



The Beacon

A monthly newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club serving Central Virginia
Celebrating our 51st Year
March _____ 2014

Special Edition

Reporting the minutes of the February Meeting

Our next AARC meeting is set for March 11 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will convene at the NRAO. During the March meeting, Jim Wilson, K4BAV will talk about telegraphy.

Minutes of AARC Board of Directors

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 7:00pm

LOCATION: Held at NRAO, Alternate Room

NOTE: Mike was late and began capture of notes after the meeting had already started.

1. Call to Order (assumed) – K4CGY

Officers and Leadership (from audio)

- President - Jim Owen, K4CGY - Present
- Vice President - Vacant - Absent
- Secretary - Mike Elliott, K4WDV - Present (Late)
- Treasurer - Don Eason, N4UVA - Present
- Director, Public Services - Joe Flamini, W4BXG - Present
- Director, Estate Services - Dayton Haugh, AA4DH - Absent
- Director, Technical - Bill Pond, N0WP - Present
- Director, Education - Jim Crosby, K4JEC - Present
- Director, Fundraising - A.J. Miller, KE4AJM - Present
- Director, Public Relations - Jim Wilson, K4BAV - Present
- Other (from Audio) - Bill Phillips, AD6JV - Present
- Other (from Audio) - Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY - Present
- Other (from Audio) - Mark Whitis, AK4OL - Present
- Other (from Audio) - Harry Dannals, W2HD - Present
- Other (from Audio) - Ron Richey, K4RKA - Present

2. Initial Discussion

Missed - Secretary, Mike Elliott, K4WDV was running late

3. Committees Discussion

3.1. New Committee Chair positions assignment plan

Membership shall be solicited for Nominees

Nominations will be made to Michael Rein, KA4JJD

KA4JJD will present to the Board ### 3.2. Current Committee Assignment Suggestions

3.2.1. Awards Committee

MISSED DETAILS

3.2.2. Awards Dinner Committee

Purpose: Coordinate the annual awards dinner in January -

Need a volunteer from general membership.

Newly Appointed Chair: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

Notes: Likely to be held at the Elks Club Lounge

3.2.3. Fall Picnic Committee

Purpose: Coordinate the annual awards dinner in January -

Need a volunteer from general membership.

Newly Appointed Chair: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

Notes: Likely to be held at the Elks Club Lounge

3.2.4. Field Day Committee

Chair: Vacant

- Captain of Digital Station: Mike McPherson, KQ9P

- Captain of Other: Vacant – to be determined by Chairman and Committee

3.2.5. Appointed Leadership for 2014 Announcement by Jim Owen, K4CGY

- Volunteer Exam Liaison - Mark Gorfinsky, WA1A

- ARES/RACES Liaison - Dave Damon, K4DND

- Finance Committee - Don Eason, N4UVA

- Webmaster - Kenneth Kang, KJ4KIH

- Club Stations Trustee - Jim Owen, K4CGY

- Swap Fest Coordinator - Ron Richey, K4RKA

- Beacon Newsletter Editor - Jim Crosby, K4JEC

- Gallery Editor - Jim Wilson, K4BAV and Jim Crosby, K4JEC

4. Vice-President Assignment

Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY has been nominated for the position of Vice President

Vote to approve Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY as Vice President

Motion: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

2nd: Bill Pond, N0WP

Result: PASS (Yea: Majority; Nay: 1 - Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY)

5. Committee Reports**5.1. Committee Report - Education Committee - Jim Crosby, K4JEC**

1. Need volunteer Judges for Science Fair
2. Need board Approval on Science Fair expenses for 2 awards, books, and related for up to \$250.

Vote to approve Up To \$250 expense for Education Chair to use for Science Fair

Motion: Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY

2nd: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

Result: PASS (Yea: Majority; Nay: 0)

5.2. Committee Report - Fundraising - A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

- Mugs, \$3 Donation
 - Raffle - Review of Items for meeting raffle
- 5.3. Committee Report - Estate Committee - Dayton Haugh, AA4DH**

- Not present

5.4. Committee Report - Public Relations Committee - Jim Wilson, K4BAV

- Field Day coming up in 4th weekend in June
- Need Chairman & Committee

5.5. Committee Report - Public Service - Joe Flamini, W4BXG

- Bike Race - March 30
- Hopes to enlist Andrew Wiley to coordinate volunteers
- Need logistical info. Waiting for Ruth info.
- We won't be providing our own vehicles (unless it's the driver's choice)

