

AARC Meeting of April 11, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President Larry Eicher, K4JZQ, with 28 people attending (see the attached sign-in sheet).

Joe's Birthday

Larry announced that member Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY, celebrated his 88th birthday on April 10th (the previous day) and that Joe was licensed 71 years ago as of this past week. Members cheered.

Harry's Birthday

Larry also noted that our well known member, former ARRL President, Harry Dannals, W2HD, will turn age 90 on April 15th. (Harry was absent from the meeting.) At this point, Joe proudly chimed in, "I got my ticket six months before he did!" (Longtime friends, Harry and Joe, often banter with an ongoing humorous competition.) Larry suggested that individual members contact Harry with birthday wishes.

Members and non-members were invited to state their names and call signs. Several of those attending were first timers, so they were especially welcomed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Don Eason, who has faithfully served our club for the past ten years, reported on club funds for the month of March:

Beginning Balance: \$11,784.15

Debits: \$ 340.09

Credits: \$ 268.87

Ending Balance: \$11,712.93

Don was excited that the club balance had never before been so high.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Larry asked if anyone had any revisions to the official club minutes of the previous meeting (prepared by Patsy Crosby). Upon a motion by Bob Pattison, K4DU, seconded by Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY, the Minutes of March 21st were unanimously approved as submitted.

Technical Committee Report

Bill Pond, NOWP, provided a brief report by the Technical Committee on our club repeaters. He noted that the repeater and two antennas were removed, as required, from the Marshall Manor site.

Public Service Report

Larry mentioned the recent Sunday public service bike race. One of the bike race participants described the race as "successful and uneventful." Mike McPherson, KQ9P, added that he tried out his Mesh Network and that race organizer, Ruth, was pleased with the results.

Public Service & Education Reports

Publicity Director Paul McGee and Education Director Rick Oliver were both absent from the meeting so no update on their activities was available to the membership.

Evening Raffle

A.J. Miller, KE4AJM, described the evening raffle items. These included

A vintage computer printer

Two VHF documentary tapes
A stereo audio selector switch
Wireless headphones
A Kenwood paper log book
An SWR meter
And the always available Club Mug
The evening raffle brought in \$68 to the club treasury.

Field Day Report

Bob Pattison K4DU, reported on our upcoming Field Day, scheduled for June 24 & 25 at the 911 Center. Upon a motion by Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY, seconded by A.J. Miller, KE4AJM, the club unanimously voted to authorize up to \$300 for Field Day supplies such as paper plates and plastic silverware. Bob also noted that Field Day will require three tents and that the club may need to purchase one new tent to replace a worn and damaged old tent. Bob said that he planned to check tent prices and to bring his findings to the May meeting for discussion. For Field Day, "the goal is to have fun," summarized Bob.

New Member Approved

Upon a motion by Bob Pattison, K4DU, seconded by Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY, **Steve Kramer, KN4CJI**, was voted in as a new member. Two other fellows who were in the audience vowed to fill out an application to join AARC.

SkyWarn Class April 17th

Albemarle Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator, John Porter, KK4JP, noted that on April 17th beginning at 6:30 at the Gordon Avenue library, club members may attend a class on "SKYWARN".

Club Newsletter

Larry inquired if the club members might want to revive the Club Beacon newsletter or something similar. No spontaneous responses were heard.

W4UVA Antenna Update

Mike McPherson, KQ9P, reported on the antenna situation for the University of Virginia club station, W4UVA. "The W4UVA antenna is in pathetic shape," he commented. John Porter, KK4JP, added that, with his drone, potato cannons, and sling shots, the antenna team ought to easily be able to install any new antennas for W4UVA. The volunteer Antenna Team has scheduled April 22nd for antenna work at UVA, May 6th for antenna work for Stan Hazen, and May 20 for antenna work for Dan Shumar of Augusta. The club praised their efforts.

Program Presented

Our program for the evening was presented by Mike McPherson, KQ9P, who informed us with his talk and power point slide show titled, "**An Amateur Radio Satellite Ground Station at UVA.**" Mike serves as trustee for W4UVA. A group of faculty and students at UVA are building a constellation of three cube satellites to be launched during the spring of 2018. "This is UVA's first satellite," stated Mike. These small, low power, cheap little satellites have a lifespan of about three months, Mike explained. The UVA team will soon build a ground station antenna to be placed on the roof of the mechanical engineering building. (John Porter, KK4JP, video recorded Mike's talk, which is now available on the club website: albemarleradio.org.)

Following Mike's interesting talk, Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY, motioned to adjourn. A.J. Miller, KE4AJM, seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

These Minutes are respectfully prepared and submitted by Jim Wilson, K4BAV

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