

AJARC

Meeting Minutes March 3rd, 2026

Location: Old Oak Tap Room

Present: 22 Members, # Guests, Bryan Smith (AA4BS), Brian Thacker (KQ4OBR) Vice-President, Larry Whiteside (KN4MVH) Sec/Treasurer

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, 19:00, Old Oak Tap Room, Tusculum

Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Bryan Smith (AA4BS), followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and a prayer led by Abner Richard (K4MIK).

1. Roll call of attendees/call signs

2. Secretary/Treasurer report

Larry Whiteside reports – recap of finances from January/February, including Liability Insurance coverage, Tenn Department of Revenue TNTAP, and membership numbers, and current checking balance. I've purchased the Clubs liability insurance on my credit card \$200. During our 1hr meeting on Feb. 15th, our leadership ok reimbursing me it. Bylaws allow for it. I gained rights to PayPal, Gmail and checking account now, and authentication on UPS box from Elijah. I also got our tax exemption from sales taxes restored from the Tenn Dept of Revenue which lapsed sometime last year.

Larry Whiteside (KN4MVH)-Sec/Treasurer report:

Checking Balance: January 31, 2026, \$8,304.31

Deposits: \$192.59 (\$0.71 interest, dues \$187.88, \$4.00 donations)

Expenses: \$236.00 (\$36 GEA, check #112-\$200.00, Greeneville Wood Ministry)

Checking Balance: February 28th, 2026: \$8102.73

Deposits: \$35.42 (\$0.63 interest, \$34.79 dues)

Expenses: \$351.99 (\$200.00 -Liability Insurance reimbursements, \$114.99 Hamfest Flyers Staples, \$37.00 GEA)

Bills for Webservices: I have bills from Ian Bible for AJARC HostGator for \$284.22 (\$224.22 Baby Plan, \$59.96 Code Guard), \$21.19 (domain registration). We already reimbursed Ian \$14.95 (Domain Privacy Protection). **I need a motion to approve paying Ian the \$284.22 plus \$21.19 for a total of \$305.41 for webservices already occurred.** There was a motion to pay the bill by Wallace Shealy (Kz4MW), it was seconded by Larry White (AG4OB), motion passed unanimously.

We received a nice thank-you card from the wood ministry for our donation.

Membership: 53 members and 17 members would be quorum. Donations or renewal of memberships can be made through PayPal or by check. Please check on your membership on the AJARC.org web site. Quick reminder of the address for the radio club is 1113 Tusculum Blvd, Box 152, Greeneville TN 37743.

3. Old business:

Education Committee/Activity Larry Whiteside (KN4MVH): Larry Whiteside filled in for Steve who was returning from his out-of-town trip. He talked about what was going on during the Wednesday night groups and the status of the projects underway.

HamFest 2026 (Brian KQ4OBR) and others: Saturday April 18th, 2026, discuss chairpersons, vendors, and other details, 500 Flyers have been purchased from Staples, and some have provided to people going to HamFest's like Dalton and other radio club meetings. We have received our Certificate of Liability Insurance coverage from RISK

and Brian Thacker has it for his records and to provide to the Fairgrounds staff. Vendors (Food). How about we do something special for World Amateur Radio Day like have a special on the air station during the Hamfest, have a Sheet Cake and give a pieces of cake away for the visitors to our booth, a promotional sticker or something maybe some stuff from ARRL- they don't have anything special at their store yet, band charts or other stuff. Larry (KN4MVH) has bought 150 frequency band charts/maps to give away in our club booth during HamFest. During the discussion, it appeared that having a station operating during Hamfest was not really an option because of lack of volunteers. We ok'ed inviting other clubs, ARRL Delta leadership, and the SKYWarn groups. We have a new food vendor Smoking Butt BBQ. Justin suggested we offer TARA a table as well at the HamFest which was ok'ed.

Tower / Repeater update:

Bryan Smith (AA4BS) and Bob Gass (N4FV) provided information on the repeaters and that could just pay Jimmy Mullins \$700 for the repeater and sell the old Kenwood. It was suggested that we take out the old repeater and bring it down and stage it in rack for use in our trailer as a backup emergency repeater. There was a motion by Wallace Shealy (KZ4MW), seconded by Bob Etheridge (KM4EBZ) to pay the \$700, motion passed unanimously.

Next, the discussion focused on the UHF repeater. There was a question about the purchase of the UHF repeater. Ian asked about the money already allocated, something like \$1200 toward the purchase of a new replacement and the issue of the control board in the UHF repeater. Bryan feels he can buy a new replacement repeater online. There was a motion by Wallace Shealy (KZ4MW), seconded by Justin Wilhoit (KR4CUF) that we spend up to \$1200 or the difference between what was allocated a few years ago to spend toward the replacement of the UHF repeater.

