

Active Amateurs Radio Group - General Meeting (02/20/2025)

Quick recap

The Active Amateurs Radio Group (AARG) discussed its ongoing efforts, the need for more contributions from members, and the establishment of working groups to achieve its mission. The group also explored ideas for public exposure, the formation of committees, and the use of a new local forum on their website. Lastly, the importance of engaging youth in amateur radio was emphasized, with plans to create a dedicated net for young people and connect with local schools to promote the hobby.

Next steps

- Justin to contact Deputy Goodwin about reaching out to Timberland High School and the middle school regarding ham radio programs.
- Jason and Justin to work on developing a membership questionnaire for new members.
- Howard to follow up on the ARRL affiliation application in 3-4 weeks if no response is received.
- Jason and Monroe to finalize plans and pricing for QSL cards, business cards, brochures, and signs.
- John and Chip to develop a plan for implementing a kids' ham radio net.
- Glenn to send out information about the March 13th AI for ham radio operators presentation.
- All members to review the club's mission in the constitution and bylaws and consider which working groups they can contribute to.
- Monroe to send Glenn information about POTA activations to be added to the club website.
- Monroe to conduct a POTA activation using the club call sign on the weekend of March 8th.
- Officers to discuss and approve budget for QSL cards, signs, and other promotional materials.
- Members to begin using and contributing to the new club forum on the website.

Summary

Board Status

Howard calls the meeting to order at 19:02 after a motion and second. Glenn (W2ADX) provides instructions on using Zoom controls for participation. The meeting begins with a good turnout of attendees, some of whom are joining from work. Howard updated the group on the progress of obtaining the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) affiliation and insurance. He submitted the application and is waiting for a response from the ARRL, expecting the approval within a few weeks.

AARG Progress and Future Plans

The meeting focused on the progress and future plans of the Active Amateurs Radio Group (AARG). Howard, emphasized the group's ongoing efforts and need for more contributions from members. A

key discussion revolved around the alignment of the group's mission with its members' views and the establishment of working groups to achieve it. The Treasurer, Mark, highlighted the need for a fundraising committee and a knowledge database on the members' skills and interests. The concept of a monthly "POTA Day" was also introduced, with Monroe leading the discussion. The conversation ended with an open invitation for any further discussions or concerns.

Monroe proposed an idea to include AARG membership into a club environment for operating in Parks on the Air (POTA). This would involve meeting once a month, coinciding with the second Saturday of the month, for a weekend of POTA operations using the club call sign. He emphasized that members can participate solo or with others, and it's not just about representing the club but also getting personal credit. Monroe suggested reaching out for more details and encouraged club members to start activations in March. Nick suggested considering a club-set POTA equipment for those who don't have their own.

Promoting Active Amateurs Radio Group

In the meeting, Jason discussed the importance of public exposure for the Active Amateurs Radio Group. He suggested using yard signs, banners, and business cards to promote the group and its activities. He also mentioned the potential of using QSL cards to reach out to other operators. Jason emphasized the need to grow the group and ham radio in general, not just to attract new members but also to maintain a healthy level of activity. He also mentioned some ongoing projects and plans to discuss them further in an officers meeting.

Club Mission, Brochures, and Donations

In the meeting, Howard led the discussion and thanked Jason for his input. Ronnie suggested the idea of creating a brochure or trifold to share the club's mission and information. Nick proposed the idea of having business cards with the club's information for members to carry. Howard agreed to this idea and thanked Nick for his suggestion. The team also discussed the possibility of accepting donations of equipment and gear, with Glenn explaining the process on the website. Finally, Justin was assigned to lead the working groups to support the club's mission.

Committee Formation and Responsibilities

In the meeting, Justin KK4MSA discussed the formation of committees for the organization, including the Membership Committee, Communication and Emergency Response Committee, and the Technical Committee. Jason agreed to chair the Membership Committee, with Nicholas KQ. 4. Zim volunteering to assist. The Membership Committee will be responsible for QSL cards, postcards, banners, and a new member questionnaire. The Funds Committee will handle public relations and promotional work. The Technical Committee will focus on antennas and related technical aspects. Howard appreciated the work put into the committee formation and encouraged volunteers to join.

Introducing New Local Forum Platform

Glenn presented a new local forum on their website, designed to replace Facebook as a platform for sharing information. The forum is accessible only to logged-in members and allows for the creation of profiles, posting of updates, and subscribing to topics for email notifications. Glenn

emphasized the importance of maintaining the forum by regularly posting updates and encouraged all members to contribute. He also mentioned plans to add a chat feature for real-time discussions. The forum is currently in its early stages, with 56 members and 10 forums, and Glenn encouraged everyone to participate and make it a valuable resource for the club.

Website Changes and New Member Approval

Howard presented the officers' reports, highlighting the progress of working groups and the potential affiliation with AARL. Jason shared his experiences with converting family members into ham operators and the positive response to his ideas. The group then voted to approve a new member, Jamie Finch, and discussed the treasurer's report, which showed \$181 in donations and \$483 in the bank. The need for insurance was also discussed, with a plan to use \$200 from the bank for this purpose.

Engaging Youth in Amateur Radio

The group discusses the importance of engaging youth in amateur radio. Rick suggests creating a dedicated net for young people, which is met with enthusiasm. Members share experiences of interacting with young radio operators and school radio clubs. They agree to explore ways to connect with local schools and promote amateur radio to students.

New members

The membership had an electronic vote and there were 1 candidates to become members of the club and all were approved by the membership as a result of the electronic vote.

New members:

- Jamie Finch - KQ4URO

Motion to END by Glenn W2ADX - 2nd Mark KK4NNY

START: 18:40 – END 20:22