

South Baldwin Amateur Radio Club (KI4ELU)

PO Box 491
Robertsdale, AL 36567

March 16, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Club Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 hours by President Rich Lee. There were 19 members, 4 visitors. The pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was lead by Ray Sturch.

Rich introduced himself as the new SBARC president, replacing Bill Dionne, who resigned from the club in February of this year. It was noted that a quorum was present so that club business could be conducted. Rich also asked each member to let the Secretary know if they had had any change to their personal information so that the club roster could be brought current. Members were also reminded that the current year dues are now due, and that dues must be current so that a member can vote on club business.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasure's report showed a balance in the checking account of \$3844.06 and a savings account balance of \$676.23. The treasurer then asked the president to give him some direction as to the preferred source of funds for repairs to the club repeater equipment; i.e., from which account should this type of expense be debited. The consensus from the club leadership was that all repair costs for such should come from the club's savings account, the so called "repeater account".

VE Report:

Rich Lee reported that there were no candidates for the most recent amateur radio license testing session.

Old Business:

Club participation with the ARRL annual Field Day event in June was discussed. Some members felt that it was already too close to the event date to schedule a large scale, club sponsored activity, while others felt that a limited event could still be planned and executed. Rich noted that club members could participate as individuals from the home QTH in lieu of a club sponsored gathering. The Secretary then asked for a show of support from the members present for conducting a club sponsored Field Day event this year, and there was none. As a result, it appeared likely that the club will not sponsor and conduct a formal club managed event this year.

New Business:

Rich Lee spoke to the changes in club leadership that had taken place in recent weeks. Rich reported that past president Bill Dionne had stepped down from his role and resigned from the club. As a result, Rich, as Vice-president, was asked by the board to fill this vacancy. Additionally, club member and trustee Dave Hottel had also resigned from the club and as such, the board met and appointed Ray Sturch to take Dave's place as trustee. Finally with the position of vice president open, Ron Thomas was elected by the board to fill this vacancy. All of these positions will be open for re-election in November of this year.

Rich Lee then asked the club secretary, Joe McIntosh, to speak to the topic of liability insurance for the club in 2017.

Joe reported that the club had discussed the benefits of, and authorized the purchase of liability insurance in 2015. In 2016, the re-purchase of insurance was over looked, and now in 2017, a new policy had been purchased by Joe in February. This purchase was made from the ARRL after consulting with the then past President Robert Frye and then current president Bill Dionne. After the purchase was made however, there was some individual discussions as to whether the purchase had been properly authorized by the club. As a result of these discussions, the topic was brought up and reviewed at the March board meeting. The conclusion of the board was that such insurance had a clear benefit to the club, and was recommended. With this as a background, Joe asked for comments from the members present. All comments were positive for the continuation of such insurance. A vote of active members was taken, and a motion to continue the insurance was approved with no objections.

Good of the Club:

Rich Lee spoke to the activities currently participated in and sponsored by the club. It is hoped that this information would help current club members to recruit new members, especially young persons who might be interested in our hobby. Tom Phipps mentioned that a Makers Fair would be held at the Barnes and Noble book store in Spanish Fort, on November 5th at 12 pm; and that this would be a great opportunity for the club to setup a station with working equipment and show off our hobby.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Ray Sturch.

Program:

Ron Thomas gave a presentation on creating and programming an AREDN network node. Ron was assisted by Craig Warnol and together they demonstrated the steps required to re-program a Ubiquiti Rocket network device for ham use. This process involved flashing the router's BIOS so that the device could operate on amateur radio assigned frequencies.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Joe McIntosh, K4JOM
Secretary