

AARC Meeting of July 11, 2017

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club meeting, held at the NRAO headquarters auditorium, was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ed Berkowitz, N3US, with 30 people attending. [See the attendance list which is provided below]

Each attendee introduced himself.

The Program: Richmond Amateur Radio Club Participation in “Maker Fest”

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, and John King, WB4NHX, described the Richmond Amateur Radio Club’s success with their “RVA Maker Fest”, held at the Science Museum of Virginia. *[For interesting details about the Richmond Amateur Radio Club see www.rarclub.net. The Richmond club meets on the second Friday of each month at the Bon Air United Methodist church. He invited us to attend.]*

Bruce described this as an important event for providing the public with a current perception of ham radio. He noted that two long tables were used by his club for this event. The tables included many electronics items on display. “We want them to get interested in electronics,” stated Bruce. Secondly, they emphasized, “We aren’t dying,” referring to the current public misconception of ham radio. He stated that amateur radio membership is actually growing.

Bruce noted that their club designed club business cards for this special event and that the business cards “flew off the table.” He recommended that the AARC do the same. Ed asked Larry Eicher, K4JZQ, to design our new business card.

Bruce also commented that the slick ARRL brochures were popular. *[Our club has an ample supply of ARRL brochures.]*

Bruce noted that club members at this event all wore matching white Polo shirts and large club name badges. This helped the public identify club members to who they could direct questions.

The Richmond Amateur Radio Club also displayed a large banner, about 2 by 6 feet in size, which he considered “a must” item for this event.

Soldering attracted youth, but safety glasses were required, Bruce said.

And they had Morse code practice oscillators as part of their table displays. “The kids went crazy over ‘em,” stated Bruce. Of course, the club members told the public that Morse code is no longer required to earn a license. In spite of that revelation, the youngsters were intrigued with the code. So Morse code is a good draw for future events, concluded Bruce.

In addition, the club had several signs prominently displayed. The “License to transmit” sign drew many questions. This list described the first license as REGIONAL, the second license as WORLD WIDE, and the third license as BRAGGING RIGHTS. *[These corresponded with Technician, General, and Extra class ham licenses.]*

Bruce and John noted that they also had a list of common questions that the public typically asks about amateur radio. This list was helpful to the club members who participated.

Bruce and John noted that QST magazine recently published an article about the Richmond Amateur Radio Club's success with the Richmond Maker Fest.

They also noted that the Virginia Science Museum Maker Fest was free to the public and that club members were flabbergasted at the number of people who attended this indoor event:

In 2014 approximately 4,000 attended

In 2015 approximately 8,900 attended

In 2016 approximately 7,800 attended

The next Virginia Science Museum Maker Fair is scheduled during October 2017. The Richmond Amateur Radio Club plans again to be there.

Bruce and John also mentioned that Richmond Amateur Radio Club members teach classes every March and September. They emphasized that CONSISTENCY is very important in scheduling amateur radio classes.

The presentation by Bruce and John ended at 7:44 PM. *[John Porter, KK4JP, videotaped this presentation and it has since added it to the AARC web site: www.albemarleradio.org]*

Bob Romanko, AK4BR, suggested the building of crystal sets as an additional project for such an event. Bob stated that he was a Boy Scout leader in Alaska and that crystal set building was a big draw there. John King, WB4NHX, replied that a long wire and a good ground are needed for successful crystal sets.

Treasurer's report:

AARC Treasurer, Don Eason, N4UVA, presented his report for the month of June:

Beginning Balance \$10,889.39

Debits: \$ 282.90

Credits: \$ 118.23

Ending Balance: \$10,724.82

Approval of the June 13, 2017 Minutes:

Upon a motion by Jim Wilson, K4BAV, seconded by Don Eason, N4UVA, the official minutes of the AARC meeting of June 13, 2017 were approved unanimously. These are available on the AARC web site.

Repeater Report:

Because Bill Pond, N0WP, was absent, Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY, presented his summary status of the club repeaters. "There are some issues with the audio," stated Joe.

Field Day Reports:

Bob Romanko, AK4BR, summarized Field Day 2017. "It was a great turnout. It was fun." Bob added, "We never had a dull moment on 80." *[Bob racked up an impressive score of contacts on the 80 meter phone band.]*

Michael Rein, K4JJD, reported on the Field Day "GOTA" station. He said the station proved to be valuable. He thanked Bill and Marty for assisting him with the "Get On The Air" station. Michael also noted that the old time telegraph booth run by Jim, K4BAV, was purposefully located for high visibility by passing traffic. This Civil War era telegraph station tunneled a good number of participants directly to the GOTA station. This visitor's station claimed 140 points. Steve Kramer KN4CJI will receive a "Hero of GOTA" award for completing more than 20 contacts and winning extra points.

