

**South Baldwin Amateur Radio Club (KI4ELU)**

PO Box 491  
Robertsdale, AL 36567

May 19, 2017

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Club Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 hours by President Rich Lee. There were 14 members and 1 visitor present. The pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said.

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.

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The regular meeting order was halted so that Joel Emmett could speak to the club regarding the upcoming Baldwin County SET event. This event allows for our amateur radio club and community to practice it's response procedures in conjunction with the Baldwin county EMA, should there be a natural disaster. The event will be held on Wednesday, May 31st. Joel covered the purpose and structure of this test, as well as the role of our club members. Joe McIntosh rose to speak to the members regarding the need for participation as roving eyes and ears who would report damage assessments to the county EMA officials. Scott Wallace also rose to speak to the need for our participation for this event. He also spoke briefly regarding the history and importance of the EMA / Amateur Radio community collaboration.

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After Scott's presentation, the meeting continued.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer Charles Vasut was not able to make the meeting but did submit the following report: the checking account showed a balance of \$3794.52 and the savings account showed a balance of \$637.93. Dues were received from Thomas Cook KW4X and Charles Hellebusch WB4DLW.

**VE Report:**

Rich Lee reported that there were 2 candidates for Tech licensing tested in May. Both passed their test.

**Old Business:**

Tom Phipps reported that he had completed creating a CHIRP file for programming 2 meter equipment, and that this file along with instructions had been forwarded to Emery Wooten for uploading to our club website. Tom also noted that he had a collection of various cables which could be loaned out for connecting the operator's 2 meter radio to their home computer.

**New Business:**

None mentioned.

**Good of the Club:**

Bob Fitch spoke briefly regarding a situation where hams in Wisconsin aided the local EMA and first responders in that state after a tornado struck the area. His comments were in response to the request for volunteers to help with our own SET event.

Rich Lee spoke to remind the members of the upcoming Alabama QSO party, to be held June 3rd and 4th.

Robert Frye reminded the members of lunch get together at Big Daddy's grill on Fish River, on May 25th at 2:00 pm.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Rich Lee. His winnings were donated to the repeater fund.

**Program:**

Rich Lee gave the program for May and detailed a new digital mode called FSQ. This mode, also called Fast Simple QSO, is an amateur radio digital modulation mode developed by Con Wassilieff, ZL2AFP, with Murray Greenman, ZL1BPU, in 2015. FSQ is used on HF on fixed frequency channels. VHF adaptations of FSQ are also supported using VHF FM. FSQ uses IFK+ and has an efficient alphabet encoding so that there is no need for syncing.

FSQ is intended for fixed frequency (channelized) operation, with dedicated calling frequencies. It isn't intended as a 'tune around to see what you can find' mode!

FSQ is essentially a speeded-up version of the weak-signal mode WSQ2, introduced in 2013. It also uses 33 tones, in this case spaced 9Hz apart, resulting in a signal bandwidth of 300Hz, including the keying sidebands. The modulation is constant amplitude, phase coherent MFSK, using IFK+ coding with 32 frequency differences, yielding 32 unique codes. This means that each symbol carries enough information for all lower case letters to be expressed in just one symbol, which greatly enhances the speed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted  
Joe McIntosh, K4JOM  
Secretary