



NORTH OKALOOSA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Minutes for Business Meeting held 09 April 2026

OPENING AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the President KI4ZER.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by DJ, KI4ZER.

Prayer was offered by Craig, KK4WDQ

Introductions were made around the room and for online participants.

Attendance: Voting members: 16 in person, 5 online (Quorum met by both criteria)

Associate Members: 1 in person, 1 online

Guests: 2 in person, 2 online (See Appendix 1).

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President's Opening Remarks – DJ KI4ZER

Prior to opening the meeting for business, the President asked for a moment of silence for John Blaisdell, Jr. W4CJB, a ham from Walton County, who recently became a Silent Key.

A presentation on the Trail Life USA program was given by two visitors, Michael Frazier (KQ4SMK) and Robert Waller. Trail Life is a nation-wide program for boys ages 5 to 17 with a Christian emphasis and outdoor programs. The local Troops in Niceville, Crestview, and Fort Walton Beach are holding a Spring Junction the weekend of 24-26 April at a camp in north Okaloosa County. The adult leaders have requested that local ham radio clubs provide a demonstration of amateur radio, Parks On The Air (POTA), and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) at the Junction, including possible contact with another Junction being held in South Carolina. The NOARC Activities Committee Chairman will query the club for members interested in supporting this effort.

Secretary's Report – Mike W4BZM

The Minutes for March 2026 have been posted on the NOARC website. The Secretary thanked Dave, WB4EWS, for his correction to the Minutes.

In March, NOARC sent Thank You notes to the UPS Store for a year's use of a mailbox (valued at \$288) and to Jon, KI4UMT, for his donation of a generator (valued at \$530) for the club trailer.

Treasurer's Report – Derek KQ4LSX

The full Treasurer's Report and Bank Statement was not available online but was provided verbally as:

Balances as of 31 March 2026:

Savings account:	\$4,152.30
Checking account:	\$3,431.21
Petty Cash fund	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Total	\$7,683.51

No report of monthly income and expenditure was provided at the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, there were 53 voting Members and 4 Associate Members who had paid 2026 dues.

Acceptance of Officers' Reports

Motion to accept Officers' Reports was made by John, N8JDD, seconded by Craig, KK4WDQ, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education and Advancement Committee – Bob KN4UDT

The 2026 Education and Advancement Committee Report for the April meeting is available on the NOARC website.

Tech Nights:

- On 26 March, Bob KN4UDT delivered a presentation on "QRP Myths Debunked"
- The subject for the April Tech Night is TBD. The Committee Chairmen requested input on desired subjects and participation by volunteer speakers for the Technical Nights.

Station Committee – (position vacant, DJ KI4ZER reporting)

The discussion on the club station was deferred to New Business.

Activities Committee – (John N8JDD absent, “DJ” KI4ZER reporting)

Past Events:

- 28 March: Triple B Festival in Crestview. Members supporting the event were:

John N8JDD	DJ KI4ZER
Queenie KQ4FRB	Rich N4DPM
Robert KM4VKY	Dave WB4EWS
Daniel KK4VAX	Joe KN4UDS
Michelle KQ4WKC	

- LOBC Parking: Has been supported by John N8JDD and Don KR4YXX

Future Events:

- 19 April: ARRL Rookie Roundup. See Announcements.
- 25 April: Demonstration on ham radio topics for Okaloosa County “Trail Life” Spring Junction at Camp Okaloosa in north Okaloosa County.
- 25 April: Florida QSO Party.
- 02 May: Emerald Coast Autism Center 5K run in Niceville
- 09 May: America Grand Parade in Crestview. Will be large event, possibly running four hours, with participation by military units. Participation may be broken up into shifts.
- 27-28 June 2026: ARRL Summer Field Day at Fred Gannon State Park. First pavilion has been reserved.

Administrative Committee – Rob KM4SPJ

Nothing significant to report.

Webmaster – Robert KM4VKY

No report requested.

Hamfest Committee – “DJ”, KI4ZER

Preparation is already in progress. Twenty-one tables have already been sold.

The RV Radio Network (<https://rvradionetwork.com>) is hosting a meeting the week before Hamfest and many of their members can be expected to attend our Hamfest.

A Destin hotel is offering a corporate rate of \$149 per night (discount from the usual \$215 per night) for Hamfest participants. DJ again requested assistance from our Crestview members in obtaining a similar discount for a hotel(s) in the Crestview area, nearer to the Hamfest.

Holiday Party Committee – John N8JDD

The 2026 Holiday Party will be held in Niceville. The committee is currently considering two locations. A decision will be announced at the next business meeting.

Acceptance of Committee Reports

Motion to accept Committee Reports was made by Queenie, KQ4FRB, seconded by Derek, KQ4LSX, and passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Trailer Upgrades – Joe KN4UDS

The trailer modifications as previously discussed are complete. A further upgrade to install a “low clearance” ceiling warning at the exit may be installed at minimal cost.

The budget for the trailer modifications has been expended, with a \$3 overrun which the President offered to cover.

Repairs to W4AAZ UHF Repeater Antenna – Daniel, KK4VAX

Daniel KK4VAX reported that the work on the 440 MHz antenna has been completed. Additionally, the repeater for that system has been replaced.

Robert KM4VKY and Bob W6VVA noted that a problem had been seen with the 440 repeater being unable to reach Mossy Head. The problem was isolated to a bad pin on the receive side of the repeater, which was repaired. Robert noted that the gain on the repeater is currently high and users should hold the microphone further away than normal to avoid distortion.

NEW BUSINESS

New Member

The President introduced Rob Rosenberger, K4HST, as a new member of NOARC. Rob resides in Shalimar.

