

# UNION COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2025

**Tom McCobb** opened the regular meeting with twenty-two members and five guests present.

**Attendance: See Last page**

1. Tom McCobb, K3TCM opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.
2. Tonight's meeting is held at Siler Presbyterian Church, Wesley Chapel, NC.
3. Meeting minutes for the November 2024 meeting are available for review. Motion made by Darren Curtis to accept the minutes and seconded by Gary Pincus. Minutes approved as written.
4. The Treasurer's report was distributed. A query for any questions was made with no response. Motion to approve by Julian Burns and seconded by David Kurtz. Treasurer's report approved as presented.
5. Announced that tonight's program will be about programming radios.
6. Discussion was held about creating a business meeting in addition to the regular meeting. This provides an opportunity to discuss new club activities, finances and how UCARS can generate amateur radio interest.
  - a. Suggestion made to have a business meeting prior to regular meeting.
  - b. Use of a ZOOM account was suggested.
  - c. How do we move forward to formalize the club and the steps to take?
  - d. Discussion about obtaining a 501C3 certification and the benefits to the club.
7. Keith White as a new Ham stated he would like to see more training and classes.
8. David Keever, KV4N gave a presentation for the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Club about the Charlotte Hamfest in March.
9. Marcos Bilbao spoke about the importance of determining the interest of the members. He presented an idea of how UCARS can determine member's interest. He provided post-it notes to members and asked them to write their interests and post them on the whiteboard.

The results of members posting their top preferences and interests are:

- a. The most requested was the acquisition of a 501c3 for the club.
- b. The second most requested was "Antenna building", "Kit building", "Raspberry Pi", and an "Emergency Response Plan."
- c. Tied for third most requested is the "knowledge that doing activities requires volunteers" and an "antenna workshop".
- d. The fourth most requested was: a "Backup repeater", "SOTA/POTA", "willing Elmers for mentoring" and " Food/Snacks."

This feedback will be integrated into a future survey to further understand the needs/interests of the club.

10. The creation of a Union County Emergency Response Team was discussed.
  - a. How does UCARS establish an independent network of volunteers?
  - b. How would UCARS provide intermediate response?
11. Winter Field Day will be held January 25 & 26 at Dogwood Park in Wesley Chapel.
  - a. Wesley Chapel has invited UCARS to use their park for WFD.
  - b. Tom gave a detailed presentation of what WFD is, it's operation and its benefits, especially to new Hams.
  - c. Hours of operation will be during daylight hours beginning at 11:00 AM on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Call sign to be used is K4N.
  - e. There is concern about the weather. Tom assured us all there would be protective areas to operate in.
  - f. Limitation of 15 individuals on site at one time.
  - g. Equipment and antennas to be remove at dusk.

- h. Antennas have been determined; Fan dipole and a vertical are planned for use.
- 12. Tom requested volunteers to be Net Controllers. Contact Tom, K3TCM if interested and you will receive a certificate suitable for framing.
- 13. The meeting presentation by Tom McCobb, K3TCM is about programming radios.
  - a. Demonstration on cables to be used was shown and the importance of making sure you have a positive connection to the radio.
  - b. Chirp software is commonly used for radio programming.
  - c. The manufacturer's programming should be used if available.
  - d. Chirp, while widely used, may have deficiencies in programming in some fields.
  - e. RT Systems is programming software issued for each specific radio. The software has a fee.
- 14. 50/50 Drawing for \$ 30.00. Andy Kabasakalian, WB2WZC was the winner of the 50/50 drawing. \$20 was donated to the club's treasure.
  - A second drawing for UCARS Coffee Cup was won by Julian Burns.
  - The third drawing for UCARS Coffee Cup was won by Andy Kabasakalian.
  - A fourth drawing for UCARS Coffee Cup was won by Gary Pincus.
- 15. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM

**Member Attendance:**

Tom McCobb, K3TCM  
Lisa Whitaker KF4NYL  
Joshua Rierson, KQ4NZL  
Marcos Bilbao, K3MJB  
Darren Curtis, W4RHL  
Todd Edwards, KQ4NYL  
Dwayne Stone, KC4NHW  
Will Johnson, KQ4KAL  
Shaun Golden (G)

David Keever, KV4N  
Julian Burns, K4WKP  
Gary Stone, KO4NZU  
Ed Stemborowski, KJ4VLI  
Jeff Weiss, K4EVT  
Gary Pincus, KY4QH  
Keith White, KQ4WBY  
Greg Turner, W3CL (G)  
Greg Stephens, K8GWS (G)

Christopher Whitaker, AE4WS  
Alfred KoKoszczyński, KC2GZI  
David Kurtz, KM4ZDK  
Andy Kabasakalian, WB2WZC  
Stefan Neikes, KQ4RLD  
Jay Rossi, KO4WPT  
Gary Williamson, KN4BRF  
Drake Summers (G)  
Karen Stone (G)