

General Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2018

President Peter Winters called the March meeting of the Gainesville Amateur Radio Society General Membership meeting to order at 6:35 PM. He then led us in the pledge of allegiance, and proceeded with introductions. There were 28 people in attendance including some new members.

Sickness/Health and Welfare: We've suffered the loss of 2 longtime members of our club this past Sunday, March 11th. Sam Ullman, K4ZVD, and Edward Sills AF4VC. Both will be missed greatly by everyone who was lucky enough to know them in life. **God bless you both, and thank you for being in our lives. May we never forget.**

Walt Johnson is doing well and though it is hard for him to get in and out of bed and chairs he still gets around and his mind is very sharp. He is at the Tri-County Health and Rehabilitation Complex in Trenton Florida, and would appreciate a visit.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of those lost and ill.

Secretary's report: The secretary had nothing to report.

Webmaster's report: Bob reported that the obituaries are on our website.

ARES report: The March meeting was a great success; 16 GARS members were present amongst the rest of the members. The demonstration was on about shelter centers and how they run.

Wednesday, April 11 will be the next ARES meeting from 6 to 8:30 at the Red Cross main office in Gainesville. It should be interesting, it will be an exercise on wildfires in relationship to Amateur Radio. Lab and lunch will be held at Wendy's Saturday, April 24, 2:48 PM after lunch you will be building a lightning arrestor. Contact Jeff Capehart W4UFL. W4UFL@Hotmail.com.

Repeater trustee/VP: The repeaters 146.820 and 146.985 are fine. We are still in communication with WRUF in the hopes of separating the combined antenna for the 146.985 and 444.925 into two antennas, one for each repeater. The repeater trustee reported that there has moderate interest in tuning up the GARS 220 repeater. This repeater is located on the WCJB (TV20) tower on NW 43rd Street. Its frequency is 224.160, equipment to operate on this frequency is available and relatively inexpensive. Please contact Shannon Boal K4GLM. K4GLM@ARRL.net. For more information.

Vice President's report: Shannon had nothing to report from the VP's office.

President's report:

March for Babies, will be held Saturday, April 14, 2018 at Celebration Point shopping complex. It is expected that the event will start at the Bass Pro Shop outlet which is an event co-sponsor. Gus Clifton KK4ACA, is the GARS coordinator for this event. It is scheduled to start at 8 AM and possibly end by 10 AM. The event has changed from years past as it is only 4 miles long with water stations at each

mile marker. Gus indicated that he has most positions required filled, but could still use help. Please contact Gus at kk4aca@gmail.com if you are interested in helping him.

Hamfest: Larry WB2SVB the Hamfest Chairman, said that he is trying to be as close to the way we did last year. He is still looking for tables, and will let us know what else we need. If you have any questions please get a hold of him or Pete. Pete has advance tickets for \$5.00 tonight, the price goes up on Hamfest day to \$7.00.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer talked us through the February budget and let us know that the banks totals and her totals matched. She then talked a little bit about the March budget and what it held. She commented on membership dues. They will go into arrears as of March 31, 2018. There is no penalty for being late, but please try to pay before the end of the month. She also said that if you shop on smile.amazon.com this month we will get triple the donation that the club normally receives. The treasurer encouraged members to "go buy lots of stuff".

A Motion was put to the General Membership to accept the Treasurer's report as accurate and true it was seconded and approved.

New business:

ARRL Field Day: will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24th 2018. The Executive Board is in the process of reviewing several sites for this event. It is hoped that a site can be obtained which is more conducive to being comfortable in the Florida summer, more shade, less bugs, preferably indoors! The location is most likely to be announced at the April General Membership meeting. Shannon added that he is still hoping to have the event at Santa Fe college. He is still working things out with the head of their radio club.

Tonight's program:

Our guest speaker, Mr. Scott Roberts, KK4ECR. The Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Clay County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, and is also one of the 2 candidates for the ARRL North Florida Section Manager's position. The current manager, Steve Szabo, WB40MM, is retiring and will not be seeking re-election. He had no information on the other candidate.

Scott talked about the need for amateur radio clubs to change their way of thinking from being just radio operators during emergencies to serving the EOC's needs at the time of the emergency. Not just sit there and thinking that you are a ham and only a ham, and are willing to jump in and get your hands dirty doing whatever they need to get the job done. He also sang the praises of GARS, saying that our club is already doing this and has been doing this successfully for quite some time and that he also hears from others how willing we are to help and do what needs to be done. Also, other counties in clubs are trying to copy what we are doing.

Future programs:

April: Hamfest preparations. Our April meeting will be Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 PM.

May: open at present. Let Pete know what you want to talk about.

Seeing that there was no further business. **A Motion was put to the General Membership to adjourn our March meeting. It was seconded and approved at 8:05 PM.**

Have a happy Easter. May God bless you and God bless America.

Gregory C Sporer, Secretary GARS