

Benton Amateur Radio Society
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2026

The Benton Amateur Radio Society met Sunday, April 12, 2026 at the Bauxite City Hall. There were 13 members and 4 guests present.

President James, KI5FGS called the meeting to order at 2:35 P.M. This was followed by Secretary/Treasurer Alli, K5ALI, reading the minutes from the February 1, 2026 meeting and the current Treasurer's report. A motion was made by Bill, K5RAR, and seconded by Peg, K5BKT, to accept both as read. The motion passed.

Old Business:

N1LUG, Joe, reviewed the design and pricing for hats and tshirts offered through Westrock Products for members present at the meeting, and collected more orders.

Peg, K5BKT, reported that, unfortunately, Benton's Old Fashioned Day did not get rescheduled and will be conflicting with the K5BOC Memorial Hamfest on October 10th, 2026.

James, KI5FGS, reminded those present that Alli, K5ALI, would be accepting payments for unpaid dues at the end of the meeting.

James, KI5FGS, also presented an invoice of \$100 for the new club banner. Bill, K5RAR, moved that we reimburse James for the cost of the banner from the club's general fund. K5BKT, Peg, seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

James, KI5FGS, reminded present members that the next meeting on June 7th will be the last meeting before Field Day 2026, and encouraged any members who plan on participating to attend the meeting so final plans can be locked in. There was some brief discussion regarding the location of the stations, as the main pavilion is unavailable during a portion of field day. The plan is to set the main station up under the "three trees by the trail" and move up to the pavilion when it is available, or at shift change. During the discussion, it was confirmed that canopies, Morse code devices, a generator, and a solar panel will be needed this year. Additionally, there was further discussion regarding the updated information station. Jason, AA2N, suggested bringing a TV to display information to visitors. Alli, K5ALI, suggested a "self-guided tour" of the Field Day site utilizing photos, descriptions, and power points, and volunteered to spearhead this portion of the Field Day preparations.

New Business:

James, KI5FGS, shared with the club that he had recently purchased a Baofeng UV5R mini 5W dual band HT for about \$30. It can be programmed with chirp or the Ola Radio cell phone app. He reports that it has a good sound, a built-in flashlight, a built-in FM Radio, and charges via USB-C instead of the standard charging base. Listening all day uses about 75% of the battery, and it takes about 30 minutes to achieve a full charge. As a bonus, it comes in several fun colors!

KI5FGS, James, recognized guests present at this meeting. Ben Pritchett has been studying for his license and was seeking VEs to administer his test. Bobby, N5YLE, reports that the FCC is no longer accepting mailed-in written tests. James, KI5FGS, reminded everyone present that we have a scholarship fund and advised Ben to save his receipts for reimbursement. Allan Scott petitioned for membership, sponsored by Joe N1LUG. The club voted and his membership request passed unanimously.

Peg, K5BKT, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason, AA2N, seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alli Porterfield, K5ALI

Secretary/Treasurer