

# AJARC

## Meeting Agenda April 2, 2024

Location: Greene County Fairgrounds, 123 Fairgrounds Ln, Greeneville, TN 37745

Present: 21 Members, 2 Guest, Meeting led by Bryan Smith (AA4BS).

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 19:00 pm

### Meeting

1. **Meeting called to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and a prayer.**
2. **Roll call of attendees/call signs**
3. **Secretary/Treasurer report** by Allie Peet, AA4IM

Checking balance: April 2, 2024 \$6,800.17

Membership: 62 members and 21 members is a quorum. Donations or renewal of memberships can be done through PayPal or by check. Currently 3 expired memberships, with 6 coming up in April; please check on your membership on the AJARC.org web site.

### 4. Old business:

HamFest 2024: April 20th, 2024, 7a gates opening, and 730a Comm Bldg.

- Ian KE4EAC asked about the rate for the location rental. Discussion about the non-profit rate and price increase.
- Updates – Bryan Smith, AA4BS
  - got a few vendors talked with, quite a few signing up on the commercial building, and Bryan has also been in touch with the area clubs offering space and they're excited to attend. Getting good publicity and press about it. Hopefully, continue with that.
  - Anybody checks in with other nets and things, push the HamFest please. Relies on all of us to get the word out.
  - Concrete floor getting redone in the building, and looks great.
  - We've got set up on Friday 19th, 3 pm, until overnight. Need overnight security this year. Kyle Fortenberry, AE4DF volunteered. We have people that want to come, set-up, be here overnight, so got to make sure we take care of that. Anyone else let me know.
  - Foxhunt, plan on doing the Foxhunt again at the HamFest. Good response last year. Asked Dennis Dunn N4DWH if he was going to be at HamFest this year, and when Dennis aged, assigned Dennis to hide the Fox this year. We'll do two Foxes, and use one of the two door prizes for that for winning the Fox hunt.
  - Asked Allie AA4IM if have ordered the main prizes yet from GigaParts, she indicated waiting on a link from Bryan. He said that he'd send that, and we'll take care of that. Grand Prize and Chairman prize, we'll have that ready.
  - Catalyst Coffee is bringing their truck over, and do coffee and pastries and things. Food truck, John Price trying to help find someone. If anyone knows of one, have them get in contact with Bryan. Would like to get somebody.
  - Set up for the HamFest, Bone yard set, same as always. Bryan asked, "Do we need to sign this all up?"
    - Larry Whiteside KN4MVH and Larry White AG4OB volunteered to work the gate.
    - Dennis Dunn N4DWH and Scott Bird KM4FYJ doing the Bone yard.
    - Larry White AG4OB volunteered to take the talk in from his car.
    - Bryan said the John Brown KD4KFL would back him up on that one.
    - Building, Bryan said that he'd handle the commercial building like he did last year.

- Testing, Bob Gass N4FV handling testing? Bob confirmed, and said that he'd need help with that. Kyle Fortenberry AE4DF and Larry Whiteside KN4MVH volunteered to help Bob. Bob said that we'll have to be organized, and anyone not playing as a team player, will have to be told that; try to be as organized as possible this year.
- Larry KN4MVH asked we needed to move tables and chairs again like did last year? Bryan confirmed that, yes, we would; do that on Friday.
- Bryan moved on to talk about timing; 7 am, gates are open, commercial building opens at 7:30, but grounds open at 7 am. So, going to have to have a few people 6- 6:30 a. Catalyst is coming in; hoping to set them the night before, but they'll have to get in coffee brewing, and we've got vendors coming in at 7 a. And know we've got people planning on staying, just remember, got plenty to do. Parking, once we get parking started, don't think we'll need dedicated parking people. Be nice to have a few people to start, but once we get parking started, that's pretty much self-ran last year, after we get the cones set up and a few cars started in here. Anything else on HamFest?
- Donations and prizes: Larry Whiteside KN4MVH, we have over \$2000 in door prizes, maybe more. Trying to find out. Some confusion with one of the donors; Bioenno sent two sets of batteries (4 batteries and chargers). Question if antenna company came through; confirmed that Alpha Antenna did donate. DX Engineering, and a lot of good door prizes this year. Larry said that that number is before the Grand Prize and Chairman prize are included. A lot of support on that.
- Signage: Bob N4FV brought up topic, indicating need volunteers Friday afternoon, and Chris has a bunch at his house. Bryan said that he has a bunch as well, and will bring. Have sandwich boards again as well.
- Handicapped parking: Abner Richards K4MIK brought up dedicating a 4-wheeler to taking anyone who needs it. Handicapped parking located where holding meeting at the concrete bleachers.
- Spray paint: Steve Bible N7HPR asked if newer cans, since used up a bunch last year. Bryan said a few cans left. He'll look to see what we've got, and look at getting another case, as Ian recommended. Bryan has a whole stack of stuff that he'll be bringing.
- Cones: question raised if Bryan put coating on all of the cones? Bryan said "not yet." He also recommended a stencil and spray painted on all of them. Scott Bird KM4FYJ also said, "reflective paint."
- Larry Whiteside asked about getting flyers for the 2025 HamFest event, though general discussion was to not do that ahead. Steve Bible N7HPR mentioned that one really want to do are the vendors. Bryan said be good to get all of their names and email them.
- Ian Bible KE4EAC asked about the Business cards; Bryan said that he sent them off, though hasn't picked up yet. Ian was saying we could use those for this. Bryan said that should be able to do that.
- Dennis N4DWH asked what the gate fee is, and Bryan said \$10, and flea market space is \$5.

