

AARC Meeting of January 9, 2018

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club meeting, held at the NRAO auditorium, was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ed Berkowitz, N3US, with 26 members attending. See the attendance list below.

Introductions were made by each person attending.

NRAO Auditorium:

Jim Condon, AD4YM, made an announcement, reminding us that the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club has the sole privilege of being the only non-NRAO group to have permission to use the NRAO auditorium. He advised us to not wander around the NRAO building. [AARC nearly lost this privilege.]

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer, Don Eason, N4UVA, presented his report for the month of December 2017:

Beginning Balance: \$13,853.39

Debits: \$ 562.41

Credits: \$ 1,448.71

Ending Balance: \$14,739.69

Recommendation for the 2018 Awards Banquet:

President Ed Berkowitz, N3US, suggested that the club reserve the Double Tree Restaurant for the next December annual awards banquet. Ed felt that the club members are very satisfied with this location.

Don Eason, NN4UVA, then suggested we increase the banquet ticket price by two or three dollars in orders to get better food selections. [No action was taken on Don's suggestion.]

QST Subscriptions approved:

President Ed Berkowitz, N3US, noted that the AARC Board approved the expenditure of up to \$150 for QST subscriptions to be placed at three local libraries: Northside, Central, and Crozet.

The subscriptions are considered to be an outreach program, to introduce library users to the opportunities available via amateur radio. Several members suggested we consider donating QST subscriptions to other libraries and to area high school libraries.

Northern California DX Foundation Donation Suggested:

President Berkowitz, N3US, relayed a request from member Alan Swinger, K9MBQ, that AARC make a donation to the Northern California DX Foundation.

Mike McPherson, KQ9P, reflected that AARC is not a DX club so he is opposed to any club donations to the DX Foundation (NCDXF).

Dave Damon, K4DND, commented that AARC is a "Special Service Club" and as such, he suggested that individual's members make donations to NCDXF, but not donations as a club. Several DX members can donate and state they are AARC members.

Chuck Gross, KS4NW, commented that the DXpeditions are typically well funded, so they do not need our money. Ed clarified that this is not always the case.

Spectrum Defense Fund Donation:

Dave Damon, K4DND, suggested that the club donate to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund instead of a DXpedition. Bob Pattison, K4DU, agreed. Bob made a motion that AARC donate \$100 to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. A.J. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Technical Committee Report:

President Ed Berkowitz, N3US, noted that our Technical Committee Chairman, Bill Pond, NOWP, was absent from this meeting but that Bill had a summary report for Ed to read at the meeting.

Bill's report follows – "I am still waiting for a trip to Heard Mountain to attempt to fix of the intermittent transmitter dropouts, and a couple of other cleanup items. Weather hasn't cooperated, and the cold temperatures would have prevented any meaningful work. Hopefully within the next couple of weeks, we'll have an opportunity to visit and try some fixes.

After that, we'll visit the Martha Jefferson hospital site and install some fixes to address the audio quality coming from the 146.895 repeater. We have not been notified of any further activity with the new county tower at Bucks Elbow to replace the current structure. Should have news on that front soon."

Upcoming Technician License Class:

Rick Oliver, W3KDR, reported that the first Technician radio class will begin on Thursday January 11th at Our Lady of Peace, 7 – 9PM. He was pleased to announce that 18 students have signed-up for this class.

The Evening Program:

John Porter, KK4JP, presented a power point program about his environmental monitoring project on the Virginia eastern shore. John presented current photographs and diagrams of the many radio data stations which monitor this coastal eco system. He noted that the low power transmitters are powered by solar panels. John demonstrated the value of spread spectrum transmitters. John's 45 minute talk is now available on the club website (Albemarleradio.org).

The Raffle Drawings:

A.J. Miller, KE4AJM, proceeded to draw winners of the evening raffle prizes.

The evening prizes included:

1. HD 3030 ear phones
2. The Antenna Book, 21st edition
3. A Heathkit vintage intercom
4. A 9 quart Chipcom mini-hub
5. A 185 watt PC power supply with cooling fan
6. An MSP 430 Launch pad development tool
7. A cardboard mystery box full of stuff

A.J. reported that the evening raffle raised a total of \$82.

Report of the Nomination Committees:

Bob Pattison, K4DU, Chairman of the Nominating Committee reported the slate for 2018 AARC Club Officers. These are:

President: John Porter – KK4JP (one year term)

Vice President: Dennis Terribile – WR4I (one year term)

Treasurer: Don Eason – N4UVA (one year term)

Secretary: Jim Wilson – K4BAV (one year term)

Director of Education: Rick Oliver – W3KDR (two year term)
Director for Fund Raising: A.J. Miller – KE4AJM (two year term)
Director of Public Relations: Paul McKee – AK4OH (two year term)

Joe Giovanelli, W2HD, made a motion to accept the proposed nominations. Michael Rein, KK4JJD, seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Newly elected AARC president, John Porter, KK4JP, closed the meeting at 8:30 PM.

These Minutes of the AARC meeting of January 8, 2018 were prepared by and are respectfully submitted to the members by Jim Wilson, K4BAV, your AARC 2018 Minute Man.

The sign-in sheet for the meeting of January 9, 2018 included:

Richard Freeman KI4QKV
Jim Wilson K4BAV
Al Bogden KF4AGT
Bill McDermott (no call sign yet)
Joe Giovanelli W2PVY
Carol Krofcheck KM4RHX
Joe Krofcheck KM4RIG
Stephen Kramer KN4CJZ
Dan Shumard N6DJJ
Bob Pattison K4DU
Peter R. Thorsen, Jr. W4PRT
Don Eason, Jr. N4UVA
A.J. Miller KE4AJM
Rick Oliver W3KDR
John Porter KK4JP
Jerry Hendrick KA4EHP
Chuck Gross KS4NW
Michael Ellington KN4BFB
Steve O'Connor KM4PZN
Dave Damon K4DND
Michael Rein KA4JJD
Ed Berkowitz N3US
Eric Santana KN4EVT
Dave Dawson KM4YWY
Jim Condon AD4YM
Mike McPherson KQ9P

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