

Benton Amateur Radio Society
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2025

The Benton Amateur Radio Society met February 2, 2025 at the Bauxite City Hall. There were 11 members and 3 guests present.

President James, KI5FGS called the meeting to order at 2:40 P.M. This was followed by Secretary/Treasurer Alli, K5ALI, reading the minutes from the December 1, 2024 meeting and the current Treasurer's report. A motion was made by WD5C, Larry, and seconded by K5BKT, Peg, to accept both as read. The motion passed.

President James, KI5FGS kicked 2025 off with a "State of the Club Address" where he mentioned the overall Ham Radio outlook is that of decline, despite growth within certain aspects of the hobby. James mentioned that he has only been involved in Ham Radio for a mere 6 years, but has found a tight-knit community of operators within BARS that have been friendly, helpful, kind, and generous since day one. He is proud of the club and its accomplishments, including its uptick in new membership and excellent scores at Field Day. In 2025, James plans to continue these trends and the work we have been doing to advance the art and science of Ham Radio. Here are the steps he intends to take to achieve this goal:

- Members shall continue to be good Ham Radio operators, representing both the club and hobby positively
- Members shall continue to provide kindness and generosity to all those who inquire about the club, attend meetings, or attend any other events at which BARS is present
- Members shall continue to be present in their communities and provide education about BARS and Ham Radio when appropriate

In conclusion, James compared Ham Radio operators to magicians and wizards who, relatively speaking, can utilize very basic equipment to send traffic all over the world without a physical link. As Arthur C. Clarke once said, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

Old Business:

WD5C, Larry, advised that contact had been made with Martin, W5WPS regarding his potential nomination to serve as the Vice President of the club. He agreed, and a formal motion to nominate him was made by Peg, K5BKT. Larry, WD5C seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously. As there were no other

nominees for this position, Martin Hoover, W5WPS, was elected to serve as the Vice President for the 2025 calendar year.

Alli, K5ALI, reminded everyone of the standing request for content for the BARS website and Facebook page.

New Business:

President James, KI5FGS, proposed setting up a scholarship fund that would assist new Hams with the testing and licensing fees then opened the floor for discussion. After some back-and-forth, Jan, KD5JSE made a motion to create a scholarship fund and move \$300 from our general account into this fund. Bill, N5HQ seconded this motion, and it passed.

President James, KI5FGS, suggested a committee be established to oversee the newly established scholarship fund. Bill, N5HQ, suggested the Board of Directors add this to their duties. K5RAR, Bill, made an official motion for the Board of Directors to oversee the fund, which was seconded by Jason, AA2N. The motion passed unanimously.

Alli, K5ALI, presented an invoice received from Bill, N5HQ, for the 2025 website fees of \$71.17. Larry, WD5C, moved that we pay this invoice plus a \$50 tip for Bill's services. Jason, AA2N, seconded the motion, and it passed. BARS will pay Bill, N5HQ, \$121.17 for the web hosting and tip.

Luke, AE5AU, petitioned for membership. K5BKT, Peg, sponsored his petition, and it was seconded by Larry, WD5C. His membership was approved.

The Field Day 2025 discussion began, where the importance of having a digital station was acknowledged. BARS' newest member Luke, AE5AU, made a guest appearance at Field Day 2024 and ran the digital station. He plans to continue coming out to Field Day as long as he is able, and will share his knowledge with other members. Field Day will be June 28-29, 2025.

Bill, K5RAR, moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by N5HQ, Bill. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 3:13 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alli Porterfield, K5ALI

Secretary/Treasurer