

AARC Meeting of May 8, 2018

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

Introductions:

President John Porter, KK4JP, invited each person attending this meeting to introduce themselves. The list of 41 attendees on the sign-in sheet is printed at the end of this summary.

New Members:

Three new applications for new membership were voted upon. A unanimous vote of welcome was passed by those attending for:

David Otey WB6NER
Joe DeVincentis KO8V
Adam Fallon KN4HCH

The Program:

Dennis Mennerich, K4THE, fascinated the audience with his demonstration of **Software Defined Radio**. He began his talk with photographs of early 1940's radios, the ones that got him interested in radio communications.

Dennis showed us a photograph of his first crystal set radio and of the four-band Heathkit receiver that he built as a twelve year old boy. With SDR, "You can listen to a radio on the other side of the world; unbelievable," he exclaimed, as he projected his SDR laptop screen onto the large room screen. The sounds of faraway broadcast stations, of ham radio conversations, and of beeping distant Morse code was heard coming from his SDR system.

Dennis said that he will email us more useful details about Software Defined Radio. "You don't have to buy anything; it's free," he stated about the software programs. "I find it fascinating," he concluded. Dennis urged us to give SDR a try.

[President John Porter, KK4JP, will put his video recording of this program on the AARC web site: AlbemarleRadio.org (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVOstKddrrg>).

Club Raffle:

A.J. Miller, KE4AJM, provided the raffle items with Stan Hazen, K2SSB, pulling the winning tickets from the big plastic jar. The evening prizes included:

A Trendney 2 port KVM switch
Laminated maps of ham radio call areas
A mystery bag
A mini lantern radio
A Swiss Gear laptop cooling fan
Plastic chip holders
Two books: Running MS DOS and ANSI FORTRAN IV
A Ten-Tec electronic keyer, model 645
A DISH television receiver modem
A box containing 6 various sized 3 ring binders

Approval of the Previous Meeting's Minutes:

Upon a motion by A.J. Miller, KE4AJM, seconded by Bob Pattison, K4DU, the Minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2018 were officially approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Don Eson, N4UVA, presented his report for the month of April, 2018:

Beginning balance	\$14,952.62
Debits	\$ 501.37
Credits	\$ 160.56
Ending balance	\$14,611.81

Report of the Technical Committee:

Bill Pond, N0WP, informed us that the 146.925 MHz repeater at the Martha Jefferson site recently had problems but that he has resolved those issues. He made a motion to spend \$125 for a new power supply for this repeater. Bob Pattison, K4DU, seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Bill then made a second motion to reimburse himself for approximately \$80 for needed parts that he purchased for this repeater. Approval of this second request passed unanimously.

Report of the Fund Raising Committee:

A.J. Miller noted that the evening raffle raised \$60.00.

Report of the Education Committee:

Rick Oliver, W3KDR, reported that three of the new licensed hams were here in attendance for this meeting. Rick especially welcomed the newly licensed hams.

Bob Pattison, K4DU, alerted us that he has organized a four week class to learn Morse code to begin on Thursday June 7th, 7:00 PM to 8:30 at the Ivy Creek United Methodist church at 674 Woodlands Road. He invited everyone to register with him for these free classes. Come to this Thursday night class to improve your code speed or learn Morse code from scratch!

Report of the Public Relations Committee:

Paul McKee was absent, so there was no P.R. report.

Report of the Public Service Committee:

Dave Damon, K4DND, reported that the next public service event will be the upcoming Saturday, May 12th, another bike race. Dave said that he needs more volunteers to participate.

Report of the Estate Committee:

Jim Owen, K4CGY, informed us that earlier this day he inventoried donated radio equipment, which was mainly amateur radio receivers. The donor is Susan Temple, wife of Ed Deasy, KF4UTD, who is currently living at Our Lady of Peace in Charlottesville. "I would like somebody to help me," pleaded Jim.

Report of the Emergency Preparedness Committee:

Mike McPherson, KQ9P, reported briefly on a recent local planning conference.

Report of the Bylaws Committee:

Ed Berkowitz, N3US, said his committee is "just cleaning up the AARC Bylaws." Ed promised more details at an upcoming meeting.

Report of the Field Day Committee:

Field Day Chairman, Bob Romanko, AK4BR, reported with enthusiasm his plans for Field Day June 23-24, 2018, which will revert to the previously successful location at the Earlysville Volunteer Fire Company.

Bob announced that:

Larry Eicher, K4JZQ, has volunteered to serve the club as Field Day Safety Officer as well as serve us in securing food donations from local restaurants.

Mike McPherson, KQ9P, will bring and set-up his digital station.

Jim Wilson, K4BAV, will again set up his historic telegraph station, wearing Civil War era attire, to attract curious passersby.

Michael Rein, KK4JD, will again send invitations to local official and will secure official Field Day proclamations.

Dennis Terribile, WR4I, will again set-up and operate his CW station.

John Porter, KK4JP, will bring and set-up the GOTA station for use by Field Day visitors.

Jim Owen, K4CGY, will perform his magic by installing antennas high up through the trees. Jim commented, "The site is the best I've ever seen it." He explained that trees and brush have been cleared from the fields surrounding the Earlysville Fire station.

Bob Romanko stated his bold plan is to operate all 24 hours of Field Day this year. (So, keep the coffee flowing to Bob.)

Two generators and solar panels will also be loaned to us for Field Day use.

The club will likely be listed as "3A- VA" this year, commented Bob. And a new Field Day flyer will be available for distribution at the June club meeting.

Above all, emphasized Bob, was "Just show up and have fun."

The meeting ended at 9PM, which is the time when the club is required to vacate the auditorium. President John Porter had to break up the fun to get folks to leave!

The sign-in sheet of 41 people attending this meeting included:

Jim Condon AD4YM

Joe DeVincentis KO8V

Bob Pattison K4DU

Bill Phillips AD6JV

Stan Hazen K2SSB

A.J. Miller KE4AJM

Michael Rein KA4JJD

Adam Fallon KN4HCH

Don Eason N4UVA

Dennis Mennerich K4THE

Joe Giovanelli W2PVY

Stephen Kramer KN4CJI

Ed Berkowitz N3US

Larry Eicher K4JZQ
George Grotz AA4O
Travis Koshko W3DK
Andrew Wiley KK4SHO
Steve O'Connor KM4PZN
Mike McPherson KQ9P
Chris Shami K7CGS
Richard Freeman KI4QKV
Barbara Freeman KW4LAH
Dave Dawson KM4YWY
John Underwood K4ERS
Bill Pond N0WP
Connie Pond XYL
Warren Yursik KN4LYF
Dave Damon K4DND
Dan Shumard N6DJS
Al Bogden KF4AGT
Michael Ellington KN4BFB
Jin Ellington XYL
John Porter KK4JP
Chuck Gross KS4NW
Rick Oliver W3KDR
Chappy Chapman K4ERZ
Mike Balinlos WB4ZJO
Carter Elliott WD4AYS
Dennis Terrible WR4I
Bob Romanko AK4BR
Jim Wilson K4BAV

This meeting summary was prepared by your AARC Minute Man, Jim Wilson, K4BAV, and respectively submitted to the members of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club for review.

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