#### Tower /Repeater update:

- Updates – Bryan
  - Problem with 2M repeater. If turn off, noise goes away.
  - 6 was working until had power fluctuation the other day, so have to go figure that out.
  - 6 and UHF work independently; if turn the 2M back on, noise comes in on the 2M side. Don't know if we've got a repeater issue, if we've got a mix going on that's someone coming in with a strong signal on the 2M, we don't know. Steve N7HPR asked is same issue as before? Bryan replied, "Intermode mix comes and goes, and we don't know what's causing it."
  - Bryan asked if have enough people; Allie said short for a vote. Bryan bought a new repeater recently to upgrade his site. Bob bought one to upgrade his site. Guy called and

said screwed up and have one low power and one high power, can I ship it to you. Bryan said sure. Showed up to Bob's; it's a brand new Motorola XVR8400 High powered repeater, never been opened, never been programmed, still factory sealed from Motorola at a killer deal. Bryan called the guy back; it didn't have mixed mode in it which is what we were needing for what we were working on. Asked if he had another one? He said yes, with mixed modes. Bryan bought that one from him. So, Bob has a surplus repeater that is brand new from Motorola, never been used; so Bryan recommended that club buy it for what he has in it, under \$800 – like a \$3,000 unit. It is an older model. Bob has the receipt. Bryan has one now, and is learning on how to get it linked to the SComm controllers – working on that now, getting tone to pass. It's linked up though having an issue on one particular, on the digital side getting something to pass. It's all working. Analog works great, which is how we're going to use it anyway. 40W VHF Repeater brand new from Motorola, continuous duty we'll run at 25W. It will be about what we've got. Dennis asked what we currently run, and Bob said 25W. Bryan said, "Much better receiver. Much better transmitter. Has its own built in power supply. Has a little fork that automatically changes over to battery back up so don't have to deal with the W Mtn thing dying. Ian asked if there's a warranty on it? Bryan said, "No. It's brand new. It's never been opened. Recommendation is that the club buys it. It's a hell of a deal for \$800." Without quorum, suggestion that call a meeting at the HamFest to vote on this purchase. Question raised about voting via email; Ian replied we've not done it that way before; it's a possibility though. Someone else suggested doing it on the Monday night net, get enough members to vote. Doing what can to get the thing working. Bryan says that he needs to go up there and spend more time. Ian said that we need to post an alternate talk in. Bryan said that it's listed on the flyer, 147.06, and it's also on the website. Prior to HamFest, can at least get the machine up there. May not be able to get it linked in, though could at least make it a 2M stand alone. Mentioned several possible options of what the issue is, and the repeater there is ~30 years old. This kind of savings is worth it.

- Larry KN4MVH asked if any update on Forest Service; no update.

#### Education Committee Update: Steve Bible, N7HPR

- Summer Camp flyers; passed out what he has. Can print out more. Sign up open; started the 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **5. New Business:**

- Silent Key WG0T, Walt's Radio collection being donated to the club by wife, Nancy for those who need. Bryan, Larry, Elijah and Bob went to Estate, and spent time checking everything. Need to schedule work day after the HamFest to take down antennas that are everywhere; wire, verticals, beam, elements, stuff everywhere. Going to need some people. There's mobiles, HTs, power supplies, some of it's older and rather large radios, few smaller items. No tower; just a mast. Bryan will get a list of everything for club members to take a look.
- Science Alliance; great turn out. Thanks to everyone who turned out for that. Charlie Flint K4CMF won gold start. Had repeater issues and ended up going to Bryan's 144.92 repeater, and Jay Jay N9TN, they were at a school in Johnson City with some other kids, and they found us, got on repeater, and had kids talking to kids, and Charlie K4CMF was working two schools at the same time. He had his hands full that day, just hours of talking with students, two different schools at the same time. It was a process. We do have to buy a part for the beam on the Tower trailer. Bob N4FV sent link for the part. It's the aluminum wire that's like a hairpin matching system. It is broken. The cones are on the trailer. Tower trailer washed after that. Scott KM4FYJ mentioned

that it's probably time to seal the deck on that; Thompson water seal. Bryan said that he'll take a look at it.

- Back to quorum/vote, Ian KE4EAC brought up calling somebody to get the repeater purchase moved forward. Bryan AA4BS called Elijah W4ECW on speaker. Larry Whiteside KN4MVH made the motion, Ralph K4MIJ 2<sup>nd</sup>, to pay up to \$800 for the new Motorola XVR8400 High powered repeater. All members voted in favor, and motion passed. Bryan will get it and put it in.
- Ralph K4MIJ raised equipment loan. Discussion that we have done this in past, and now will have more items. Bryan will get a full list.
- Field Day: Bob N4FV brought up Charlie K4CMF has letters for donations, and emailing them to Allie. Larry KN4MVH also said that need to reserve the space. Allie AA4IM mentioned that she called yesterday.

Meeting adjourned: Ralph, K4MIJ motioned to adjourn, and meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.