



South Baldwin Amateur Radio Club (KI4ELU)

PO Box 491

Robertsdale, AL 36567

July 19, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Club Meeting held July 19, 2018:

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 hours by President Ron Thomas. There were 17 members and 10 guests present - 6 of the 10 completed applications for membership and were welcomed into the club. There was a quorum present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Minutes from the June 2018 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report showed a checking account balance of \$4197, and a balance in the savings account of \$1025.

VE report:

No VE report was given due the absence of Rich Lee.

Old Business:

Joe McIntosh addressed the club regarding the recent field day event. As last year, this event was held at the Loxley Municipal Park. This year's event made use of some additional antennas and radio stations, resulting in a good number of contacts made. The weather was hot, but a hardy group of club members participated on both Saturday and Sunday. A report was prepared and submitted to the ARRL for publication later.

As a follow-up to this report, Ron added that the club was going to seek out other public events with which the club could partner and draw community attention to our hobby.

New Business:

Ron related a situation where a ham, Wayne AD4NY, was recently seriously injured while working on his gear, and did not take adequate precautions to properly discharge the equipment capacitors. A demonstration for making and using a simple "shorting stick" was present by Ron. It was highly recommended that every ham learn the proper techniques for draining the capacitors in his/her equipment.

Good of the Club:

A door prize was awarded, and well as a raffle for a dated piece of equipment. The 50/50 drawing was won by Ray who donated the proceeds to the club.

Program:

Ron presented a detailed program and demonstration on the use of digital communications using the Joe Thomas software, WSJT. Ron setup the club radio equipment and laptop to demonstrate this software, particularly with regards to the FT8 mode and protocol. Many questions were asked and several club members spoke about their experiences using this form of digital communications. FT8 has become a very popular digital mode due to its low power methodology and ease at making DX contacts.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,
Joe McIntosh, K4JOM
Secretary