



# USS Batfish & USS Oklahoma Amateur Radio Club January 03, 2026 Meeting Minutes



**Officers:** President - Mike Manring AE5QL, Vice-President - Earl Stutzman WB5UUW  
Treasurer - Gary Burch W5ODS, Secretary - Wade Harris WA5DE  
Trustee - Wade Harris WA5DE, Webmaster - Mike Manring AE5QL

The January 3ed, 2026 USS Batfish & USS Oklahoma Amateur Radio Club meeting was held with both in-person and Zoom. Total attendance was 8, consisting of 6 in-person and 2 on Zoom. The requirements for a quorum was met. Mike Manring called the meeting to order at 10:10am local time.

Minutes of the December 6th, 2025 meetings were read. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made, seconded, and passed.

The Treasurer had reported that the Club has a Cash-On-Hand balance of \$1,404.64.

### Old Business:

1) Jim Erb updated the status of the Museum. A new flag light has now been installed on the Batfish and shinning on the flag for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US Navy. He also updated us on the status of the FEMA Funding to move the boat back to where it was at before the flood. It has now moved to the next step of the funding program in which they hope to get about 1.7M dollars for the move. He also updated us on the research of who the actual owner of the Batfish is.

2) A summary of the December 7th Club special event was given by Wade WA5DE including Tower trailer issues and Interference between station at the event. A discussion of cause and possible fixing of the issues were discussed including better radios and both RF filters and stubs. A brief conversation on remote operations during the event. Several were planed but no one did.

3) The tower trailer condition was discussed. A missing hitch ball latch keeper pin was addressed as well as the detreating condition of the trailers batteries which now have several bulging connectors indicating they are at end of life and need to be replaced.

4) A report was made on the clubs tower trailers use at the Chouteau New Year's Eve Ball Drop Celebration. The custom built 3 to4 foot diameter ball was lit up in two layers and raised to more than 50 feet in the middle of main street. Everyone had a great time, but wade noted that we might need to grease the tower tracks as it has a bad squeal when going up and down which was very noticeable at the event.

### New Business:

1) A discussion on the Museum ships weekend and if we will even be able to operate this year as the rules of the MSW event is that we need to be on or next to the boat on the museum grounds. We will need to see where we are at as the event gets nearer, and then open a dialog with the event organizers to see what might be done to include us.

2) There was a discussion about the clubs ARRL Members and the Clubs member's current membership percentages, and some possibilities to help grow the membership

3) Jim talked about the Batfish's air horn and the need for an air compressor to make them work.

4) A conversation was had about QSL cards including a number of requests from SWL and a new form of Electronic (EMAILED) QSL requests. It was Okayed for Wade to start confirming the electronic card versions with a simple text card as needed.

5) There was a discussion of the club doing parks on the air. The club has tried to get the WMP certified as a parks on the air site, but the over site commission for the event will not allow it as it is NOT a State, federal or National park. Private, City and County parks are not allowed.



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- 6) A call was made to work or create more operating events to utilize the tower trailer more. The Oklahoma QSO Party and School club round up and scouting events were discussed.
- 7) A discussion about the Paranormal Ghost Hunters overnight stay on the batfish, How much the museum made, and all the quack test equipment that have and how much fun we could have doctoring up the boat to give them something to talk about. This then lead to a discussion on getting the original radio equipment working on the batfish including the TCS-12 TX / RX Radios and the RAL and RAKs on the batfish as well as the White Westinghouse TBL-8 transmitter which weighs over 800 pounds. The biggest problem restoring that would be getting the ships hydraulics working to power the TBLs huge Dynamotor under the floor. A possible solution would be using a large 5HP electric motor to turn the Dynamotor to try and power it up.
- 8) A discussion on doing Winter Field Day and on where to do the event. It was eventually agreed upon to do the event, at the new museum location and since the weather is expected to be fairly good that weekend it was decided to do it outside at the boat launch picnics shelter next to it.
- 9) Club elections were then conducted with all officers being retained for another year with the exception of the club secretary John Martian W5EJK who did not want to continue another year. Wade Harris WA5DE was the only one left at the meeting who was willing to take it, and thus elected to the post.
- 10) A discussion was then made about the new USS Oklahoma Submarine and the connection to the Sunken USS Oklahoma Battleship sunk at Peril Harbor. Is was also disclosed that Club Vice-President Earl Stutzman WB5UUW is most likely related to the commissioning caption of the new Oklahoma as they have the same spelling of last names and come from the same part of the country.

The next club meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 7th, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting location will be at the Port Muskogee's Three Forks Harbor business office in Fort Gibson. The meeting will also be available on Zoom.

There being no further Club business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm local time.

Wade Harris, Secretary