

General Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2017

Vice President Shannon Boal called the May meeting of the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society to order at 6:45 PM. All in attendance introduced themselves. 23 members were in attendance. President Peter Winters was not in attendance because he was out of town.

Sickness/Health & Welfare: executive board member Vann Chesney was having a surgical procedure today, nothing serious and is expected to be fine.

The Vice President then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's report: nothing to report all is fine.

Treasurer's report: all is fine. All our accounts are balanced. A **Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was brought to the floor where it was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Webmaster's report: all is fine. He is still working on getting the club a better website.

ARES report: hurricane ARES exercise was conducted Saturday, May 6, 2017. Four locations were activated with temporary antennas and radios on both voice and digital. 53 messages were sent by 13 hams; an additional 4 participants were evaluators. 30 issues were identified for additional skills training and practiced such as, message handling, digital skills, and high-frequency operating. An article will be published in the June QST- North Florida newsletter. The next event is field day with the next exercise being on October 7, 2017 for the ARRL simulated emergency test. Thanks to all volunteers for participating. A big thank you goes out to Gordon Gibby KX4Z, for coordinating the exercise. Because of the exercise, some changes will be underway for the ARES net to include additional message handling practices. We will have training on this before making any on-air changes to the net. Training for HF radio and antenna set up is also being planned as a weekend for our block activity. This is still in the works, but likely at the EOC on a Saturday in June prior to field day. EOC improvements are underway with new radios and equipment for go kits, being ordered by emergency management. The kits will include a dual band radio, power supply, battery, headphones and a carrying case. The new NIFOG's have arrived, but only a limited number were delivered. As such, we must limit distribution to only the active ARES members who can deploy to a shelter or other ARES assignments. The NIFOG is a booklet for operators to refer to during exercises and actual emergencies, it is published by Homeland Security. The next ARES meeting will be held Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at the Red Cross building at 1425 NW. 6th St., Gainesville, FL. The meeting starts at 7 PM if you wish you can get there at 6 PM for a social hour. We're planning to do training with EASYTERM and PSK31.

Repeater Trustee/VP report: the repeaters are working fine.

New business: Larry Rovak spoke, he showed us our new banners that were designed by Jane Dominguez, Allan West's wife, they will be used at all our public events. Thank you very much Jane. Hamfest being such a big success put the club well on its way to having a "black" year. The executive board decided that our next Hamfest will be held on April 21, 2018 which is a Saturday, to not conflict with UF graduation, Larry also said that most of the 2017 vendors are interested in coming back.

May's program: was put on by Ron Smith KJ4HBF. It was very interesting, thank you very much Ron.

Field day June 24 and 25th 2017: there will be two work days tentatively planned for the first and third Saturdays in June. Please volunteer if you are able, thank you.

A Motion to adjourn was put on the floor it was seconded and unanimously approved at 7:50 PM.

Gregory C. Sporer Secretary