Station Repairs / Upgrade – DJ, KI4ZER

DJ KI4ZER presented an extensive plan for repair and upgrade of the NOARC station. The presentation is included in these minutes as Appendix 2.

Some of the sessions (e.g., refurbishment of the large beam antenna) may require assistance from a large group. Assistance from organizations outside NOARC may be requested. Teardown Stage 1 will start at 0900 on 16 May.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Mentoring Minute

Not held due to length of meeting.

ARRL Rookie Roundup – Mike, W4BZM

The ARRL Rookie Roundup will be held on 19 April. This is a six-hour contest designed to introduce new hams (licensed three years or less) to contest operations. NOARC members were encouraged to contact new hams and help them participate, including use of members' stations if needed.

PARC License Classes – Queenie, KQ4FRB

Playground Amateur Radio Club is currently holding free classes for the Technician license. These sessions will be followed by classes for the General license.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM CDT.

Respectfully submitted

Mike W4BZM

NOARC Secretary

APPENDIX 1: ATTENDANCE

Members in Person	Members online
Queenie Barrientos, KQ4FRB	Joe Feliccia, KN4UDS
“DJ” Stewart, KI4ZER	Michelle Feliccia, KQ4WKC
Mike Behr, W4BZM	Rich Giradin, N4DPM
Bob Hurley, KN4UDT	Bill Williams, KQ4ATC
Tim Terrell, KN4WOO	Don Safer, KC6IPO
Bill Turney, WS4Y	
Don Busbee, KR4YXX	Associate Members attending
Michael Wright, KJ4FNA	Juanita Young
Vern McGraw, KR4ESD	
Derek Hoffnung, KQ4LSX	Associate Members online
Craig Young, KK4WDQ	Howard Zemser
Robert Dallons, KM4VKY	
Rob Sugg, KM4SPJ	Guests in attendance
Jon Baughman, KI4UMT	Robert Waller
Rob Rosenberger, K4HST	Michael Frazier, KQ4SMK
John Duren, N8JDD	
	Guests online
	Bob Benson, W6VVA *
	Daniel Horne, KK4VAX

* Indicates 2025 member with unpaid 2026 dues

Total voting membership: 53

Quorum (at least one of the following):

- 14 (including one officer) – Quorum met
- 8 (including three officers) – Quorum also met

APPENDIX 2: PLANS FOR A WORKING CLUB STATION FOR NOARC



A Working Club Station for NOARC

HOW DO WE GET THERE?



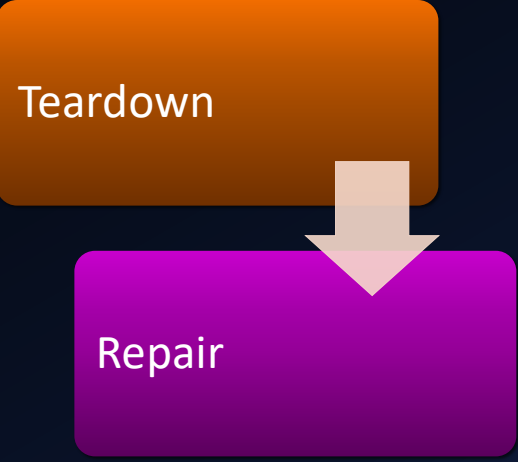
The Problem

- The NOARC station is not functional on HF bands.
 - Beam antennas have high SWR.
 - Ladder line to OCF dipole antenna not a good feed line
 - Cables behind cabinet are a mess.
- Impact – Station is unused.
 - General/Extra hams: Better antennas at home stations
 - Technicians: No 10 meter capability for HF SSB experience

How Do We Improve The Situation?

- Major surgery – gut the station and rebuild from ground up
- This will require multiple workdays, some needing many helping hands.

Teardown



Repair

Stages

- Teardown

- Part 1
- Part 2
- Part 3

- Repair

- Part 1
- Part 2
- Part 3

Each “Part” will involve a workday.

Teardown Part 1

- Gut shack closet and tower of all wiring and coax.
- Shorten mast tube for coax pass-through
- Inspect coax and rotor wires. If damaged or unserviceable, discard.

Teardown Part 2

- Take down wire antenna, ladder line, all beams for testing, assessment, storage, and repair
 - Requires a large team!
- Determine length of mast pole for ease of future maintenance and proper spacing between antennas (eliminate or lessen interference)
- 2 meter / 70 cm antenna remains connected for support of GCVTN from the shack.
 - This will be the ONLY capability for the shack for foreseeable future.

Teardown Part 3

- Remove all equipment (except 2 meter / 70 cm set-up) from shack
- Conduct proper inventory
- Place back inside in orderly fashion

Repair Part 1

- Incorporate bonding / pass through boxes into improved grounding system
- Install jumpers to lightning arrest box on the tower.
- (Procurements pending club vote)

Repair Part 2

- Install serviceable coax runs from lightning arrest box to the top of the tower to support:
 - Large beam (if unserviceable, consider Hex beam)
 - Mini beam (needs to be torn down, rebuilt, and retested)
 - 2 meter / 70 cm (if new coax needed)
 - OCF dipole? Has been a problem in the past.
- May require replacement of coax and connectors, pending club vote

Repair Part 3

- Build up large beam from scratch (if deemed repairable)
 - Tuning
 - Functional checks
 - Installation
- Will require a large team of people willing to execute per direction of a lead installer. (Unless we decide to go Hex beam)
 - Safety paramount.
- Who will maintain in the future?

Repair Part 4

- Restore club desks
- Repopulate with equipment
 - Usable
 - Neat
 - Orderly
 - Clean
- Should be plug-and-play to get on the air
 - Clear directions
 - Logbook of station use

Summary

- This is not a small task.
- This is a NECESSARY task.
- This will require commitment from NOARC members.
 - Funding
 - YOUR TIME

