

GAINESVILLE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

November 18, 2015

A meeting of the General Membership of the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at the AvMed Building, 4300 N.W. 89th Blvd., Gainesville, Florida. The meeting was called to order by the President, Pete Winters, W4GHP, at 6:40 PM.

The President led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the introduction of the members and guests. Approximately thirty people were in attendance.

The sickness and health report was delivered. The President commented that Walt Johnson, W4TKE, is doing well.

The Secretary, Sam Ullman, K4ZVD, delivered his report.

The Treasurer, Susan Tipton, K9PDL, delivered her report. She announced the GARS 2016 dues in the amount of \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families can be paid at the present time. She also announced that ARRL dues are increasing for 2016 from \$39 to \$49. The old rate (\$39) will apply, however, if 2016 dues are paid during 2015. She also announced that GARS will get a "commission" payment for any members who pay their 2016 ARRL dues through GARS. Members are asked to speak directly to Susan for details.

The GARS Auxiliary delivered its report on the Holiday Party and Awards Banquet. GARS will provide turkeys and a few other items. Members are being asked to bring other food, including appetizers, side dishes and desserts, to the event. Debra Boal, KI4CVS, circulated a sign-up sheet for members to let the Committee know what side dishes each member will bring to the Party. The Party will be held at Waldo First Baptist Church on Thursday, December 17th, beginning at 6:30 PM.

The Webmaster, Bob Guertin, W1GLV, delivered his report.

The Repeater Trustee, Shannon Boal, K4GLM, delivered his report.

The Vice President, Jeff Capehart, W4UFL, delivered his report. He noted that the Parity Act of 2015 had cleared Committee in the Senate. The next step will be a vote by the full Senate. He commented that Senator Bill Nelson, D. Fla., voted against the Act in Committee. He also noted that the 2015 Field Day results have been published in QST, and that the FCC URL system is operating again. Finally, he said that the HF antenna at the Red Cross headquarters needs some work.

The President called for old business. He announced that:

The fund-raising event originally planned for late 2015 at a local restaurant has been rescheduled to early 2016. Details will be announced.

Hal Helms, WA4QLA, the GARS Chief Information Officer, is working on a direct mailing from GARS to approximately 855 hams who reside in Alachua County inviting them to join GARS. Some hams from adjacent counties may be included in the mailing as well. The mailing itself looks like a QSL card. The mailing will take place in early 2016.

The Veterans Day event at Kanapaha Veterans Park was successful. GARS operated two HF stations. A helicopter landing and a parachutist had been scheduled, but were cancelled because of a low ceiling.

Larry Rovak, WB2SVB, and Hal Helms, WA4QLA, will serve as the Ham of the Year and Rusty Drainpipe Committee. Nominations can be sent either of them. The deadline is Wednesday, December 2nd, and can be either anonymous or signed.

Volunteers are needed to serve with the Vice President on the Program Committee for 2016. Kerry Grubel, KG4LQK, will serve on the Committee, but additional volunteers are needed.

Operation Santa Delivery is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th. Hal Helms, WA4QLA, and Faye Helms, KM4HXM, will serve as Co-Chairs for the GARS participation in the event. Volunteers are needed.

The next order of business was election of officers and directors for the year 2016. The Board consists of nine members. The four elected officers automatically serve as directors. So five additional directors must be elected as well. The following were elected:

Officers:

President - Pete Winters W4GHP

Directors:

Shannon Boal K4GLM

Vice President - Bob Guertin W1GLV
Treasurer - Susan Tipton K9PDL
Secretary - Sam Ullman K4ZVD

Jeff Caphart W4UFL
Hal Helms WA4QLA
Larry Rovak WB2SVB
Ronnie Smith KJ4HBF

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, adjourned.

Samuel C. Ullman, Secretary