UAARC Club Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2026

Attendance:

21 club members, including all 3 officers, and 3 visitors.

Visitors: Jimmy Sanders, Wilson Little (NT5AT), and Janette Conyers

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by John Keith (W5BWC), followed by visitor introductions and a standing roll call.

Erikk Friberg (KG5LFP) was recognized for upgrading his amateur radio license to **General Class**.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Presented by William Collier (KG5SVM):

- **Total members:** 41
    - 39 full members
    - 24 ARRL-affiliated members
    - Minimum required ARRL-affiliated members: 20
- **General Fund:** $2,494.57
- **Unpaid Liabilities:** $303.00
- Annual website domain and hosting fees have been paid.
- **501(c)(3) Fund:** $155.00
- Q1 and Q2 state sales taxes have been filed.

Club Announcements:

Technician Class:
William Collier announced that Roland Anders (K3RA) will be conducting a Technician Class via Zoom beginning in September. Members were encouraged to pass the information along to anyone interested in obtaining an amateur radio license. Rod and Kuni Archer added that Roland also conducts General and Extra license classes later in the year. William will post Roland's contact information on the club website.

Field Day QSL:
William announced that a Field Day QSL card was received for **K5UAR** from KJ5GYE, Elizabeth Novak of Katy, Texas. Once the QSL is verified against the club logbook, a club QSL card will be sent in return.

APRS:
Rod Archer announced that he has an APRS digipeater set up at his QTH.

Tailgate Sale:
Don Gamble announced a tailgate sale at the Texas Broadcast Museum in Kilgore, Texas, on the morning of **October 31 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**. Attendance is free, and door prizes will be available for attendees.

Safety and Weather Conditions:

John Keith reported that the county is currently under a burn ban and is behind its normal rainfall totals for the year. The county fire department is concerned about the increased potential for fires under the current conditions.

Members were encouraged to use caution when operating heavy equipment outdoors, including activities such as hay baling, and to report any smoke that is observed.

70cm Repeater Project:

John Keith reported that the antenna for the club's 70cm repeater has been completed.

The CEO of Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative, **Rob Walker**, has selected a location on one of the cooperative's towers near downtown Gilmer. URECC engineers will model the antenna installation on the tower.

The club will provide the antenna and cabling. URECC will mount the antenna on the tower and provide AC power to a location outside the fence for an enclosure housing the repeater. The club will be responsible for constructing the enclosure.

K5UAR Repeater Access:

John Keith reported that Chris Burris (KF5OHM) continues to provide access to the K5UAR repeater using Push-to-Talk Over Cellular (PoC) radios.

Members interested in obtaining this access were encouraged to contact Chris. The associated website is **TALK2ME.us**.

4-H Ham Radio Project:

John Keith reported that he met with the county extension agent and 4-H director regarding the proposed ham radio project.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the project has been moved to the **second weekend in January**. The club is required to submit a plan for the ham radio project, including **six weeks of lesson plans**, for approval before January 1.

John Keith, George Wood, and Tony Munday are currently leading the project.

Home Brew Night:

George Wood (K6GMW) facilitated Home Brew Night, with several members presenting projects.

John Keith:
Presented his 70cm collinear vertical antenna designed for use with the club's 70cm repeater. John discussed the antenna design, problems encountered during construction, and planned improvements. He intends to rebuild the antenna using silver coax and improved element placement within the fiberglass body.

James Stull:
Presented compact CW keys that he designed and manufactured using parts from old keyboards. The keys incorporated a unique touch-sensitive iambic design.

Jason McKinney:
Presented two software projects he developed, **Net Buddy** and **HAM Bites**.

Net Buddy is a suite of tools designed to coordinate awards and contacts with common net logging software such as Net Logger. It also incorporates CAT control for most modern radios.

HAM Bites is a study guide covering all three amateur radio license levels to assist operators studying for their license examinations.

Links to both programs are available through Jason's N6WWW QRZ page.

Terry Conyers:
Presented ideas for constructing basic antennas using common household items.

Mike Gholson:
Presented an example of one of his slot antenna designs constructed from an old satellite television dish.

George Wood:
Presented his compact **HF "grab-and-go" box**, constructed using a 4U SKB box and standard server shelves. The system houses a G90 transceiver, 100-watt tuner/amplifier, Astron power supply, and digital-mode interface.

AMPR.net:

Rod Archer discussed **AMPR.net**, a nonprofit organization that provides IP addresses at no cost to amateur radio operators for experimentation and amateur radio networking projects.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments provided by Aaron Strong.