

Active Amateurs Radio Group - General Meeting (01/16/2025)

Quick recap

The team discussed various topics including music, radio communication, and technical difficulties with audio and video connections. They also discussed the current board's status, the upcoming AI event, and the potential location for the winter field day event. Lastly, they discussed individual projects, the group's progress, and the challenges of maintaining a website for ham radio enthusiasts.

Next steps - summary

- Glenn to contact Pete to discuss digital radio options for improving his connection to the repeater.
- Howard to set up the APRS iGate/Digipeater at Justin's house.
- Board members to continue in their current roles until the club reaches 100 members or the next election in January.
- All members to log into the website to access additional member-only content.
- All members to check their email subscriptions on the website to ensure they receive meeting reminders.
- Nick to continue assisting members with technical issues, such as hotspot configurations.
- Howard to continue developing and sharing information about the APRS Igate/Digipeater project.
- All members to help increase membership towards the goal of over 100 members by 2025.

Summary

Board Status

The team discussed the current board's status. They decided to continue with the current board until they reach a hundred members, at which point they will hold an election. The team also discussed the possibility of filling Justin's position, with Glenn suggesting that they could ask Justin for a recommendation. The team agreed to keep the meetings open to the public, as they are currently. Howard expressed interest in seeing the mailing list, Glenn will provide a membership list from the website. The team also discussed the goal of reaching a hundred members.

Website Progress

The idea of creating an interactive section (forum) on the website for members to share updates was discussed, but Glenn noted that the forum would need to be pre-populated with content. The team also considered separating the business aspect of the member meeting from the fun activities, but decided to keep it as a single meeting. Finally, they welcomed new members to the meeting and prepared to start the meeting proper.

Club Progress and Membership Update

In the meeting, Howard, the president of the Active Amateurs Radio Group, discussed the group's progress, including obtaining a 501(c)(3) status and the creation of a constitution and bylaws. He also mentioned the establishment of focus groups and the growth of the group's monthly meetings. Jason, the vice president, discussed the potential location for the upcoming winter field day event and the possibility of integrating a POTA activation. Glenn, the secretary, presented the minutes of the previous meeting and discussed the approval of new members. Mark, the treasurer, provided a financial update, stating that the group is still in the black and is officially recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Howard then opened the floor for member discussion.

Website Donation System and Finances

Glenn and Mark discussed the website taking donations and its working fine. Donations from the website go into the club account. Sufficient funds are available to file all the needed IRS paperwork.

General discussion

Pete, a club member from Hilton Head, is having trouble reliably hitting the club's 300 repeater despite having a high gain antenna installed. Glenn suggests trying a digital repeater link instead. Pete will meet with Glenn the next day to troubleshoot the issue and make a donation to the club.

Nick asked about the type of radio used for the 300 machine, and Glenn confirmed it was an 857D. KF5CJG suggested linking to the Awendaw Repeater for better communication, but N4PHS mentioned he doesn't have a VHF radio in his car and uses a handheld with a small antenna.

The club holds monthly video meetings and approves new members, who then get access to additional website content. Glenn thanks another member named Nick for his contributions.

Glenn discussed his recent projects, including a Raspberry Pi 3 setup for DMR radio connection and a prototype board that pulls solar conditions data from the internet. He also shared his experience with a Raspberry Pi sound card and a USB hub for powering multiple devices. Howard then showcased his own APRS setup, explaining how it works and its capabilities, including position reporting and message transmission. Glenn asked questions about the identification and decoding of APRS transmissions, which Howard clarified.

Howard discussed the backup system he had set up, which was operational and on a shelf to his right. Glenn then shared about the HFQSO.com group, a web-based application for ham radio enthusiasts, which meets daily on four different bands.

The club members discuss various topics related to their group, including a website for HF radio communications, adding new members, and using Zoom for virtual meetings. Glenn mentions they currently have 54 members and aim to reach over 100 by 2025. A new member, Mark, joins the meeting and asks about displaying video on the phone version of Zoom. Other members provide guidance on how to view everyone's video. Another new member, Mark, introduces himself and shares that he lives in an area with poor repeater coverage.

Progress Update and Upcoming Activities

New members

The membership had an electronic vote and there were 7 candidates to become members of the club and all were approved by the membership as a result of the electronic vote.

New members:

- K4LBB Leon Bryan
- KD4BAO Anthony Carasea
- KE4KMD MARK CARAGHER
- KO4LMN Mark McMakin
- KO4WSC Patrick Ewen
- KQ4ZIM Nicholas Turoski
- N6IX Martin Murphy

Motion to END by Glenn W2ADX - 2nd Mark KK4NNY

START: 18:34 – END 19:54