5.6. Committee Report - Technical Committee - Bill Pond, N0WP

- List of items approved at last meeting
 - Some purchased and installed (440 Repeater at Martha Jefferson)
 - Others still need to be purchased (Batteries & 220 Radio for Bucks Elbow)
 - Need to get new codes out for linking/unlink
 - Linked vs. Unlinked operation needs to be discussed in future
 - Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY - Against Linking - only tie when doing a net
 - Ron Richey, K4RKA - Against Linking
 - From Bill Pond, N0WP there may be an option to break link for 30 minutes if normally linked
 - Other items were requested but tabled
- Would like to vote on other 440 Repeater at the main meeting

5.7. Old Business

Science Fair - "Already taken care of", says Jim Owen, K4CGY

Jefferson Cup - "Will be taken care of", says Jim Owen, K4CGY

None Additional

5.8. New Business

Kick SAT - Discuss in meeting

6. Meeting Adjourns

Motion made to Adjourn

Motion: Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY

2nd: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

Result: PASS (Yea: Majority; Nay: 0)

Minutes of the November AARC Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 7:30pm

LOCATION: Held at NRAO, Regular Room

NOTE: We had been scheduled to meet in an alternate room, but the group who'd reserved the Regular Room didn't show up so we took over that room for our General Meeting after having the board meeting in the alternate room.

1. Call to Order

Jim Owen, K4CGY, called meeting to order and outlined the following modified agenda for the evening:

1. Cover a few business items up front
2. Then have the Presentation - Emergency Services by Mike McPherson, KQ9P
3. Final business items

2. Committee Reports**2.1. Committee Report - Education Committee - Jim Crosby, K4JEC**

1. Science Fair Update
 1. Got board Approval on Science Fair expenses for 2 awards, books, and related for up to \$250.
 2. Need volunteer Judges for Science Fair, Wednesday after next meeting in March.
 1. Contact Jim or Bill Phillips, AD6JV to sign up as a Judge
 2. License Training Courses
 1. Would like to build up cadre of instructors that can be counted on for teaching classes.
 2. Bill Phillips, AD6JV, providing Jim a list of the instructors who participated over the last 5 years
 3. Jim has list of 18 people who've shown interest in a Technician license preparation class this Spring
 4. Like to hold at least 1 course for each License level every year (and more if demand pushes it).
3. Other - Next meeting Jim and Patsy Crosby will not be in attendance the next meeting - He and Patsy Crosby, K4PMC, start the Albemarle Co. Police Academy that evening.

2.2. Committee Report - Technical Committee - Bill Pond, N0WP

1. Last month, 2 groups of purchase items were presented and the 1st was approved, while the 2nd was tabled.
 1. From the Approved First List:
 1. Some items have been purchased and installed
 2. The Replacement 220 MHz Receiver for Bucks Elbow is still on to do list for the coming month(s).
 3. Batteries for Marshall Manor - Still on to do list and need to be purchased -- again set for the coming month(s).
2. From the tabled list was equipment already on loan for the 444.250 Repeater site repair at Martha Jefferson hospital.
 1. The primary item was an \$800 Vertex 7000 including the new Tone Access board, which supports "remote base"

2. It's been in place and works extremely well. Reports coming from a contact in Waynesboro to downtown Charlottesville indicate perfect signal.

3. We need to either go ahead and purchase it, or wrap up the trial and return it. But Bill's hope is that we would fund the purchase and we could continue to fine tune it.

2. Bill made a motion to get approval for the tabled expenditures, as noted above. It Passed, see "VOTE" below.

1. Jim Owen, K4CGY took this opportunity to remind members if they've not paid Dues and please consider including a gift for the repeater fund.

1. Mark Whitis, AK4OL, reminded membership that if not paid soon, your name will not be put in the new directory that's coming out around the end of month.

2. Jim followed that a few copies of the old directories were at the front table and free for the taking.

3. We've now received the coordination from SERA (SouthEastern Repeater Association) to change the linked frequency from the current 444.000 (a voice repeater frequency) into a "standard" frequency.

