

## AARC Meeting of February 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by our newly elected AARC President, John Porter, KK4JP.

The attendees were asked to briefly introduce themselves by name and call sign.

Forty-one people attended this meeting. Their names are listed at the end of this meeting summary.

### **Program #1:**

Club members were treated to an unexpected program by four students from Charlottesville High School. These bright students explained and described the balloon launch of a payload box about 10 x 10 x 10 inches. Rick Oliver, W3KDR, was instrumental in assisting the students with this project. Physics students Mike Holt (the main designer), Jack Timmins (the main coder), Dani Sazbo and Tilden Fernandez, came to our meeting to tell us of their success.

“We planned to launch five times,” explained one of the project BACON students. [BACON = Best All Around Club of Nerds.] Weather conditions were a major factor in setting the launch date. They used a latex balloon filled with helium. Cameras and radios were aboard the balloon payload. The balloon rose to a maximum height of 30,000 feet and traveled for nearly three hours. “Ham radio was our only method to track it,” said one of the students.

The balloon passed through the jet stream, burst, and the payload descended rapidly by parachute. It was blown to a landing site near Mechanicsville. The students, using GPS as a locator, were disappointed that they were unable to find the downed payload.

Thirteen days later, thanks to a bright neon colored parachute and to a loud buzzer, a hunter discovered the payload box and phoned one of the students. “We were very happy to get it back,” exclaimed the CHS students.

These CHS physics students said they plan to launch a balloon again, perhaps during this coming May. They asked for any re-design suggestions from members of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club.

### **Program #2:**

Jim Owen, K4CGY presented a series of photographs during his interesting talk titled: “Transceiver Selection and Specs, Transceivers 1956-2018 from Tubes to SDR.”

Jim began his talk with a photograph of a Collins KWM-1. “It was the Cadillac of transceivers,” exclaimed Jim. This was the first ever transceiver to use SSB, but, “it wasn’t very good on CW,” Jim cautioned.

Jim’s following photographs with descriptions included the Collins KWM-2, the Heathkit HW-12A, the Heathkit SB-101, the Kenwood TS-820S, the Kenwood TS 830S, The Kenwood TS-850S, the Kenwood TS-130S, the Swan 350, the Swan 500C, the Ten-Tec Omni-D, the Ten Tec Omni-C, The Ten-Tec Corsair II, the Ten-Tec Argosy II, the Ten Tec Delta, the Ten-Tec Jupiter, the Ten-Tec Omni VI, the Ten-Tec Omni VII, the Ten-Tec Argonaut, the Ten-Tec Eagle, the Ten-Tec Argonaut VI, and the Ten-Tec Orion II.

Speaking with the voice of experience, Jim stated that he had owned and operated most of the transceivers that he described to us. He explained the evolution of circuits from those that were poor at CW and drifting oscillators, to today’s highly reliable and stable and easy to use models. His descriptions included current prices which we might expect to pay on EBay.

## **Treasurer's report:**

Club Treasurer, Don Eason, N4UVA, reported these figures for the month of January, 2018:

Beginning Balance as of January 1st: \$14,739.69

Debits: 622.99

Credits: 824.01

Ending Balance as of January 31<sup>st</sup>: \$14,940.71

## **New Members:**

Unanimously approved by those attending were new members:

Joe & Carol Krofgherk (Joe's call sign KM4RIG)

Pat Donahoe KK4QZS

## **Club Raffle:**

A.J. Miller then drew names from his big jar for winners of the evening raffle. The prizes included:

An ARRL Antenna book

A Heathkit SWR meter

A 2015-16 Repeater Directory

A mystery bag

A pile of plastic "invisible chip sleeves"

A Universal M-7000 Communications Terminal with original manual

In addition to the prizes, Manny K4MSR, offered a large box full of dozens of cables to anyone who might need them.

A.J. reported a total raffle income for the evening of \$108!

## **Report of the Educational Committee:**

Rick Oliver, W3KDR, reported success of the ongoing **Tech license class**. He said that 5 of the 10 classes have been attended by 22 students.

Rick also reported that the **Piedmont Regional Science Fair** is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> at John Paul Jones Arena and that volunteer judges are still needed.

## **Report of the Public Service Committee:**

Dave Damon, K4DND, reported that he has a preliminary list of upcoming public service events, bicycle races scheduled for March 10, April 14-15. Dave will soon be recruiting volunteers.

The meeting ended at 9:00 PM. A video of the second program was prepared by John Porter, KK4JP, and will soon be available for viewing on the club website (Albemarleradio.org).

*The sign-in sheet of people attending this meeting included:*

Manny Rodrigues – K4MSR

Stephen Kramer – KN4CJI

Richard Freeman – KI4QKV

Jim Condon – AD4YM

Patrick Donohoe – KK4QZS

Chappy Chapman – K4ERZ

Dennis Mennerich – K4THE  
Joe Giovanelli – W2PVY  
Bill Pond – NOWP  
Connie Pond – XYL  
Marty Wangberg – W4MBW  
A.J. Miller – KE4AJM  
Stan Hazen – K2SSB  
Ed Berkowitz – N3US  
Pete Thorsen – W4PRT  
Don Eason, Sr. – N4UVA  
Larry Eicher – K4JZQ  
Jim Owen – K4CGY  
Bill Phillips – AD6JV  
Al Bogden – KF4AGT  
George Grotz – AA4B  
Mike McPherson – KQ9P  
Joe & Carol Krofgheck  
Bill McDermott  
Kieran Garrod – KN4GGZ  
Bill McCoy – KE4JSU  
Dave Damon – K4DND  
Jerry Hendrick – KA4EHP  
Rich Oliver – W3KDR  
Dan Shumond - N6DJS  
Bob Pattison – K4DU  
Jack Timmins – CHS student  
Mike Holt – CHS student  
Tilden Fernandez – CHS student  
Dani Szabo – KJ4JEEA  
John Porter - KK4JP  
Jim Wilson - K4BAV

This meeting summary was prepared by your AARC Minute Man, Jim Wilson, K4BAV, and respectfully submitted to the members of the AARC for their review.

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