

## Active Amateurs Radio Group - General Meeting (03/20/2025)

### Quick recap

The meeting began with informal discussions and technical issues before transitioning to formal business, including addressing past incidents, reviewing minutes, and discussing various club initiatives and projects. The group covered topics such as ARRL affiliation, insurance, logo design, ham radio programs for schools, and the development of a membership questionnaire. The conversation ended with updates on recent activities, discussions about emergency communications, and plans for future events and initiatives, emphasizing the importance of member engagement and accurate contact information.

### Next steps

- Glenn to add a Forum tab to the website for members who can't currently see it.
- Glenn to create additional forum sections as requested by members.
- Glenn to prepare and deliver a presentation on APRS.
- Howard to provide an update on the member list to Justin within a few days.
- Justin to send the 9-10 question membership questionnaire to Glenn.
- Glenn to adapt the membership questionnaire for the website.
- Howard to research ARRL funding available to affiliated clubs.
- Jason and Monroe to finalize plans and pricing for QSL cards, business cards, brochures, and signs.
- Howard to determine where the club's Winter Field Day score ranks among all participants.
- Nicholas to lead efforts in engaging with middle school students for amateur radio activities.
- Mark (KK4NNY) to organize a kids' day event in June, possibly combining it with a POTA activation.
- John and Charles to plan a disaster and search and rescue drill.
- Justin and Logan to scout locations for a National Forest event tomorrow.
- Mark (KE4KMD) to consider assisting with drone operations for the planned National Forest event.
- Howard and Glenn to finalize a plan for sharing member contact information while respecting privacy concerns.
- Chip and John to add the 910 CARA club net and 805 Orangeburg ARES net to the net schedule.

## Summary

### Pre meeting - Discussion and Technical Issues

The meeting begins informally, a new participant, Ron Montgomery, attempts to join, but the group is unsure of his membership status and does not admit him as he is not yet a member. Howard joins and mentions issues with his Zoom display name. The participants also discuss improvements in Jason's video quality and his recent internet connectivity upgrades. The meeting appears to be transitioning to more formal business as Howard mentions having the previous meeting's minutes ready for review.

### Addressing Incidents and Legal Issues

The team discussed the need for a release of liability for attendees at events and the importance of adhering to the club's bylaws. They also discussed the possibility of implementing a blanket waiver for all members to cover potential legal issues. This topic ended and handed over the discussion to Howard.

### AARG Members Meeting Agenda Review

The meeting began with Howard welcoming everyone and discussing the agenda for the monthly AARG members meeting. They reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and discussed several agenda items, including Justin's contact with Deputy Goodwin about reaching out to Timberland High School and the middle school regarding the ham radio programs. They also discussed the development of a membership questionnaire for new members. The team agreed to further discuss the target schools for their ham radio programs in a future meeting.

### Project Updates and Future Plans

The group discusses the status of various projects. Glenn needs the original questionnaire for new members resent to him. Howard confirms that the club has been approved for ARRL affiliation, with insurance effective March 24th, and he plans to research potential ARRL funding. Jason reports that the logo design for business cards and banners is finalized, but implementation is still in progress. He suggests visiting a sign shop for assistance with creating the materials. The group also discusses plans for a kids' ham radio net, which is still in the early stages of development. It is suggested that this net would be in addition to the regular nets, not replacing them.

## Club Mission, Constitution, and Activations

Howard discussed the club's mission, Constitution, and bylaws, encouraging members to review and consider contributing to working groups. Monroe reported on the club's POTA Activation, noting 281 QSOs and 68 parks hunted, with 22 of 51 possible states worked. He also mentioned the upcoming April 11th-13th activation and the club outing at Santee State Park. Howard ended the conversation by mentioning the upcoming board meeting to discuss the budget for QSL cards and banners.

## Club Forum and Ham Radio Progress

In the meeting, Howard reminded everyone to use and contribute to the new club forum on the website. KQ4NMY asked about the forum's location, and W2ADX guided them on how to access it. KM4YZZ discussed the progress on involving kids in ham radio, suggesting that Nicholas, a school teacher, should lead this initiative. Monroe shared that he now has bandpass filters for enhancing operating abilities. The meeting also covered the club's affiliation with the ARRL and the purchase of liability insurance. Lastly, Howard mentioned the availability of equipment insurance from the same company that provides liability insurance.

## Design Phase and Committee Updates

In the meeting, Howard and KK4MSA discussed the design phase for a project and the upcoming budget approval. They also talked about the Emergency Communications Committee and the successful switch of a repeater. The Events Committee, now led by Garth, was mentioned, and the need for volunteers and ideas was emphasized. The membership committee was also discussed, with Nick potentially taking charge. In the meeting, KK4MSA discussed the upcoming National Forest event, where they will plot a location for the event and two team members will have to stay back. They also plan to use a drone for the event.

## Utilizing the Forum for Various Topics

W2ADX discussed the functionality of the Forum, emphasizing its importance in maintaining its activity. He encouraged the team to utilize the Forum for various topics, including weather spotters and kids' activities. W2ADX also mentioned the possibility of creating separate forums for different subjects. He highlighted the need for regular updates to keep the Forum active. W2ADX also mentioned his upcoming presentation on APRS and AI, which he plans to make simple and informative. He invited the team to participate in the presentation for the Sumter Radio Club.

## Amateur Radio Contest Results and Kids Net

Howard discussed the results of the amateur radio contest, noting that their location, South Carolina, had 74 QSOs and a final score of 888. He also mentioned that the final scores were all over the board, ranging from 10 to 36,612. Howard will try to get the standings in numerical order and inform the team where they stand. He also mentioned the ongoing efforts to generate interest in amateur radio among the younger generation, with a focus on middle school and high school students. The team is working on a "Kids Net" and plans to make their way into a school, with the help of a teacher, KQ4ZIM Nicholas, who is a middle school teacher.

## ARRL Kids Day

The group also discussed the upcoming ARRL Kids Day weekend and the possibility of setting up a park activation. Additionally, there were technical difficulties with the meeting tools, particularly with the mute and raise hand functions.

## Club Member Contact Importance Discussed

In the meeting, KM4YZZ discussed the importance of having contact information for all club members, emphasizing the need for this information in case of a disaster. He also mentioned plans for a disaster and search and rescue drill. Howard thanked KM4YZZ for his comments and moved on to Nicholas, who had issues with his audio. Harmon expressed gratitude for Glenn's presentation and its impact on his use of AI. Mark then discussed the design of QSL cards and the importance of formatting them correctly for printing. The conversation ended with Howard asking for any further comments or questions.

## New Members approval

The meeting involved the approval of two new members, Jameson KR4BLE and Dave W1BLU, who were already familiar with the group. There was also a discussion about the voting process, with some members experiencing issues, but was resolved.

## Winterfield Day Results and Emergency Contacts

Howard then presented the results of the Winterfield Day, which placed them in the middle of the pack. A discussion about the importance of having accurate contact information for emergency situations. KM4YZZ shared a personal experience where he was unable to reach Mark during a fire incident. The conversation ended with a motion to close.

Motion to END by WW4HG - 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark KK4NNY and Jason KK4WBT

Mar 20, 2025, 06:32 PM - 08:03 PM (EDT)