

## Meeting minutes for 03/22/2018

Marcus, KF4YHP, greeted everyone

### Treasurer Report

The treasurer reported just a little over 12k in the bank.

### Secretary Report

Secretary reported the website has been updated with information on Winter Field Day.

In addition, the calendar was updated, and the second Shelby County repeater information was added to the site.

### Vice Presidents Report

First program in April to be determined.

Second program in April will be given by Robert, N4IXT, on Software Defined Radios (SDR).

Always looking for program ideas, suggestions, or volunteers.

### Meeting Time Adjustment

To give more time to the programs we adjusted the first meeting of the month to have the doors open at 6:00pm, a business meeting at 6:30pm, and the presentation start at 7:00pm. The second meeting remained starting at 7, with supposedly no business meeting. It's been found though that a good deal of business was still getting brought up at the second monthly meeting, severely cutting into the presentation time. As a result, it was decided to adjust both meetings to match.

Effective April 2018, **doors open at 6:00pm, business meeting at 6:30, presentation at 7:00 pm for all meetings!** If you have business to discuss or announcements to make, please be here for the 6:30 meeting. If you cannot make it at 6:30, please use the "Contact Us" form on the website to send those announcements and the secretary will ensure they are read during the meeting. We will be *strictly enforcing* this new time policy; our presenters spend a lot of time preparing and it's not fair to them to take time away, nor to the members who expected a full hour length presentation.

If you cannot make the 6:30 meeting, don't worry about missing announcements. All announcements, decisions, votes, and the like will be recorded in the meeting minutes and sent out via email as well as posted to the club website. On our site just click on the Club Documents link at the top, then Meeting Minutes, and you can see a complete archive of past meeting minutes.

### Winter Field Day

Robert, N4IXT and Winter Field Day chairman, reported we came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in our category of 3H for Winter Field Day. Go to our website for full details.

### Future Field Days

Marcus brought up to the club, and it was agreed to accept William's (KM4SKC) invitation to hold field day (this summer and next winter 2019) at his location.

Randy, KW4RTR agreed to be summer field day chairman. Thanks Randy!

### **New Projector**

The projector in the meeting location is old and out of date. This makes the screen extremely hard to read, especially from the back of the room. As the club's recent presentations have been using the projector heavily, it was suggested the club purchase a new projector for use by the club. Robert, N4IXT volunteered to research and make a recommendation of a projector for the next meeting.

### **Program**

Robert, N4IXT gave a presentation on how to use the CHIRP to application to program handheld radios.

You can find his presentation notes at <https://github.com/arcanecode/Amateur-Ham-Radio/tree/master/CHIRP>

### **Future Program**

Robert, N4IXT showed a new RTL-SDR dongle that is a radio receiver. This will be the program in late April. Several people asked for links to the device, so we're including them here.

The RTL-SDR dongle:  
[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B011HVUEME/ref=oh\\_aui\\_detailpage\\_o01\\_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B011HVUEME/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o01_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)  
Note this is just one of many types of dongles available, this particular one is the one N4IXT purchased and will be used in the April presentation.

There is an excellent book that is a must have guide for using with your new RTL-SDR. Robert used the instructions in it to successfully setup the RTL-SDR dongle linked to above and download several software packages.

Paperback: [https://www.amazon.com/Hobbyists-Guide-RTL-SDR-Software-Defined/dp/1514716690/ref=pd\\_sbs\\_23\\_5?encoding=UTF8&pd\\_rd\\_i=1514716690&pd\\_rd\\_r=26J8RDYTDWQ5R0DX5BYP&pd\\_rd\\_w=4DUMv&pd\\_rd\\_wg=xq0Qn&psc=1&refRID=26J8RDYTDWQ5R0DX5BYP](https://www.amazon.com/Hobbyists-Guide-RTL-SDR-Software-Defined/dp/1514716690/ref=pd_sbs_23_5?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=1514716690&pd_rd_r=26J8RDYTDWQ5R0DX5BYP&pd_rd_w=4DUMv&pd_rd_wg=xq0Qn&psc=1&refRID=26J8RDYTDWQ5R0DX5BYP)

Kindle: [https://www.amazon.com/Hobbyists-Guide-RTL-SDR-Software-Defined-ebook/dp/B00KCDF1QI/ref=mt\\_kindle?encoding=UTF8&me=](https://www.amazon.com/Hobbyists-Guide-RTL-SDR-Software-Defined-ebook/dp/B00KCDF1QI/ref=mt_kindle?encoding=UTF8&me=)

Meeting adjourned.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Thursday Hungry Hams Club**

Next week is a rare "5<sup>th</sup> Thursday" with no club meeting in either Shelby County or Birmingham. A group of members from both the Shelby County and Birmingham clubs have started meeting for an informal dinner on these 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. This is not an official club event, just a group of hungry hams meeting for dinner (buy your own of course).

To get notified of the dinner location, please sign up at <http://bhamdinner.com>. Next Tuesday morning we will send out a confirmation to the location, we're currently targeting a place in Hoover. We typically kick off dinner around 7:00 pm. Spouses, family, non-ham's, and that pesky brother-in-law who keeps sleeping on your sofa are also invited, you don't have to be a member of any club to participate. All we ask is that you RSVP to the notice when it comes out next Tuesday, so we can provide an accurate head count to the restaurant.