

# TARC Meeting Roster and Minutes – 11 June 2018

Members present were:

Robby Workman, W9RLW  
Everett Sharp, N4CY  
Rusty Lee, AD4NW  
Cindy Lee, KE4ITS  
James Simms, KM4BQS  
Jack Rigsby, KC4LKT  
Wade Robbins, KM4VPK  
Dennis Plowman, KN4DQU  
Jeff Maxwell, KK4SXA  
Vince Busche, KG4EES  
Kevin Clark, KE8RA

Meeting was called to order by Jeff Maxwell at 1900 hours, at which time everyone introduced themselves with names and callsigns.

Jeff advised that we have 36 paid members as of today.

Old Business:

## Technician Class

The Technician class scheduled for the Fall is a definite “go” at this point; the dates and times are confirmed with DCH Northport and the Faucett Room is reserved:

September 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>; October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>

All of these will be at 1800 hours

Eddie Lary forwarded a list of eighteen (18) interested individuals from TEMA and Robby has a few more, with hopes of increasing that number more in the fall after school starts.

Robby suggested the club purchase ten (10) of the ARRL Tech Class manuals; the new (4<sup>th</sup>) edition manuals are now for sale on the ARRL site for ~\$30 each. They will be a little bit less expensive with an instructor discount, but they don't need to be purchased yet anyway. Shipping from ARRL is pretty fast, so they can be ordered in August, which gives us a little more time to explore other options, as someone suggested getting Gordon West's books instead.

Rusty Lee suggested that Robby contact Perry Wheless (K4CWW) with the UA Radio Club and see if he had any others that were interested in the class.

New Business

## Treasury Report

Jeff advised that according to Mike, all accounts are reconciled and the bank's records agree with ours.

## Net Manager

The net manager was not present, and Jeff seemed to think that Robby was filling in. Robby advised that as long as someone called the net last week (June 3<sup>rd</sup>), then everything was fine. :-)

Jeff suggested that we occasionally run Net Control for WAEN from the radio room at DCH, as otherwise the equipment there isn't ever really tested to be sure it's working. Everett pointed out that the 2m antenna was broken and as such there was lots of static in the receiver. It was generally agreed upon in the room that the 2m antenna needs to be fixed or replaced. No funds were allocated for such endeavor. Robby pointed out that in addition to exercising the radios at DCH, having net control there a bit early would afford an opportunity to relay local checkins to the Central Alabama Simplex Net if anyone were so inclined.

## Field Day

Our station callsign will be W4A

The current plan is to operate two stations targeting 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, and hopefully 6m depending on conditions. Wade Robbins inquired about the possibility of making contact with the ISS on Field Day. This sparked a bit of discussion about the circumstances and logistics required (ISS in the right place, proper antenna (maybe circular polarization), ability to track the ISS as it makes its pass, etcetera). He is going to do some research to determine whether to proceed; Everett advised that he would be working HF/6m and that an ISS contact would be welcome but someone else's responsibility.

Everett advised that he has two new antennas for Field Day; he is planning to have everyone interested meet on Wednesday, 6/20/2018 at 0700 in Civitan Park to hang the antennas and do some testing.

Unofficial gathering for kickoff of Field Day will be at 1630 on Friday, 6/22/2018 to work out a game plan, with actual antenna work beginning at 1800. Note that another group will be using the Civitan building on Friday night, but they will be inside and it shouldn't be a conflict with us. Saturday morning meet time is 0800.

Everett said he will bring a laptop with all of the logging software and such, but it would need a way to communicate with the other stuff (laptop?) and Tommy usually handles that. For the time being, we'll assume that Tommy will handle that again, but if that falls through, Robby will attempt to take care of it. If they just need a network for direct TCP/IP communication, then that's easy enough.

Discussion about food for Field Day occurred. Rusty Lee made a motion to allocated \$200 from the TARC budget for food and associated expenses. Robby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vince Busche and Robby will bring coolers for ice and drinks and such.

We will need a generator and extension cords OR we can use the utility power provided at the park (assuming we change our station class for the event). No decision in this regard was made.

Someone will need to bring trash bags.

Someone needs to contact the Northport Mayor, WVUA, and other local media about Field Day.

Meeting was adjourned at 1952.

Additional notes – not mentioned at meeting:

1. If I (rworkman) did my math correctly, the official Field Day times are as follows:  
Saturday at 1300 local time to Sunday at 1600 local time
2. I (rworkman) have 100' and 50' heavy duty (12 AWG) extension cords that I can bring if needed.
3. Preliminary research indicates that ISS listens on 145.800 and transmits on 144.490 and/or 145.200
4. Preliminary research indicates that ISS will be over Alabama around 1600 local time on Saturday, which is approximately three hours after Field Day officially begins. This is really too far out to make accurate predictions though...