

## Active Amateurs Radio Group - General Meeting (06/19/2025)

### Quick recap

The club meeting covered various operational updates including new member inductions, upcoming events like Kids Day and ARRL Field Day, and grant proposals for educational initiatives. Technical discussions focused on router performance improvements, printer replacements, and audio troubleshooting in Zoom meetings. Glenn presented a new solar weather website designed to help amateur radio operators understand propagation conditions, while the group also discussed QSL management and the need for officer backups.

### Next steps

- Monroe: Finalize the list of attendees and stations for Field Day next week
- Howard: Create Facebook post about ARRL Field Day event at Huger Recreation area on June 28-29
- Monroe: Plan for 4 stations setup on major bands plus a 5th VHF station for Field Day
- Howard: Contact Berkeley County officials to invite an elected official to Field Day for bonus points
- Monroe and Greg: Review and compile Field Day bonus scoring points criteria before activation day
- All Members: Bring extra batteries if available for Field Day operations
- Mark: Continue managing the raffle ticket sales
- Mark, Howard, Nick: Set up a meeting date after Memorial Day to discuss funding plans
- Mark: Prepare grant package for Dominion Energy education grant
- Howard: Consider and decide between Macedonia Middle and Monk's Corner Middle for next school radio club setup
- Howard: Tweak and resubmit ARRL grant proposal in November if current proposal is not approved
- Glenn: Work with Mark to fix his audio settings in Zoom
- Glenn: Post last month's meeting minutes for approval
- Glenn: Post raffle information and rules on the website
- Howard: Coordinate with members to find an indoor venue for December holiday dinner
- Howard: Plan July 19th monthly get-together location
- Monroe: Coordinate a group POTA outing in July as an alternative to regular monthly meeting

## Summary

### Solar CDX Website Beta Overview

Glenn announced he would be giving a presentation on the solar CDX website, which is currently in beta testing, and invited the group to join him for a 20-minute overview.

### QSL Management Discussion

The group focused on QSL management, with Glenn explaining he needs to set up both Logbook of the World and QRZ systems, though Monroe suggested having a designated QSL manager who could handle both platforms. Howard mentioned considering a vanity call sign, NA4ARG, which Monroe confirmed was available, though Glenn noted that managing multiple call signs could become complex.

### Club Events and Membership Updates

The club meeting began with 7 members present, discussing upcoming events. They confirmed two new members for voting later in the meeting. Howard reported on the June monthly gathering, which had 8 attendees, and detailed plans for Kids Day on June 21st at Monk's Corner Rec Center, where 3-4 members will set up portable stations. The club also discussed ARRL Field Day on June 28-29 at Huger Recreation area, where 4 members confirmed their attendance, and plans for the July monthly meeting on July 19th were briefly mentioned.

### POTA Activations and Group Planning

Monroe reported on the POTA (Parks On The Air) update, highlighting June's activations, including new parks and a successful 6-meter activation. Greg shared that his activation significantly increased the QRZ page lookups for KK4ZBE. Monroe expressed interest in organizing a larger group outing in July and emphasized the importance of 6-meter activity during Field Day. Howard provided updates on various working groups, including the Education Committee, POTA group, and Emergency Comms Committee, noting that John was unavailable due to work commitments.

### Grant Proposals and Fundraising Updates

Howard reported that Austin Middle School received a \$1,200 Boeing grant for amateur radio equipment, with approximately \$700 allocated for coax and donated equipment valued at \$1,400. Howard submitted a \$4,700 ARRL grant proposal for two clubs, with results expected by end of July, and plans to pursue another grant in November if this one is unsuccessful. Mark discussed funding initiatives including a Dominion Energy education

grant opportunity in August-September, and mentioned the need to establish a comms trailer study group to plan for communications trailer costs and maintenance. The club is also conducting a raffle with 100 tickets at \$10 each, offering prizes including a \$100 gift card, nano VNA, hotspot, and other amateur radio equipment.

## Field Day Planning

They planned a holiday dinner gathering, with Mark winning the survey for a covered dish event. The group agreed to meet after Memorial Day to set a date and venue, preferably at a church with kitchen facilities. Monroe and others discussed ARRL Field Day preparations, including setting up four stations on major bands and potentially a fifth for VHF operations. They also planned to work on bonus criteria and advertising through Facebook, with Monroe suggesting they might need extra batteries for the event.

## Kids Day and Community Engagement

The club discussed plans for Kids Day and emphasized the need for community engagement, with Howard noting the importance of logging visitor signatures for bonus points. Jason highlighted the positive impact of the olive branch initiative, involving radio setup for schools and the donation of a club to another. Glenn mentioned the need for backups for officers and encouraged members to run for positions in January elections. Mark reported on the club's financial status, including new radio donations, and Glenn and Mark planned to address audio issues during the next meeting. The conversation ended with a new member, Ted, ND3Q, joining and a motion to adjourn.

## Solar Weather Propagation Tool

Glenn presented a new website designed to help amateur radio operators understand how solar weather conditions affect HF radio propagation. The site provides real-time data from multiple sources, including NOAA, NASA, and other research institutions, and presents this information in an accessible way for both casual operators and more technical users. The site is currently in beta testing and will be released to the broader ham community.

## New members

New members KQ4ASH, KR4ZXE was approved via survey

The conversation ended with a motion to close.

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

June 19, 2025, 18:37-20:51 (EDT)