

## **AARC Meeting of April 10, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the National Radio Astronomy Observatory auditorium by AAARC President John Porter, KK4JP.

### The Program:

The first order of business was presentation of the evening program. Dennis Terrible, WR4I, introduced Tim Duffy, K3LR, who was joining us electronically by Skype. Tim Duffy K3LR, is the Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of DX Engineering. Tim's talk was titled "How to set up a ham station on a budget." This talk was intended to be especially helpful to the thirteen newly minted ham radio operators who just passed their FCC tests, following the ten week radio club sponsored class.

Tim commented that we can see his home station from Interstate 81. His station includes 13 amateur radio towers! He invited each of us to stop by sometime for a brief tour of his station.

Tim credited K1DG for assistance with his slide presentation. Tim also noted ContestUniversity.com as a valuable tool for amateurs.

Tim listed ten ways to improve your contest scores. "One of the best ways is going to Field Day," he stated. He also suggested buying a new radio or an amplifier or putting up a better antenna as great ways to improve your station. "Whatever you do in amateur radio, have fun," summarized Tim.

*Thanks to President John Porter for recording this lecture. Tim's entire presentation is available now on the club web site [AlbemarleRadio.org].*

### Introductions:

Following Tim's presentation, President John Porter, KK4JP, asked each person in the audience to introduce themselves. The list of attendees is available at the end of this summary.

### Field Day Preparations:

President John Porter noted that Bob Romanko has volunteered to lead the Field Day Committee [Bob was not present at this meeting.] John asked folks to put a star by their names on the sign-in sheet if they wish to assist with Field day 2018. [The list was later sent to Bob.] This year, Field Day is scheduled for June 23 & 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Treasurer's Report:

Because our AARC Treasurer, Don Eason, N4UVA, was absent from the meeting, President John Porter presented the treasurer's report for the month of February:

Beginning balance as of February 1 <sup>st</sup> was	\$14,815.51
Debits	\$ 230.00
Credits	\$ 367.11
Ending balance as of February 28 <sup>th</sup> was	\$14,952.52

### New Members Approved:

At this time, President John Porter invited the attending members to vote for the approval of three new members. The vote was unanimous in favor of accepting these new members.

### Report of the Technical Committee:

Bill Pond, N0WP, explained that the committee had not done much during the winter months. He said that components had been replaced several times at the Heard Mountain site, which had numerous problems. Bill also noted that we will soon have a much better antenna on the new tower at Buck's Elbow. He added, "I'm looking for help."

### Report of the Awards Committee:

Michael Rein, KA4JJD, asked members for upcoming awards suggestions. Awards are typically presented at the end of the year during the annual banquet.

### Report of the Education Committee:

Rick Oliver, W3KDR, stated that 13 new licensed amateur radio operators resulted from the clubs recent ten week Technician course. "We're real pleased about that," he said. Then Rick thanked the volunteer instructors: Bob Pattison K4DU, Jim Owen K4CGY, Bill Phillips AD6JV, Skip Thacker WD4LT, Ron Richie K4RKA, Dave Damon K4DND, and Mike McPherson KQ9P.

### Report of the Public Service Committee:

Dave Damon, K4DND, reminded the audience that the Jefferson Cup bike race is scheduled for the upcoming Sunday. He said about a dozen operators volunteered to help with this major public service event. Dave also noted that the 146.730 MHz repeater has had recent problems. Thus, Dave stated that Elmer's repeater, frequency 442.075 MHz repeater will be used for the bike race this coming Sunday. The race will stage at Walton Middle School. More operators are needed, pleaded Dave.

### Hamvention Ride Opportunity:

From the audience, Lenny Vincent, N4CXP, offered two seats in his car for a ride to the Dayton Hamvention.

### Birds of a Feather:

At this time, President John Porter, KK4JP, asked the "birds of a feather" groups to informally gather to discuss their special interests.

The meeting ended well before our 9:00 PM deadline to clear the auditorium.

*[Because A.J. Miller, KE4AJM, was absent from this meeting, there was no meeting raffle.]*

*The sign-in sheet of 30 people attending this meeting included:*

Joe DeVincentis K08V (Joe joined during the meeting)

Richard Freeman KI4QKV

Pete Thorsen, Jr. W4PRT

Stan Hazen K2SSB

Stephen Kramer KN4CJI

Jim Wilson K4BAV

Bill Phillips AD6JV

Leonard Vincent N4CXP

Michael Rein KA4JJD

Dennis Mennerich K4THE  
Joe Giovanelli W2PVY  
Jim Condon AD4YM  
Russell Sawyer KN4LAU  
Chris Shaw K7CGS  
Bill Pond N0WP  
Connie Pond XYL  
Kieran Gerrard KN4GGZ  
D.L. "Skip" Thacker WO4LT  
Jay Townsend KN4LAL  
Larry Eicher K4JZQ  
Ron Richie K4RKA  
Steve O'Connor KM4PEN  
Rick Oliver W3KDR  
John Porter KK4JP  
Bill McDermott KA4LAN  
Dave Damon K4DND  
Dennis Terribile WR4I  
Bob Pattison K4DU  
Dave Shumard N6DJS

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