



St. Augustine Amateur Radio Society

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

Wednesday June 5, 2024

North Florida Regional Airport Conference Center

John Albertson AK4N
Alan Alsobrook KD4KOF
JR Brittingham KO4SMB
Steve Dove W3EEE
Rick Hatton KK4GGL
Leo Kim KQ4HWF
Mike Randazzo KO4PDI

Larry Sapp WD8SEL
Bob Sileo N2PE
Franco Venturi K4VZ
Richard Wallace KG6YEM
Allen Wyatt W4YO

Guest: Joe Colee KB4OLY

Business portion of the Meeting

- 1) Bob Sileo called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm ET.
- 2) Pledge to the US flag.
- 3) Recognition of new members and guests. (Joe Colee a past member)
- 4) Approval of the May 7, 2024, meeting minutes.
Allen Wyatt has distributed the draft minutes via email for review by club members. JR Brittingham moved to approve the minutes as written, Mike Randazzo seconded. Motion approved by unanimous vote of the members present.
- 5) Treasurer's report: Bob Sileo gave an abbreviated report in the absence of the treasurer. Basically, there is a balance of \$6339.21 in the bank and there is some cash waiting for deposit (\$212). Recent outlays have been to pay for meeting space.
- 6) Several members of the club manned a tent at the Anastasia Saturday Farmers Market. At least 8 members of the public showed interest in ham radio and 8 names/emails were collected. It seems like a worthwhile event for the effort.
- 7) Up Coming Events:
 - i) Last full weekend in June – June 22-23
 - ii) Venue (confirmed), St Johns County Fairgrounds Schoolhouse.
 - There will be no meeting in July.
 - International Lighthouse and Lightships Weekend
 - i) August 17-18, 2024
 - ii) St Augustine Lighthouse
- 8) Other Business:
 - Possible T shirt order.
 - i) There is a 12-shirt minimum.

- ii) Cost is in the \$19 to \$24 range depending on size. We will order as soon as we have 12 members to place and order.
- 9) Bob called to adjourn the business meeting at about 6:44 pm. A motion made (JR Brittingham), seconded (Franco Venturi), and approved.

PROGRAM: A day in the life of a Radio Engineer - Alan Alsobrook.

Alan presented a whole list of the interesting and unique problems that he runs into when a broadcast radio station (both AM and FM) calls to say that they have been knocked-off the air.

- Burned up COAX
- Burned 3" rigid line
- A 10-henry reactor that failed when carrying something like 25,000 watts
- Roasted rats
- Roasted snakes
- Live snakes
- Antennas in the swamp
- Lightning damage (can be quite stunning)
- Lack of cooling air to a final amplifier tube causing severe overheating
- Burned out MOSFETs that were detected with a FLIR thermal camera.
- And many other exciting issues.
- We also learned that a broadcast station must notify the FCC when their station goes off the air due to technical problems and has a limited amount of time to get back on the air without suffering the loss of their license.