

Benton Amateur Radio Society

Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2026

The Benton Amateur Radio Society met Sunday, August 2, 2026 at the Bauxite City Hall. There were 9 members and 1 guest present.

President James, KI5FGS, called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM. This was followed by the reading of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report from the June 7, 2026 meeting. A motion was made by Bill, K5RAR and seconded by N5HQ to accept both as read. The motion passed.

Larry, WD5C gave a preliminary Field Day Report based upon the official entry submitted to the ARRL. He also had some extra copies which he passed around. He noted that while the score is lower than last year, almost double the contacts were made. Some bonus points were missing this year, and we had no GOTA station, which brings in 5 points per contact. Martin, W5WPS noted that more operators were needed. A suggestion was made to put the GOTA station in the pavilion with the information booth. AA2N, Jason, suggested that demonstration stations could also be set up in the pavilion such as PSK with its attractive waterfall or GMRS which requires no test, a minimal fee, and allows short range communication with family. In general, all thought Field Day 2016 went smoothly and approved of the main station being set up down in the trees.

N5HQ, Bill, updated everyone on the automatic texting for club reminders, saying he had gotten the answers to the questions asked. James, KI5FGS, suggested we table the issue until more members were present.

Under New Business, Martin, W5WPS announced that Scouts on the Air will be active Monday, August 3, 2026 on 20M for one hour from 2350-0050 GMT (6:50-7:50 CDT) on either 14.328 or 14.332. He encouraged all to get on the air and contact the Scouts.

James, KI5FGS, announced that the ARRL is activating Louisiana this week in conjunction with their Worked all States program.

Bill, N5HQ, said that he has finished updating the website, making it mobile friendly. He reminded us that he still needs Field Day pictures and any other articles or information. He has also been keeping up with visits to the K5NE website. He began keeping track on June 20, 2026. Since then, there have been 10,107 visits, 3,893 of those unique visits. He suspects many visits are from bots scanning the page. He also noted that most visits are from the USA, but many other countries appear. China is in second place, followed by Canada in third place.

N5HQ, Bill, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jackie, WB5ARI. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peg Porterfield, K5BKT
Temporary Secretary