

Trident Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes

2/2/2026



Call to order: 1811

Adjourn: 2006

Location: Hanahan Library

Members Present:

President - Chris Benoit, KC4NW

Vice President - David Merritts, AE4ZR

Secretary - Brent Tatum, KO4KCR

QSL manager – Chris Benoit, KC4NW

POTA- David Merritts AE4ZR

By-law Committee - Chip Mack, WB4ZVR

Board Member at Large - Jim Wasson, KO4MNB

Board Member at Large - Glenn Stephens, WA4NMW

Programs – Reid Robinson, KR4CPL

Treasurer/Fund Raising - Steve Anderjack, KO4AFL

Field Day- Ron K4TCP, Steve KO4AFL

Testing – Steve Anderjack, KO4AFL

Membership – Ron Davis, K4TCP

Members Absent:

N/A

Treasurer: \$7517

Membership: Current membership: 95

Testing: Feb 26th, 6pm. Dorchester county EOC, to test class that has 46 registered

Programs: Nathan Ellis, LiPo safety, Feb meeting

Chris gave Ideas:

-Show and tell mobile setups/how installed (at a POTA outing)

-Show and tell ham shack slide show

-Show and tell portable radio setups

-Fox hunt program and antenna build?

-Whole home generators

QSL: None to report

Education Committee: Jan 8th had the first lesson with middle schools. Feb 23rd 9-11 next class

Field Day: After Action Report: Not as many on the air as historically. Bands were not conducive due to solar environment Positive reviews from those that attended, enjoyed the social aspect of it. Four participated in antenna build. We had food sign up sheet, someone needs to be POC for food during field day. Renata ended up overseeing kitchen by default.

POTA: Next event April 11th @ Charlestown Landing, 10am-2pm

Air Show May 1-3: Chip going to try to ask if we can run our generators

New Business:

- Budget/minimum bank account balance we should maintain. Glenn made a proposal to target one years expenses, setting that aside in savings acct. Not specifying dollar amount so it can fluctuate as we grow or shrink and specify target so we can use that money if need be. Currently that is \$2500. Jim second motion, all board members were in favor. Transfer was put into club savings acct.
- Dorchester EOC Tech class - Ron main instructor for upcoming class.
- Charleston Library, main branch downtown. Tech class requested to Ron for our club to host. Looking at April timeframe. Club would need to site visit in advance to see what AV equipment they have.
- Hunley Event - Last year we mailed check with application. We did three weeks ago, and mail came back in poor condition as undeliverable. Application is now online but Fort Sumter is not an option. Jim going in person tomorrow to see if can still get Feb 21st, Feb 28th as fallback.
- Offering one free year club membership to new hams, Chris brought up as idea. Was decided not to pursue.
- Repeaters in Chas and Dorchester County, only one person overseeing them. Repeaters were installed 30 yrs ago by grant, nothing has been maintained since.
- Fox Hunt - positive reception from board members. Chris has idea give talk about during educational moment after meeting to build interest and educate what it is. Target month in May, educational program after April meeting.

Old Business:

- Chris gave the idea of having club activity on a monthly basis. Antenna build, antenna displays with FAQs, a fox hunt, a satellite demonstration with FAQs, digital comms demonstration with FAQs, and some kind of VHF/UHF activity (not sure what that would look like). The idea is to engage more people in club activities, to show the techs what they can do or look forward to upgrading to, and to expose people to the other aspects of ham radio operations. Brent gave a suggestion of having on same qtrly day as POTA as another way to bring people out.
- Chris would like Ideas for club meeting programs and getting elmers or the person presenting the topic scheduled months out.
- Chris brought up updating the club bylaws. As it's been pointed out a few times that there are a few things that need to be removed and a few things added. Chip said himself, Chris, Glenn, Steve, Ron, Brent, and David Merritts will be on the committee.
- Chris wants Terrance to do an inventory of club property and take over as property manager at field day. There is a serialized list of major equipment, unk who has access to it, assumed Ron and Steve. Recommendation was made to get pictures of all equipment.
- Brent showed a print out of an email sent to club email from ARRL in reference to book being published called Digital Networking for Ham Radio. Club can pay \$50 to have the club name, club callsign, and address listed in a directory in the book. Members of the club can receive a 50% discount off book if we are in directory. Deadline to submit payment and information to go in book is Jan 9th by 12pm.

Discussion took place, and we decided not to list our club. Don't see the benefit of it, see it being a fundraising opportunity for AARL.

- Chip gave Air Show dates May 1-3
- Chris would like to see fundraising outside of monthly raffle at meetings. Gave idea of specific runs of club swag.
- Jim is going to contact Fort Sumter and Moultrie National Park about Hunley event in Feb, looking at Feb 7 or 21
- Chris asked if the board wants to do award committee, noticed two awards in by-laws, Amateur of the year and Johnny on the spot.

General Information:

- N4EE: Maintain N4EE for Special Events and Field Day. David Merritts AE4ZR is the custodian and uploads into QRZ.
- N4HLH: Use for Hunley Events. Ron K4TCP is the custodian and uploads into QRZ.
- W4ANK: Repeater Call Sign for club events. Rick N8BKN is custodian.
- Testing: POC: Testing is scheduled at 6:30pm the 3rd Wed of every month at the Hanahan Public Library, 1216 Old Murry Ct., Hanahan, SC 29410. Pre-register for the exam session at <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/glaarg>

73

Brent Tatum K04KCR
Secretary