

GAINESVILLE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP February 17, 2016

A meeting of the General Membership of the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 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 twenty-five people were in attendance.

The sickness and health report was delivered.

Bob Guertin, W1GLV, presented the program on the subject of antennas suitable for backpacking. Specifically, he discussed and demonstrated the J Pole and the Buddipole.

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

The Treasurer, Susan Tipton, K9PDL, delivered her report.

The Webmaster, Bob Guertin, W1GLV, delivered his report. He said the photos are on the website from the Winter Field Day event. He also said that some information on antennas will be in the website soon in a section known as the "Technical Corner". Other information will be available in the Technical Corner as well.

The repeater Trustee, Shannon Boal, K4GLM, delivered his report. He discussed a "squelch" problem on the .985 repeater. Larry Rovak, WB2SVB, has found a "patch" that should address the problem.

Alan West, WA4JD, announced that the Five Points of Life Marathon will be held this Sunday, February 21st. He is in charge of communications for the event, and GARS has had enough members volunteer to fill all the slots.

Jeff Capehart, W4UFL, delivered a report on ARES/RACES activities. The primary subject of discussion was the antenna at the Red Cross building. GARS will do

the work for replacing the existing antenna if Red Cross will provide the antenna, parts, etc. The amount Red Cross will spend, considering the antenna it wants, is under discussion.

The President called for Old Business.

The President announced that Winter Field Day had been successful.

The President announced that the membership drive will be held in March. The QSL postcard will be sent to all hams in Alachua County (approximately 890) on or before March 4th.

The President called for New Business.

The President announced that he had spoke n to David Linn of the National Association for the Blind about the Easter Egg Hunt. The Association uses Easter eggs that emit a sound enabling children without sight to locate them and participate in the Hunt. The same eggs are used year after year. GARS has traditionally done repair work on the eggs prior to the Hunt. Mr. Linn told the President that the Association has acquired 750 new eggs to be used this year and in future years, so no repairs would be needed this year. He added, however, that our services will likely be needed in future years.

The GARS Hamfest is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd, and will be held at the Waldo First Baptist Church.

Summer Field day will be held the last week in June. GARS has asked Gethsemane Lutheran Church if it can use the field adjacent to the Church again this year. He expects the request to be granted.

The President delivered his report. He announced that the program for March has been set. That program is important because the meeting will likely include hams who attend in response to the membership drive QSL postcard. He also reported on the recent Orlando Hamcation, which included the Annual Meeting of the ARRL. Finally he led a discussion of Winter Field Day, including a discussion of the logging procedures.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Samuel C. Ullman, Secretary

