is complete. There is a significant desire for future officers to serve as directors first. Ron Arrant agreed to be nominated to director when a vacancy comes about in his region
8. Coordinator's Report
 - a. Howard indicated that coordination requests had slowed since the flood of D-STAR coordinations but the flow is steady. Very little coordination activity has been on VHF. He is gearing up for a summer update mail out. He expressed the desire to set up a simplified self-mailer – possibly sent out separate from the newsletter.
9. Directors Reports:
 - a. Northern Region: Ron indicated the Huntsville D-STAR coordination is complete. The system is off the air while being tuned to the new frequencies.

- b. North Central Region: Jack indicated the 146.98 repeater in Shelby Co is new equipment and performing nicely. David indicated that N5IV had re-coordinated his repeater.
 - a. South Central Region: Dennis Duran indicated the Grove Hill machine was left out of the ARRL repeater directory listing. Howard said he would check. This is normal practice when updates are not sent in. Those entries remain in the database. Stuart indicated that the Montgomery D-STAR system is in-work. Equipment will be purchased soon and coordination is under way. One coordination took place for Santuck.
 - b. Southern Region: Bob reported that the Opp 146.64 repeater is moving and being re-coordinated with a height increase. As part of this, the Montgomery 146.64 system was released. The Andalusia UHF repeater project is still awaiting a tower crew.
10. General Items for Discussion:
- a. General Policy re-write status, D-Star interim policy status: Ron indicated this was on-going still. The goal is to have a draft by Huntsville.
 - b. Discussion of Illinois Repeater Council Digital Migration Plan: Ron brought this plan to the attention of the group and told them how to find it on the web. ARC has been forced to quickly adopt workable policies (our own draft D-STAR policy) but we need to be mindful of more general approaches as they emerge.
 - c. Discussion of ARC's approach to FCC Omnibus ruling regarding 2 meter auxiliary stations: Ron recommended that ARC consider including recommended auxiliary station operating frequencies in its suggested band plans but not perform coordination of them at this time.
 - d. Dave Baughn made the group aware of a potential design issue with the D-STAR controllers. Apparently the repeater R1 callsign is evaluated only once early in each transmission causing transmissions from distant stations (intended for other co-channel system) to lock up the controller. Dave mentioned that if any of us happened to get a good ear with ICOM that we should make them aware of the problem which could have a profound impact on coordination as these systems proliferate.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 and was followed by a short directors meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Sandie Shaffer: KE4LRX – Outgoing ARC Secretary/ Treasurer