

Richmond County Amateur Radio Club

August 8, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Fred Lathan, at 9:30 a.m. at the RCEM training room

20 in attendance

Fred announced that Mark Dawkins was called in to work and would try to attend but might not make it.

Fred asked everyone to introduce themselves with name and call sign.

Minutes were read by Michael Litty.

Old Business

- Tim had spoken to Mark about the AllStar Node. The Node had been hacked so Mark Dawkins took it out of service to secure it before putting it back on the repeater.
- Question was raised if the thank you cards from last meeting had been sent.
- A check is needed for Freedom Baptist Church

New Business

- Fred talked about scheduling another GMRS/Amateur radio meet up. There was a discussion about having another October 10, the second Saturday in October instead of the regular meeting. Starting at 9 a.m. for setup. A regular meeting will be held in the church conference room. Get with Donnie about volunteering to help with food. Tents and canopies would be helpful to provide shade.
 - A motion was made and seconded.
 - Mount Calvary Rock of Ages Church. 464 County Home Rd., Rockingham, NC 28379
- Next test session was announced for September 19.
- Can we get help with using the monitor for video.
- Tim Martin brought up a relationship with emergency coms. We have an operations room dedicated to amateur radio operations that we're not using. Our numbers are growing. We would need equipment and an antenna system.
 - Training would be needed to coordinate with official emergency coms.
 - ARES or RACES training was proposed.
 - Various equipment options were discussed.
 - Tim suggested that there's generally a greater need for transmitting documents than voice traffic.

- Coy talked about being the director of the ARES group in Florida and discussed the training steps they used to prepare.
- Mark Gibson talked about being involved with ARES since he's been in NC. AUXCOM is what's in charge of emergency communications in NC.
 - Director of emergency management team has to approve and recruit.
 - Bob Smith is our Director.
 - It's difficult to figure out how to go through the training steps.
 - Surrounding counties are active.
 - There was discussion of ARES vs. Auxcom
 - ARRL's website on NC's emergency coms was very out of date.
- Coy moved to do a survey of the club members to see who is interested in committing to training. Four hands raised.
- Mike Litty mentioned the usefulness of at least a fundamental level of emergency coms.
- A motion was made to pursue some programming in emergency communications. That was seconded and moved.
- Nothing official would happen without the involvement of Bob Smith, the local Director.
- It was suggested that we begin with bringing in someone from another county who is doing it to do a program on what is involved.
- Fred asked for any new business.
- Email list for the club was requested.
 - Mark Gibson suggested a Group.io account to facilitate sending email to everyone in the club.
 - Michael will work with Mark Gibson on an email list
- Discord server was proposed as a place to text and voice chat.
- Motion to adjourn at 10:32, seconded and carried.