

OWENSBORO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the March 17, 2026 Membership Meeting

The March 17, 2026 meeting of the Owensboro Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Jim Mason at 6:30 p.m.

Attending were members Jim Mason, Janie Mason, Tom Johnson, David Addington, Glenn Begle, Alissa Troutman, Jim Thompson, Jim Wolford, Larry Brown, Mark Kenady, Jim Meyer, Ron Sweat, Alex Bowlds, Helen Bea, Bill Harris, Art Jackson, Stan Scott (and Beacon), David Patton, Harvey Bowlds, Bob Spears, and visitor Evonne Harl.

Copies of the February 17 meeting minutes were distributed. A motion was made by Jim Meyer to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Bob Spears, and the motion was approved.

The treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Tom Johnson. The balance as of February was \$3,142.86. We received dues and donations with a total of \$195.00. We paid out for a roll of stamps and material fees for the tape measurer antenna, leaving us a balance of \$3,259.86 as of March 13.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Volunteer examiner team leader Bob Spears reported the next VE test session will be April 25. Bob said that the team is getting ready to begin testing electronically and that there will be a training session via a Zoom meeting tomorrow night, March 18. Bob, Jim Thompson, and Larry Brown attended a recent VE session in Evansville last to see how the Evansville VE group conducted electronic testing. We may or may not be ready to conduct our VE test session electronically by April 25 because the team will need to acquire tablets and/or computers to use for the testing. Bob has talked with ARRL VEC staff about providing tablets for our use.

The repeater committee report was given by Art Jackson. Art reports no problems with the repeaters, other than that there is still some malicious interference on the 145.33 repeater.

OLD BUSINESS

We reopened the discussion regarding the changing of banks from Independence Bank to South Central Bank. Tom Johnson made the motion to change banks to South Central Bank. Jim Thompson seconded the motion. After a short discussion and a club vote, the

motion was approved to change to South Central Bank with Treasurer Tom Johnson and President Jim Mason as the signatories on the account.

We reopened the discussion on the advantages of becoming an IRC 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation through the IRS. The one-time application fee is \$275. A motion was made by Jim Meyer to proceed with becoming an IRC 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Ron Sweat seconded the motion, and after a discussion the motion was voted on and passed unanimously by the club members. President Jim said that he would take care of the application process.

A discussion was carried forward from the February meeting on reaching out to the community's youth about becoming involved in amateur radio. President Jim said that he would try to contact the director of the Owensboro Museum of Science and Technology about the possibility of doing a joint program directed toward the youth in the Owensboro area. Jim Meyer said that if a Youth Outreach Committee was formed that he would like to serve on it or perhaps co-chair the committee. No further action was taken.

At the February meeting it was brought to the club's attention that someone in the area that owned a GMRS repeater was interested in donating the repeater to the club if it could be placed in a location such as the Roosevelt House for a broad coverage area. At that meeting, the discussion indicated that there was not enough room for another repeater on the Roosevelt House, and it was suggested to see if ARES Emergency Coordinator Bob Spears would be interested in locating the repeater at his home. Bob said that he has talked to the repeater owner, John Ball, and learned that he has placed it at a location in Philpot. A discussion followed on future applications of GMRS in the area, but no action was taken.

As we discussed last month, the books on amateur radio at the Daviess County Library are mostly outdated. Steve Morgan has talked to some of the library staff about replacing those books with new updated publications from the ARRL. Steve said that a complete collection of new books will cost us \$250. David Patton suggested that if we do purchase the books that we hold some sort of special event with the library announcing the new collection. Jim Thompson made a motion that the club go ahead and purchase the books. The motion was seconded by Tom Johnson. The motion passed with one dissension.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Field Day will be the weekend of June 27-28. We will be holding it at Panther Creek Park again this year. Yellow Creek Park is unavailable due to the ROMP Festival. Bob Spears will be contacting the Parks Department to reserve the park for the Field Day events. We will discuss and update information at future meetings.

Bob Spears and Jim Thompson attended a meeting with **The Western Kentucky Hospital Coalition**. There is a possibility of the club receiving a donated cargo trailer from the Western Kentucky Hospital Group. Bob Spears will contact them and work on obtaining the trailer for our club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome our newest member, Alex Bowlds.

March Birthdays

Harvey Bowlds – March 28

David Holman – March 5

Larry Brown – March 3

We have a Fox Hunt scheduled for April 4, 2026. We will post all the details to our website and Facebook pages. Plans for building a fox hunting antenna out of pvc pipe and a tape measure will be posted on the website.

Our next meeting will be here on April 21.

Bob Spears announced that he is now the District Emergency Coordinator (EC) for the ARES Section 2 of Kentucky, and he will be working to find EC's for each county in the district that does not already have one. There are twelve counties in District 2: Daviess, Christian, Crittenden, Hancock, Hopkins, Henderson, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Todd, Union, and Webster. Bob discussed options and hope for placing an ARES amateur radio station in a city or county facility in the near future.

Jim Mason discussed the upcoming AM250-WAS special event and asked who would like to participate. We will operate as W1AW/4 for the Kentucky Section on 03/18-03/24/2026. Operators so far who have volunteered are David Patton, Harvey Bowlds, Larry Brown, Jim Thompson, and Jim Mason.

Ventriloquist and associate member Janie Mason provided entertainment with her "dummy load", Jerry. We all enjoyed the skit and the laughs. Thank you, Janie, for your wonderful show tonight.

Adjournment at 20:00 CDT.

Minutes recorded by former club secretary Alissa Troutman standing in for the absence of club secretary Teresa VanWinkle.