

Gainesville Amateur Radio Society

Minutes of the meeting of The General Membership January 18, 2017

A meeting of the general membership of the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017. The meeting was called to order by the President, Pete Winters W4GHP, at 6:30 PM. The President led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then had all of the attendees introduce themselves by name and call sign. There were 27 members and prospective members in attendance.

The sickness and health report was delivered. The President said that he had spoken to Walt Johnson, and that he sounds well and is getting better.

The Secretary, Gregory Sporer, KM4OCZ handed out sign in sheets and asked them all to be returned to him for a more accurate List of members.

The Treasurer, Susan Tipton K9PDL, had no treasury report for the month of December 2016 but November 2016 report was discussed. A motion to accept the budget was put on the floor it was seconded and unanimously accepted.

The Webmaster, Bob Guertin, W1GLV, reported that the website is working well and there have been no complaints.

Jeff Capehart, W4UFL, ARES coordinator, said that the meetings at the Red Cross will be on the second Wednesday of every month from now on. He is also meeting with various entities about fixing the digital antenna on Top of Beatty towers.

The Vice President & Repeater Trustee, Shannon Boal, K4GLM, reported that the repeaters are working and that the 985 has had its firmware updated.

Operation Santa Drop, was very successful this last December. Vann Chesney, AC4QS, said that 50 children got to speak to Santa or Mrs. Claus and that 14 members of the club showed up to volunteer for the event. Thank you all. People stopped at the booth asking for ham radio information.

Shannon brought up the Winter Field Day. He recommended checking out the website, <http://www.winterfieldday.com> to learn more about this event. He noted that it is no longer called SPARK, and is now run like a regular field day under the ARRL rules. He said that the solar weather will be good as well as the weather here on earth. The event will be held in Lochloosa Florida. A map of Lochloosa Park and directions to get there will be on the GARS website. <http://www.gars.net>. Set up will start at 9 AM. We need you to step up and volunteer, so that these events will be fun and successful.

Larry Rovack WB25VB, chairman of GARS Hamfest said that he has our flyer on every radio club website in the area which has given us a lot of advertising. He also said we need more tables. If you belong to a group or organization, and can borrow tables for free, please get with Larry. We will need about 100. You can even bring a table from home if you have one. We are getting a good response from vendors, and free tables are better than having to rent them. More information is available at www.gars.net/hamfest/hamfest.pdf. He also said that if you are going to Hamcation he needs volunteers to put flyers on cars windshields at the Hamcation parking lot.

Programs and events: We need a program coordinator. If you are interested in being the program coordinator, please get in touch with Pete or Bob. Bob said it is the responsibility of all the members of the club to step up and get more involved in the club and make a presentation. At February's meeting, members' names will be put in a hat, and the first drawing will be made. If your name is drawn, you will then have two months to develop a program that you can either present

yourself or get someone to present for you. The presentation only needs to be about 20 minutes long. You are not limited on the subject of your presentation, talk about what you like and what you know.

Pete announced that the Five Points of Life will be Sunday, February 26, 2017 and that the March for Babies will be Saturday, April 1, 2017. He then gave the floor to Allen West. Allen said that he needs to step down as coordinator of these two events after this year because of scheduling conflicts. He would like someone to shadow him this year to learn the job and hopefully take it over at the end of the year. This job does not have to be done by one person. If you are interested in stepping up and helping out with these two important events, please talk to Pete.

Our President, Pete has found us a new meeting place, which will be on a new meeting day. We will be meeting the third Tuesday of every month at the Trinity United Methodist church. This church is located near the corner of 53rd Ave. and 43rd St. in the Northwest part of Gainesville. There is enough room, tables and chairs are already set up, and we do not have to tear them down after our meetings. There are electronics in place for videos and PowerPoint presentations etc. We will be meeting in room E-211 which is on the second floor and there is an elevator. The first meeting in our new location will be February 21, 2017 which of course is a Tuesday. It will cost the club \$25 a meeting but according to Pete this is a great rate and the best one he has found.

Pete then introduced officer Earnest Graham of the Gainesville Police Department who gave a presentation on credit card & phone, mail & electronic scams and being taken advantage of by these new age criminal con artists.

President then put a motion on the floor to adjourn the meeting which ended at 8:25 PM.

Gregory Sporer, Secretary