The 6-meter repeater is fine and just needs to be brought back up into service.

There was a motion to sell the old Kenwood repeater by Dennis Holt (N4DWH), and seconded by Larry White (AG4OB), motion passed unanimously. Funds to go back to the radio club.

Update (LarryKN4MVH/Bryan AA4BS) - Special use Permit US Forest Service for our use of the Fire Tower which ends 12/31/25, we have the form to submit and will submit it once we have the resolution approved by the club to make the application for the new permit.

Special Use Permit resolution (Larry KN4MVH) – Need a motion that the club seek another special use permit for the use of the Camp Creek Fire Tower. Allie Peet (AA4IM) made a motion, it was seconded by Larry W (AG4OG) that the club goes forward on seeking an new special use permit. Motion passed unanimously.

Email from John Thompson (Larry KN4MVH): US Forest Service notified us about Structural study nationwide of facilities safety study of structures like Camp Creek in early summer, with results expected in the fall and request to replace locks with their, using dual locks and they would provide us with keys. Requesting photos.

VE Testing (Bob Gass): Wallace Shealy (KZ4MW) is now our VEC coordinator. He provided VE forms to those that were VE's in the past and should send them back to Wallace to be approved through CA-VEC. They use touch pads for testing, and he will be setting up before the next meeting a training session for the VE's to learn the use of the

touch pads. John Brown (KD4KFL) has offered to donate two handheld radios to new hams that take the test during the HamFest this year.

Weather station idea at tower (KM4EBZ/Larry KN4MVH): Larry Whiteside (KN4MVH) and Brian Thacker (KQ4OBR) will research some models and costs and report back. A question was asked about bandwidth and if the communications at the tower could support the weather station and Bob Gass (N4FV) stated it could handle it. Bob Gass questioned putting up a station with the tower lease in question, but we felt we can remove it and take it with us to a new location should we move.

Web Hosting (committee created): No news and didn't meet.

Bylaws (Larry KN4MVH and Allie AA4IM): We didn't meet and have nothing to report currently. The goal is to modify the bylaws to break apart of the sec/treasurer role.

4. New Business:

SKYWarn In person training (Larry KN4MVH): I have paid for some SKYWarn informational flyers for your reference, please take one. There will be SKYWarn training weather net on Thursday, March 5th at 830 pm on the W4WC repeater. There is also a Weather Safety Training Class scheduled in the Tri-Cities Region on Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, at Northeast State Community College Performing Arts Center, 2425 Highway 75, Blountville, Tn, 37614. There is no cost to attend. You must register https://www.weather.gov/mrx/skywarn_classes.

Tower Committee (Larry Whiteside, KN4MVH): Need to have more members than the current committee to help Bryan Smith out with the repeaters. From what I can tell from my review of the minutes there are just four members, Bryan Smith (AA4BS), Dunny Dunn (KN4AYP), Dennis Holt (N4WDH), and Bob Gass(N4FV). Joe Bowman(N4JAB) is not part of the committee. Ian Bible (KE4EAC), Bob Etheridge (KM4EBZ) and Brian Thacker (KQ4OBR) were added to the Tower Repeater committee. It was suggested that Brian (KQ4OBR) should be given keys. We will check with Larry KN4MVH about his keys.

Science Alliance (Beth Bulawa W8DOC) Friday, March 27th: We were informed of the setup time of (26th) Thursday night at 5pm at the school with the tower trailer. And this starts very early on the 27ths at 7am. You will need to have an ID or provide your name to her in advance so the school can create credentials for you to participate. If not, you will need to go to the school office to get them. Lunch is provided. Event goes to about 230pm. Club members usually interact with other clubs on 2-meters which will also be doing their Science Alliance events. 500 plus kids come by in groups of 6 to 8 at a time so you only have about 5-8 minutes with each group of kids.

TNARA Justin Wilhoit (KR4CUZ): Justin talked about a group that presented at the Lakeway Club which is working to create of organization of radio clubs across the state of Tennessee. They are also trying to provide leadership training and guidance for people who want to lead clubs and to provide a clearing house of repeaters' information and want to link repeaters together. They are looking for clubs like AJARC to join them. He asked if they could have a booth at Hamfest and everyone agreed it would be good to have them free. Having them at HamFest will give the club members a chance to learn more about their organization and goals. <https://tnara.org/>

5. Roundtable:

Motion to adjourn by Larry White (AG4OB)
Meeting adjourned at 20:20