1. The linked changes will require downtime of several weeks of the current links at the following sites which need to be visited, equipment pulled, tweaked, and re-installed or reconfigured:

1. Marshall Manor

2. Buck's Elbow

3. Heard Mountain

2. A clarification discussion ensued with challenges by ???, but Bill settled it sufficiently.

3. Jim Owen, K4CGY, inquired, and it was determined that NRAO coordination is no longer required since SERA will provide that. And if NRAO indicates there's interference, our agreement with them is that we shut down the repeater.

MEMBER VOTE -- PASSED

MOTION: Approve purchase of the 440 Repeater items at a cost of \$800

MOVER: Bill Pond, N0WP

SECOND: Ron Richey, K4RKA

DISCUSSION:

1. Jim Crosby, K4JEC, indicated that this expenditure would not take treasury below \$5K. Jim believes \$5K is a reasonable buffer. Under the leadership of Dave Damon, K4DND, in a prior administration, the club made the decision to give up our equipment insurance and become self-insured. Dave's opinion was that we should maintain a minimum treasury balance in the event a whole repeater site got wiped out. This is a plan we've stuck with over time. Jim doesn't believe this expenditure jeopardizes that plan.

2. Mark Whitis, AK4OL asked if we would hold on to the older equipment being replaced. Bill responded that we would indeed hold on to it, but it's VERY old and of little production value. Mark followed that in the event we lose multiple repeater sites in an emergency, it might be helpful to resurrect this older equipment if our replacement/repair "insurance buffer" ran out.

3. A recommendation was made to call the question.

RESULT: PASS (Yea: Majority; Nay: 0)

2.3. Committee Report - Fundraising - A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

1. Club Mugs w/ Call signs are available (extras from Annual Banquet), \$3 Donation suggested - plenty available

2. Raffle Items:

1. Icom HT 2m/70cm w/ a number of accessories

2. Kenwood 70cm HT w/ charger

3. Pair of large 8 Ohm speakers

4. Huge "Tarzan TN3B2" Fan (115 Volts AC, 85 Watts)

5. Consolation Prize: 1997 Edition of ARRL Handbook

2.4. Committee Report - Public Relations - Jim Wilson, K4BAV

1. Field Day is the weekend of June 28th.

1. Committee is being organized

2. Last year 2 television stations came

3. No officials visited -- we need to work on that

Jim Owen, K4CGY suggested the committee needs to, among other things, determine how many stations we want to run.

We ran 3 last year, and asked if we should attempt 4 this year...but put off further discussion indicating people should be ready to volunteer in any capacity such as grunt work or putting up antennas. No time for further discussion but we'll pick it up next month.

2.5 Committee Report - Public Relations - Joe Flamini, W4BXG

1. Jefferson Cup coming up on the 30th of March.

2. Andrew Wiley, KK4SHO will be chairing the event -- he did an exceptional job last year.

3. Please contact him if you can work. Joe may be able to participate.

4. People will NOT be asked to use their own vehicles -- take an HT w/ Mag Mount.

5. Marty has put together a command post mobile system that will be operated from the school where the main contact Ruth is stationed.

6. They don't donate money -- and we can't ask for it, but Joe will investigate.

2.6. Committee Report - Estate Committee - Dayton Haugh, AA4DH

Dayton is not present, so Jim Owen, K4CGY indicated that we'll have another estate "coming up" after April 1st. Dick Hildenbrand, K4EBL (SK) passed away recently.

Jim Crosby, K4JEC, spoke about Dick, saying, "Dick H was a teacher at Miller School while I was there and we were good friends. He and his wife left Miller School to teach in Green County and lived in Ruckersville. Each winter after he retired, they'd spend in Florida, where he chose to pass away. Long time member of the club and good friend."

Not a great deal of equipment is on the line.

3. Reconsideration of the Tabled Motion relating to the Pledge of Allegiance

Jim Owen, K4CGY, indicated that we would now address a tabled motion regarding the prior approved motion for the club to begin meetings by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The original motion was made at the October 2013 meeting and adopted with a mixed vote. Due to a number of factors, during the November 2013 meeting, another motion was made to rescind the prior motion, which was tabled, and transferred to a committee formed by the Life Members of

the Club, to study what should be done and make a recommendation. They're recommendation comes in the form of a written motion, which Jim made on behalf of the committee (see VOTE below).

