

Meeting of August 14, 2018

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

Introductions:

President John Porter asked each person to briefly introduce themselves. The names and call signs of twenty seven people attending this meeting are listed at the end of this meeting summary.

The Program:

Dennis Terribile, WR4I, "alias CW man" presented his program on portable, mobile, and DX operations. He projected a photograph of him operating portable from the deck of his home. Dennis noted that he operated mobile the previous week from his hotel near the Hamfest in Berryville, Virginia. Dennis said his QRP transceiver using only ten watts was effective.

"I retired last year at age 73. I like to operate when I travel," he stated. He noted the definitions of mobile operation as operating from your car. Portable operation is operating out of your car. He commented that at other locations an operator should add "portable 3" or noting whatever location he is operating from.

Dennis showed us photographs of his ham operations in Iceland, Germany, and Vietnam. He offered us the tips that when operating in other countries you should bring your original license, your passport and a copy of the FCC Public Notice. He also recommended that we travel with minimum equipment using AA batteries, which are available everywhere, and that if we bring along expensive gear, that we keep this with us as carry-on luggage.

Dennis also suggested that we use the reverse beacon network to judge the effectiveness of our signals.

Approval of the Previous AARC Minutes:

Michael Rein, KA4JJD made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2018 meeting. A.J. Miller, KE4AJ, seconded the motion. The Minutes of July 10, 2018 were approved unanimously.

Plea for a Web Site Manager:

President John Porter, KK4JP, stated that the club needs a new web site manager. No one volunteered.

New Members Approved:

President John Porter, KK4JP, presented the applications of two people who want to join AARC. He listed these names as Judy Petsch, KN4BHJ, and Catherine "Kitty" Hughes, KN4BHC, both from Shipman, VA. Their membership was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Don Eason, Jr., N4UVA, reported the status of our treasure for the month of July.

The beginning balance was \$15,189.02

Debits totaled 161.98

Credits totaled 2,237.56

The ending balance was \$17,264.60

Scholarship Fund Proposed:

With a record high balance in our AARC treasury, Treasurer Don suggested that the club start an ARRL scholarship fund of perhaps \$1,000 per year and consider this commitment year-by-year, depending on circumstances.

Skip Thacker, WD4LT, chimed in that the Crozet Lions Club, of which he is a member, sponsors a scholarship fund of \$2,500 per year. He commented that this money is often a big motivator for young college students.

Ed Berkowitz, N3US, added his opinion that the scholarship should only go to licensed amateur radio operators.

Dave Damon, K4DND, noted that club insurance covers only liability, not equipment. He indicated that the club needs to keep a high balance in its treasury to cover any future replacements of our radio repeaters, which he estimated at \$3,000 each.

Dennis Terribile, WR4I, suggested that our club donate funds to the University of Virginia amateur radio station to help them get established.

President John Porter, KK4JP, suggested that the AARC Board convene to consider ideas about how to best spend club funds to encourage young hams. [Since this club meeting, the Board Meeting for this topic has been scheduled by John for Tuesday September 18th.]

Report of the Technical Committee:

Bill Pond, NOWP, suggested that AARC can purchase a new modern 220 MHz repeater for about \$1,000. "We've got problems at all of our sites," he stated. New repeaters would solve these multiple problems, he suggested. Bill also noted that there is no internet connection at any of our club repeater sites.

Report of the Public Service Committee:

Dave Damon, K4DND, commented that the August 25th Wisdom Oak Winery bike race needs more operators.

Report of the Estate Committee:

Jim Owen, K4CGY, listed equipment that he has ready to sell. He has tested all of this equipment to assure that it is operable. Club members get first dibs on any of the equipment before it gets listed for sale on EBay.

Club Picnic:

Ed Berkowitz, N3US, stated that the annual club picnic is scheduled for Sunday September 16th at the Chris Green Lake Park. He asked members to sign up and include a description of the pot luck item that they plan to bring.

New Business:

Dennis Terribile, WR4I, reported that he found two brand new band pass filters at the recent Berryville Hamvention. Dennis said he snapped them up for use at next Field Day to reduce interference between radio transmitters. He asked the club to reimburse him for these filters, which will be added to the AARC inventory of Field Day equipment. The members voted unanimously to reimburse Dennis.

The “Ham Radio Now” Conference:

Bob Pattison, K4DU, made a motion to donate \$150 of AARC money to the ARRL Ham Radio Now Conference. This donation would help pay for the videotaping of the conference so that it can be made available on YouTube. Bob’s motion was seconded by both Mike McPherson, KQ9P, and Ed Berkowitz, N3US. The motion passed unanimously.

Appreciation for the NRAO Meeting Room

President John Porter, KK4JP, thanked Jim Condon, AD4YM, for his securing our use of the meeting room here at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory headquarters.

Club Raffle:

The evening raffle of various items was conducted by A.J. Miller, KE4AJM with assistance by Stan Hazen, W2SSB. Raffle prizes for this evening included:

A Sony clock radio

A MiRNA Radio Shack Multi-meter

A Net gear 5 port desk top switch

Another volt-ohm meter

A home brew power supply 12-20volt, ½ amp

A DC charger for NiCad batteries

A Gateway desk top Pentium 3 computer

A giant “squirrel cage” cooling blower

A mystery bag

Club mugs at \$3 each donation

At the end of the raffle, A.J. Miller reported that the club netted \$60 for the evening.

The meeting concluded at about 8:45 PM.

The sign-in sheet of 27 people attending this meeting included:

Michael Ellington KN4BFB

Michael Rein KA4JJD

Kevin Cinaliwa KN4LPS

Chris Shaw K7GGS

Jim Condon AD4YM

Keron Garrod KN4GGZ

Dave Damon K4DND

A.J. Miller KE4AJM

Stan Hazen K2SSB

Bob Pattison K4DU

Larry Eicher K4JZQ

Don Eason N4UVA

Jim Owen K4CGY

Mike McPherson KQ9P

D.L. “Skip” Thacker WD4LT

Dayton Haugh AA4OH

Richard Freeman KI4QKV

Stephen O'Connor KM4PZN
Catherine Hughes KN4BHC
Judy Petsch KN4BHJ
John Porter KK4JP
Bill Pond N0WP
Connie Pond XYL of N0WP
Bob Romanko AK4BR
Dennis Terribile WR4I
Joe Giovanelli W2PVY
Jim Wilson K4BAV

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

File Name: AARC Meeting of 08-14-2018