

Active Amateurs Radio Group - General Meeting (05/15/2025)

Quick recap

The Active Amateurs Radio Group (AARG) held a monthly meeting to discuss various club activities, membership growth, and upcoming events. The group addressed technical issues, cybersecurity concerns, and updates on recent radio activations, while also exploring fundraising ideas and potential educational initiatives. Members shared reports on grants, treasurer updates, and communication strategies, concluding with discussions on future radio-related activities and events.

Next steps

- Howard to submit ARRL renewal with AARG club form attached for \$5 kickback to the club.
- Mark to create a PDF form for the "book of knowledge" and work with Glenn to set it up on the website.
- Glenn to add another email reminder 2-5 days before the meeting to increase response rates.
- Justin to follow up with Nick about space requirements for the school radio club.
- Monroe and Howard to continue planning for ARRL Field Day, including discussing extended hours with park rangers at Huger Recreation Area.
- Mark to organize a survey on the Facebook page about holiday dinner options.
- All members to spread the word about AARG membership to increase numbers.
- All members to prepare for hurricane season by charging emergency radios and checking supply bags.
- Mark to plan for ARRL Kids Day on June 21st, potentially combining with a POTA activation.
- Howard to follow up on potential fundraising ideas discussed in the meeting.

Summary

Officers Meeting and Membership Planning

Glenn, Jason, and Mark discussed the agenda for an upcoming meeting, including updates on Wi-Fi connectivity issues and email reminders. They agreed to hold a monthly officers meeting later, with Howard expected to join 10-15 minutes late. The group also talked about planning a holiday dinner for raffle winners and discussed the need to increase membership to reach a critical mass of 100 active members.

Technical and Cybersecurity Meeting Updates

The group discussed cybersecurity concerns, with Glenn sharing experiences of daily cyberattacks from foreign entities attempting to access AA radio group sites. The meeting was delayed slightly as participants joined and resolved audio/video issues.

AARG Monthly Meeting Summary

The monthly AARG meeting was held with a quorum present, though Howard was late and joined later. Monroe reported on the May POTA activation, which resulted in 33 contacts despite challenging solar conditions, bringing the club's total to 373 QSOs across 7 activations. The club has 60 members and set a goal to reach 100 by year-end for better operational capacity. Howard will lead the June 14th monthly get-together, and the club plans POTA activations for both June and Field Day at the end of the month. Jason and Mark completed the QSL cards and banner project, which are now available for distribution.

Boeing Grant and Radio Club Plans

Howard reported that Nicholas submitted paperwork for a Boeing grant that would go directly to the middle school, while another grant through ARRL would be applied for in June. The group discussed the existence of a radio club at Pinewood Elementary, a private school, and considered reaching out to alumni for more information. Mark presented fundraising ideas, including a raffle with various prizes and a potential holiday dinner, while Howard and Monroe discussed plans for the 2025 ARRL Field Day, considering the Huger recreational park as a possible location.

Amateur Radio Club Progress Update

The club meeting covered several updates and discussions. Howard reported distributing business cards and QSL cards, and mentioned the club's progress since November, including becoming ARRL certified and reaching 64 members. Jason discussed the need for a syllabus or plan for potential radio instruction at schools, and emphasized the importance of spreading the word about the club. Glenn highlighted the success of recent email communications, mentioning a 62% open rate, and discussed his presentation on AI for the Sumter Amateur Radio Club. Mark provided the treasurer's report, noting one recent donation and current cash on hand of \$196. The conversation ended with an open member discussion.

School Planning

KK4MSA/KQ4WOG discussed the Forestry Commission and suggested using online templates for the school syllabus. They also addressed the need for a small space for setting up equipment and mentioned that Nick was working on a school project.

KK4MSA/KQ4WOG provided advice on email response rates.

Amateur Radio Events and Planning

The meeting covered several topics related to amateur radio activities and events. Justin confirmed ownership of a radio that can be used at a school, while Monroe clarified that Patriots Point is a private park not part of the Parks on the Air program. Pete suggested exploring the possibility of incorporating radio activities into a middle school's curriculum, and Mark reminded everyone to prepare for hurricane season and participate in ARRL Kids Day on June 21st. The group discussed potential plans for Field Day and agreed to consider it as a get-together event, with June being a busy month for radio activities.

The conversation ended with a motion to close.

Motion to END by WW4HG - 2nd Mark KK4NNY and Jason KK4WBT

May 15, 2025, 18:27-20:00 (EDT)