The written motion is available as requested, but Jim, K4CGY summarized it as follows, "As you remember we passed an amendment that each meeting would be started with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and it was found that some people did not think that was appropriate for this radio club. A motion was made to rescind that motion which was the one that was tabled. Now it says, it is the opinion of the Life Members that requiring each meeting of the AARC to begin with the Pledge of Allegiance does not serve either the nation or our club. We observed the range of opinions expressed over this issue, the strength of feelings that were expressed, and have concluded that the club expresses its conviction to community, local, state, and nation through our service. Nothing beyond that should be requested or required. We therefore recommend that the author of the motion step forward and request that the original motion be withdrawn. If this is not accomplished, we believe that a motion should be passed to rescind the original motion on the pledge of allegiance from the club records. We also believe the motion was made with the best of intentions without any idea of the controversy that would ensue. We would advise the chair and those who would chair AARC in the future, that issues such as this should perhaps be tabled so that members have some time to consider ramifications before proceeding with action." And this has been submitted by the present active Life Members.

Jim if the author of the original motion was in attendance and would be willing to withdraw the motion. It was determined that he was not. Therefore, the motion Jim made on behalf of the committee, which does not need to be seconded, is to rescind the original motion. A private vote will be taken. No discussion was requested. A Yes vote will be to Rescind the original motion. A No vote will be to allow the original motion to stand. The votes were were written by each member in attendance on a small sheet of paper and collected by Michael Rein, KA4JJD who gathered with Don Eason to both count the votes.

While counting took place, we moved forward with the presentation by Mike McPherson, KQ9P.

MEMBER VOTE -- PASSED

MOTION: Rescind the prior motion to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of AARC Meetings

MOVER: Jim Owen, K4CGY - on behalf of the Life Member Committee

SECOND:

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: **PASS** (Yea: 25; Nay: 1)

4. PROGRAM - ARES/RACES - An Update by Mike McPherson, KQ9P

Mike is the new Emergency Coordinator for the ?Region? and provided an excellent overview.

One big takeaway is that other agencies and the folks that we support are already using digital data transfer, and we're not doing that yet. However, there are examples from many locales of advanced use of radio technology to get there. He's

looking at some of these advanced capabilities to supplement our voice capabilities.

He asked for seriously interested people to consider joining ARES. If already an ARES member, please register on the local website at x and begin working on the online courses. Airport exercise is September 20, 2014 -- Full scale drill -- looking for helpers.

Wrapped up with a video from the Chairman of FEMA who espoused the positive aspects of Amateur Radio.

5. 5-Minute Break after announcing VOTE results (see above)

(BREAK)

6. Jim, K4CGY Called the Meeting to Order after the break

6.1. Old Business

6.1.1. Science Fair - 12th of March.

Still Need Judges for the club to look for projects that we like related to radio. See Bill Phillips, AD6JV

6.1.2. Jefferson Cup Bike Race

Need Volunteers for that. Contact Andrew Wiley, KK4SHO to offer assistance.

6.1.3. Sign In on Sheet

Jim, K4CGY reminded folks to sign in on the sheet.

6.1.4. Kick SAT

According to Mike, KQ9P, at present, the launch has been delayed until March 16, 2014. Mike further indicated the "Ground Station" has been completed and is in the back of his vehicle. He intends to hand it off to Mark, AK4OL for the required control software installation -- all Linux-based system.

6.1.5. Last Month Meeting Minutes

It was noted that we (Mike Elliott, K4WDV) failed to get approval for the prior month's board meeting minutes at tonight's board meeting. At the recommendation of Bob Pattison, K4DU, we'll do that at the next board meeting along with the approval of minutes from the board meeting that preceded this General Meeting, since those minutes needs to be approved by the Board.

Jim requested a motion calling for approval of the minutes from last month's general member meeting, as printed in the Beacon.

MEMBER VOTE -- PASSED

MOTION: Approve the minutes from the General Membership Meeting of the AARC held January 14, 2014

MOVER: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

SECOND: Bob Pattison, K4DU

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: **PASS** (Yea: Unanimous; Nay: None)

6.1.6. New Vice-President has been appointed -- Joe, W2PVY

Jim, K4CGY made the announcement that Joe W2PVY has been elected to the role of Vice-President by the board.

