

**MOUNTAIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MARC)
101 South Main Street #8-323
Hiawassee, Georgia 30546**

**May 4, 2015
35th Meeting Minutes**

HANDOUTS:

- (a) Agenda
- (b) Minutes of April meeting
- (c) MARC Member Interest Survey
- (d) 2015 Chairman's Philosophy

ROLL CALL:

Gary Baker – N8RET
Bob Bonnet - KI4NRZ
Jim Hazen - K4SMW (President)
Alton Higgins - W4VFZ (Emergency Coordinator)
Chuck Luca - KK4ZXH
Beth McEwen - KM4GRQ
Arthur Mott - WA5JFT
Duane Mowrey - KM4CWM (Secretary)
Gigi Smith - KI4OYJ (Treasurer)
Bob Wilton- KF5TPQ (Vice President)

CALL TO ORDER:

Jim Hazen called meeting to order welcoming members. It was stated the by-laws require 1/3 of voting members present for a quorum. The dues paid membership will need to be finalized to determine quorum. There was a brief discussion regarding associate membership. There was a consensus associate membership should be encouraged. Associates would be able to participate in club activities, but would not have voting privileges.

MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL:

A copy of the April meeting minutes were distributed to members and posted on the web page prior to the meeting. The minutes were available at the meeting and approved by members present. Duane Mowrey indicated the minutes would be distributed along with the upcoming meeting announcement the week prior to the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gigi Smith provided the Treasurer's reported with an ending balance of \$878.22. The increase over last month's report was due to membership renewal. Treasurer's Report was approved by voting members.

OTHER REPORTS:

- (a) **Membership dues status** – Jim stated the by-laws required membership renewal and roster update be completed by May 1st. The April meeting minutes and May meeting announcement was distributed to all current and former members as a reminder to renew their membership. It was expressed, several members, including founding members would need to be individually contacted as a courtesy to determine their intentions. Jim indicated he would like a final roster by the June meeting.
- (b) **Repeater Status** – Alton Higgins gave a report on current repeater status. It was expressed the contractor located in Franklin, North Carolina was hired by Towns County to be responsible for county radio equipment, antenna, and transfer switch repair/maintenance. It was stated the annunciator which notifies the 911 center whenever the emergency generator switches on does not function.
- (c) **Wildfire Exercise** – It was reported MARC was dropped from participating in the Firewise exercise as a group. Alton Higgins reported he received a call at 9:00 a..m. Saturday morning, May 2, 2015, and was asked to report to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Alton gave an overview of the exercise which included a house fire, medical emergency, and accident on highway 76. Alton discussed and recommended an ARES net notifier system to contact MARC members in the event of emergency.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- (a) Jim Hazen expressed club appreciation to Arthur Mott for his dedication during the 2014 Presidential term.
- (b) Duane Mowrey proposed reorganization of club records so all monthly meeting documentation was grouped together behind a monthly tab. Members concurred reorganization would simplify audit and review of monthly meetings.
- (c) **South Cars Picnic** – Alton Higgins gave an overview of the South Cars Net having an annual covered dish picnic at Georgia Mountain Fairground the weekend of June 12-13, 2015. Activities include the picnic, station operation, and flea market.
- (d) **Ham Fest** – The Dayton Ham Fest event was announced.
- (e) **Field Day** - Hosting a Towns County Field Day received extensive discussion. It was felt this would provide new hams valuable training/experience and serve as a recruitment tool. Several possible locations were discussed, with emphasis on a strategic, accessible, and visible location to attract community members. The equipment needs, such as emergency power, shelter, antennas and radios was discussed. The Field Day recognition criteria was also discussed. There was a general consensus MARC should participate in a Field Day event to make a club showing.
- (f) Gary Baker provided members information regarding a source for a 2 meter, roll-up J-pole antenna. Gary had brought an antenna to a previous meeting and presented it to interested members. The antennas are made by Dan Tidwell who can be reached at 706-994-2222.

OLD BUSINESS:

Radio Room renovation – renovation of the radio room received further discussion. There was a consensus the radio room would serve better as a county emergency amateur radio communication center than an alternate personal ham shack. It was expressed most members have radio equipment at home in a private and comfortable setting. There was a consensus it was undesirable to drive into town and use the radio room during hours when HF bands would be open. Removing the UPS back-up system and related electrical disconnects was discussed to create more room. Since the UPS was county property, it was felt Alton should discuss and coordinate removal with the County Commissioner. It was estimated counter and shelf fabrication would cost \$400.

Member Interest Survey – Jim reviewed the results of the member interest survey distributed at the April meeting. The results indicated county emergency communication received overwhelming interest. Programming equipment, problem solving, and installing station equipment received the second and third highest interest.

Jim also distributed the 2015 Chairman's Philosophy with the interest survey. Jim indicated he wanted the club to meet the needs of members, provide training and activities members wanted that prepared membership for emergency communications.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Wilton presented a bill for the MARC for annual web hosting service and domain registration. Bob had paid the expense and reimbursement was approved.

The purchase of a quality projection screen to enhance training sessions was discussed. Bob Wilton provided information regarding options, prices and sources. An open wall to mount the screen was identified and a maximum width was determined. Bob was authorized to find and purchase a screen at a competitive price.

Establishing a member photograph board was discussed. It was suggested the board be maintained on a wall in the radio room for confidentiality.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting will be on June 1, 2015, at 6:30 P.M.

CALL FOR MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Jim Hazen called for motion to adjourn at 8:30 P.M.

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