

Minutes of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
November 14, 2017
NRAO
6:59PM to 9PM

Chair: Ed Berkowitz, N3US, president

Acting Secretary: Larry Eicher, K4JZQ substituting for Jim Wilson, K4BAV absent due to tie up in traffic due to tractor trailer blocking highway access.

Ed, N3US called the meeting to order at 6:59PM in anticipation of a number of items to be discussed.

First on the Agenda was introducing Eric Santana KN4EVT a new ham applying for membership. AJ Miller KE4AJM made a motion to accept Eric's new family membership, and this motion was seconded by KA4JJD, Michael. The motion passed unanimously with no opposition.

Next Ed N3US called on K4DU, Bob Pattison to give us a report on the Election Committee. Bob is asking for committee volunteers to work with him to encourage members to run for various positions at the January AARC meeting. As Field Day chairman in 2017, Bob also discussed information that has appeared on the digital mode of QST magazine indicating our 3F station last June came in 7 out of 47 stations in that category. More info will be processed once the December hard copy of the QST magazine arrives in our mailboxes in the near future.

Ed called on Rick W3DR to give us a report on the results of the Barnes & Noble Maker Faire which was held Sunday Nov. 12, 2017 between 12 noon to 4PM. Eleven club members volunteered to help make the ham radio presentation a success. Michael Rein KA4JJD presented certificates to the 3 hams who stood by at home to make on air radio contacts with students. Those honored were Bill Phillips, AD6JV, Dave Damon K4DND (mobile), and Ron Richey K4RKA. Rick also gave an update on the upcoming ham Technician class at Our Lady of Peace starting on January 11. Rick had more flyers to give out to members and asked everyone to post these flyers at various venues wherever possible to advertise the classes.

Don Eason W4UVA gave us the latest Treasurer's report.

Beginning Bal.	\$12,523.08
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Checks:	\$310.36
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Deposits:	\$658.66
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Ending Bal.	\$12,871.38
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Ed, N3US reminded the membership of the Awards Banquet scheduled for Dec. 12 Tuesday at the Double Tree Hotel. Information and registration for the dinner is on our AARC website. Cost for the dinner is \$20 per person. The club will also invite a number of guests to the dinner as a thank you for their support during the year. AJ Miller KE4AJM asked for a motion that the club be authorized to spend up to \$200 for raffle items to be presented at the Awards Banquet. Joe, W2PVY made the motion to permit this expenditure, and it was seconded by Larry K4JZQ. The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Pond N0WP gave his report on repeaters and indicated everything is running per normal. Over the last 6 weeks the 220 repeater was moved from Bucks Hollow to Heard Mountain. Bill indicated that continued problems with the 220 repeater might be due to an old antenna. The focus was on getting equipment we already have to work properly through repairs, although the possibility if things can't be fixed a new purchase proposal might be made by Bill to spend approximately \$1200 to improve the 220 repeater. Some in the audience questioned the cost, given the low usage of the 220 repeater. Only 3 hams in attendance make use of this repeater at this time.

Ed N3US asked if there were any additional New/Old Business. Hearing none he asked AJ Miller KE4AJM to conduct the Raffle.

Ed then asked Larry, K4JZQ program director to introduce our speaker for the evening, Larry told members that Mike McPherson, KQ9P had kindly moved his talk up to the November meeting after we learned that the scheduled speaker Cole Fairchild had to cancel for this evening because his group's weather balloon project had just been postponed due to weather. We hope to have the BACON weather balloon project people back with us sometime in 2018 however. Larry also encouraged more members who wished to present a future talk to AARC club members to contact him so the new incoming VP would have a cushion of speakers to start 2018 off right.

Mike KQ9P first gave us an update on the UVA cubesat launch. The ELaNa-25 mission has now been scheduled for the last half of 2018, with 3 coming from Virginia, 8 other satellites coming from other universities. These units will be launched on a space station resupply launch at a date to be determined sometime in the future, with launch of the cubesats to occur the last quarter of 2018 or first quarter of 2018.

Mike, KQ9P then turned to his main topic of the evening, Winlink. Winlink is email but ... it adds ham radio to the system.

Advantages: It uses a worldwide redundant infrastructure; is 100% accurate; looks like standard email; and is interconnected with internet email.

Disadvantages: it is more complex than CW or Phone operation; requires some additional hardware; and is not blazing fast. Mike then began a discussion of speed with various approaches to Winlink.

What is the purpose of Winlink? Anything with ham radio is ok for Winlink for routine communications between hams but it is best utilized during emergencies when accurate emergency communications are needed.

Mike continued to go over the Winlink pros and cons of this approach. He indicated that many of the Kenwood transceivers already have a built in TNC for Winlink so you only need a cable to operate. Currently the club has a Kenwood D710 for sale, donated to the club by Roland Beard KK4EDU. Mike plugged his unit into the USB port on his computer and gave a demonstration on downloading a couple of emails that had been sent to him via Winlink.

At the conclusion of his talk, Mike KQ9P indicated he would be free to talk to any AARC members who might want

further info on Winlink and how to install it onto their laptop computers. His entire talk is on video and on the AARC website for those who want to view once again this interesting presentation and for whoever missed the meeting.

In the meantime, AJ Miller KE4AJM indicated the club had gained \$80 from the proceeds of the evening raffle.

Ed then reminded AARC members that Bill Pond N0WP was in the back of the auditorium with the AARC club service monitor and would be available to check out any member's HT for various power levels. Approximately half a dozen AARC members took advantage of this offer to utilize a popular AARC acquisition. A similar number spoke with KQ9P about Winlink opportunities.

With no other discussion raised, Ed N3US adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM and members either disbursed to their homes or stayed for a leisurely talk with both N0WP and/or KQ9P on HT power levels and Winlink.

Respectfully submitted.

Larry Eicher, Acting Secretary for November 14, 2017

Members Attending the November 14 meeting:

Bob Pattison K4DU
Larry Eicher K4JZQ
Dave Dawson KM4YWY
Eric Santana KN4EVT
Stan Hazen K2SSB
AJ Miller K34AJM
Bob Romanko AK4BR
Mark Whitis AK4OL
Michael Ellington KN4BFG
Stephen Kramer K44CJZ
Rick Oliver W3KDR
Joe Greenberg KJ4PE
Chuck Gross KS4NW
Meghan Pendergast No call
Seth Morris KN4GWF
Mike McPherson KQ9P
Richard Freeman KI4QKV
Don Shumard N6DJS
Steve O*Connor KM4PZN
Keran Garrod KN4GGZ
Rob Garrod No call
Al Bogden KF4AGT
Chappy Chapman K4ERZ
Ed Berkowitz N3US
Michael Rein KA4JJD
Dave Damon K4DND
Don Eason, Jr. N4UVA

Jim Owen K4CGY

73,

Larry K4JZQ