Larry Eicher, K4JQZ, reported that 22 organizations assisted our Field Day weekend with donations ranging from food to loan of tables and portable toilets as well as media publicity. Larry already sent these organizations Thank You Letters and he suggested that Thank You Certificates also be prepared for these organizations. *[Copies of the letters were submitted by Larry for Jim Wilson's official club records. This information will be valuable to future Field Day organizers.]*

Classes Proposed:

Rick Oliver, W3KDR, our Chairman of the Education Committee, proposed a series of 8 to 10 classes for the Technician License be scheduled after Labor Day. President Ed Berkowitz suggested that classes be set at a minimum of two hours each session. Ed also noted that he and Rick are registered ARRL instructors. Subsequent to the meeting, Ed and Rick realized that the earliest we can start a Technician class is in January 2018 due to the time required to secure a venue, recruit both students and instructors, etc.

AARC Logo & AARC Brochure:

Ed Berkowitz, N3US, recommended that our club logo be modernized and that our existing club brochure be updated. Nobody volunteered to take on these tasks. Ed also stated that the business card with the club website may eliminate the need for an updated brochure.

New Members Approved:

Jim Wilson, K4BAV, announced two new member applications since the previous meeting. Upon a motion by Bob Romanko, AK4BR, seconded by A.J. Miller, KE4AJM, the two new member's applications were unanimously approved and welcomed. Our two new AARC members are:
John Norin KE7HX
Brian Altherr KN4CZY

Sunday July 16th Public Service Event:

Since our Public Service Chairman, Dave Damon, K4DND, was absent from this meeting, John Porter, KK4JP, reminded our members that more volunteers were needed for the upcoming Sunday Miller School bike races. This is a major annual public service event.

Future Program:

Vice President and Program Coordinator, Larry Eicher, K4JZQ, outlined future interesting club programs Larry said that the August meeting will feature Bob Romanko, AK4BR, talking on the topic of Lightening

Protection. Larry pointed out that there will be no programs in September due to the annual club picnic, nor in December due to the annual awards ceremony.

New Radio Tower:

Don Eason, N4UVA, commented that he has plans for erecting a new ham tower and that he will need some assistance from club members. Don stated that his county permit has been approved and that the concrete will be poured then allowed to “set” for a couple of months. Then his new Skyhawk beam antenna can be installed with member’s assistance.

Club Loaner Equipment:

President Ed Berkowitz, N3US, reminded members that the club has a TS130 transceiver which is available for loan to members who are temporarily without a station. “It’s an oldie but goodie,” stated Ed, describing the TS130.

Raffle Items:

A.J. Miller, KE4AJM, proceeded with the neigh’s raffle. The items included:

- Two new wireless microphones
- Two old time meters (one for volts and one for amps)
- A book about the Bhutan 2000 DX Expedition
- A new HF/VHF antenna
- An old recharger
- A guitar amplifier
- A Netgear brand stackable 16 port network hub

Nine lucky winners left the meeting with smiles on their faces.

A.J. reported a total of \$64 collected from raffle tickets.

Four Miler Race for Cancer Cure:

Before the meeting ended, Larry Eicher, K4JZQ, made a pitch for his wife, Vickie, who will be again be running the “Four Miler Race” on September 4th to raise money of the UVA Hospital’s Emily Couric Cancer Center. He asked members to consider donating to this valuable cause.

The Sign-In Sheet for the meeting of July 11, 2017 included:

- Bill Phillips AD6JV
- Richard Freeman KI4QKV
- Rich Oliver W3KDR
- Joe Morse KN4DYS
- Chappy Chapman K4ERZ
- Al Bogden KF4AGT
- Stephen Kramer KN4CJI
- John Porter KK4JP
- Mike Montgomery KA4MUO
- Jim Owen K4CGY
- Theresa Olds KD0GOA
- Kelly Olds KI0KT
- Dan Shumard N6DJS
- Michael Rein KA4JJD

Steve O'Connor KM4PEN
Chuck Gross KS4NW
Ed Berkowitz N3US
A.J. Miller KE4AJM
Stan Hazen K2SSB
Don Eason N4UVA
Bob Pattison K4DU
John Norin KE7HX (New member)
Joe Giovanelli W2PVY
Bob Romanko AK4BR
Dennis Mennerich K4THE
Jerry Hendricks KA4FHP
Bruce MacAlister W4BRU
John King WB4NHX
Jim Wilson K4BAV

These summary Minutes of the AARC meeting of July 11, 2017 were prepared and are respectfully submitted by Jim Wilson, K4BAV, **AARC 2017 Minute Man**.

File Name: AARC Meeting of 07-11-2017