

Tuscaloosa Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes for November 12th, 2018

Jeff Maxwell, KK4SXA, called the meeting to order and instructed individuals present to introduce themselves with call signs.

Members present were as follows:

Jeff Maxwell, KK4SXA	Tommy Howell, KG4MPU
Robby Workman, AC4RW	James Simms, KM4BQS
Jack Rigsby, KC4LKT	Stan Lee, KF4DGS
Wade Robbins, KM4VPK	Bill Engelke, AB4EJ
Vince Busche, KG4EES	Barry Newsom, KN4JEL

Old Business:

Jeff (KK4SXA) asked if Tommy (KG4MPU) planned to continue as Repeater Trustee; Tommy answered affirmatively.

Jeff (KK4SXA) asked if Robby (AC4RW) planned to continue as Net Manager; Robby answered affirmatively.

Jeff (KK4SXA) stated that David Prestridge does not plan to run again as Vice President and opened the floor to nominations. Robby (AC4RW) was nominated to serve in this position and accepted the nomination.

Jeff (KK4SXA) expressed some concern about the Net Manager and Vice President potentially being the same person, with the context being that it was a lot of work for one person. Robby (AC4RW) advised that it should be doable.

Jeff (KK4SXA) stated that as far as he was aware, Mike (KI4OXX) wished to continue in his role as Secretary/Treasurer. However, no official nomination to that effect was made.

Jeff (KK4SXA) then stated that he would continue on as President, and further stated that nominations for club officers was closed. No official nomination for President was made, nor was (at this time) a motion made or voted upon to close nominations.

Jeff (KK4SXA) then asked Tommy (KG4MPU) about the status of internet at the repeater site. Tommy stated that Comcast required a \$200 installation fee and ongoing charge of \$80 per month, which was in his opinion not a viable option for the club. Other options are and will be investigated.

Editor's note: Does anyone have any friends at T-Mobile or AT&T or Verizon?

Stan (KF4DGS) asked about the Christmas Party plans and stated that the other location option he proposed at the last meeting was no longer viable. After some discussion, it was decided that the Christmas Party would remain at Billy's in downtown Northport. It is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11th, 2018 from 6PM to 8PM.

Jeff (KK4SXA) asked Robby (AC4RW) for a status report on the West Alabama Emergency Net. Robby stated that we usually have around 25 or 30 checkins on any given night, but more would certainly be better, and encouraged everyone to check in on other area nets and try to get some more exposure for WAEN.

New Business:

Stan (KF4DGS) gave a short update on the Black Warrior Hamfest scheduled for May 2019. He advised that MFJ has donated several nice door prizes. He also clarified (in response to a question) that tables will only be sold to ham-related vendors; BWHF does not wish to have “trinket tables” and such at the fest.

Bill (AB4EJ) reported on efforts he is undertaking as part of his employment to improve disaster response and coordination within the Florida panhandle, Alabama, and Mississippi, as it pertains to amateur radio. There is a perception among many or even most public safety agencies that amateur radio is no longer needed since the APCO P-25 system has come online and interoperability is built into the system. Some commentary centered on the importance of amateur operators finding a niche that is both beneficial for public safety and allows us to make use of our skills. Stan (KF4DGS) suggested that Bill contact N0QWM (Bill Mayfield) about WinLink2000.

Presentation:

Robby (AC4RW) gave a short talk on DMR in amateur radio, introducing the protocol’s history and some implementation details.

Closing:

Jeff (KK4SXA) indicated that the meeting was about to close. Robby (AC4RW) pointed out that nominations for President had not yet been requested, nor was a motion made and voted upon to close nominations. Jeff asked for a motion to close nominations, and James (KM4BQS) moved to do so. The motion may have been seconded, but it is unknown who did so. Two hands were observed to be up when “All in favor?” was asked, and at least two, maybe three, hands were observed to be up when “Any opposed?” was asked. Jeff then stated that the motion carried and nominations were closed.

Jeff (KK4SXA) then adjourned the meeting. Note that no votes were requested or made for club officers.