6.1.7. Treasurers Report

Don Eason, N4UVA says:

Amount	Description
\$5,804.55	BALANCE as of January 1, 2014
- \$770.07	Debits - Mostly Repeater Updates

Amount	Description
+ \$872.31	Deposits
\$5,906.79	BALANCE as of January 31, 2014

Don noted that with further expenses that have been approved, we'll be hovering close to our \$5K minimum budget balance bogey (established as a guideline after our repeater equipment insurance was dropped during a past administration), but with some additional expected income we should be in good shape (I didn't hear this well, so many of these are my words -- Mike Elliott, K4WDV)

Don also suggested that we count on Annual AARC Member Dues to sustain our balance, which are due now. He encouraged any members who haven't yet done so, to pay their dues and update their membership. Also he encouraged us to nudge members who've stopped coming to meetings to consider joining up again.

6.1.8. Report on Estate Sale for Colin Rae, W4RAE (SK)

Ron Richey, K4RKA reports that the Estate Sale for Colin Rae, W4RAE (SK) has netted approximately \$2,000 for Colin's wife, and anticipates an additional \$300 to \$400 from pending sales. Colin's wife really has appreciated the help he says.

Ron mentioned the following people who've helped (Name only--no call signs, sorry): Sam Gentry, Bob, Don, Jim, Marty, and Larry.

6.1.9. Harry, W2HD - A Comment on ARRL Support

Harry says, in addition to supporting our club by renewing membership, it's important that we also support the ARRL. Beyond the fact that they support and protect the very things we all use (such as frequencies via the Spectrum Defense Fund, etc.), we need to maintain a greater than 50% pool of current AARC club members, who also maintain an active ARRL membership in order to maintain our ARRL Affiliated Club Status and our Special Services Status.

Jim Crosby, K4JEC added that indeed this is the year that we'll be audited by the ARRL, and encouraged us to follow Harry's advice in joining/renewing membership in the ARRL. Jim Owen, K4CGY added that younger members should consider Life Membership, possibly paid in installments? Both Harry and Jim are Life Members and ultimately, you're costs are lower (20 * the annual dues rate at the time of commitment) and in actuality the payoff is less than 20 years since the ARRL annual dues increase nominally each year.

6.1.10. New Member Vote

Mark, AK4OL indicates there's an outstanding membership application that was lost, but has already paid. Joe Furtwengler, N3MND has a family membership application that needs to be voted on. He's also a member of the ARRL.

MEMBER VOTE -- PASSED

MOTION: Approve Membership of Joe Furtwengler, N3MND and family

MOVER: Mark Whitis, AK4OL

SECOND: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: **PASS** (Yea: Unanimous; Nay: None)

6.1.11. First Time Visitor

New Future Member in attendance and first time visitor is Paul -- interested in joining. Needs to update his Technician License. Introduced by Jim Wilson, K4BAV.

6.1.12. Raffle - A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

1st - Joe, W2PVY

2nd - Mike, KA4JJD

3rd - Bob, K4DU

4th - Bill, AD6JV (pass)

5th - Bill, AD6JV (pass)

6th - Mark, AK4OL -- Big Fan

7th - Don, N4UVA (pass)

Speakers will go next week.

6.2 New Business

6.2.1. UVa Professor has Students Launching a Balloon -- Needs APRS Help

Jim, K4CGY indicates a UVa Professor has Students Launching a Balloon -- Needs APRS Help

- Currently Wes Epperly, K4WLE is P.O.C. for the Club
- The assistance will require travel to New Mexico -- we've recommended they get someone on the team to be licensed.
- Andrew, KK4SHO indicated he's talked to the professor and says he's pursuing a technician license.
- Jim, K4CGY says BE SURE TO remind him to keep the power set to 1 Watt output.

6.2.2. Other New Business

None Stated.

7. Meeting Adjourned at approximately 8:58pm

MEMBER VOTE -- PASSED

MOTION: Adjourn Meeting

MOVER: : Harry Dannals, W2HD

SECOND: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: **PASS** (Yea: Unanimous; Nay: None)

End of Minutes

The Beacon

The Beacon is the official newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc. It will strive to communicate with, enlighten, and entertain the members of the club in strict compliance with the official word of the club as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The newsletter shall be published monthly on or before the 1st day of the month of issue. The deadline for submissions shall be the 25th of the month preceding the month of publication. The primary role of the publication shall be to promote upcoming activities, report past activities and accomplishments of the club and its members, carry the minutes of the preceding month's meetings, as well as, become a recorded history of the club by the archival of all past issues.

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Jim Crosby K4JEC – Editor

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The End