

## **AARC Minutes of November 13, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the National Radio Astronomy Observatory Headquarters auditorium at 520 Edgemont Road by the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club President, John Porter, KK4JP.

### **Introductions:**

John asked each person attending to introduce themselves by name and call sign. The names of the 31 people attending this meeting are listed at the end of this meeting summary.

### **Nominating Committees:**

President John Porter, KK4JP, announced the Nominating Committee for elected members to serve the Club during 2019. He stated that the Nominating Committee includes three volunteers:

Michael Ellington KN4BFB

Bob Pattison K4DU

Bill Phillips AD6JV

John explained that in addition to candidates for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, three Board Members needed to be on the ballot. These three elected committees members will serve a two year term. These are the:

Public Service Committee

Estate Committee

Technical Committee

### **The Program:**

AARC President John Porter, KK4JP, introduced the organizer for the five evening speakers, AARC Vice President, Dennis Terribile, WR4I. Dennis explained that he likes to do hands on, show and tell programs at least once each year.

#### *All Star -*

Michael Ellington, KN4BFB, began his short presentation with the question, "What is All Star?"

This is a radio interface, he explained. It converts analog signals to digital signals and allows the user to communicate anywhere in the world to other "nodes." All Star takes up very little bandwidth and is inexpensive, about \$50, he estimated. For more information, Michael referred us to the All Star website.

#### *The Apple Harvest Camporee -*

Next, Dennis Terribile, WR4I, gave us a brief summary of the Apple Harvest Camporee which was held in nearby Palmyra on October 13<sup>th</sup> this year. Dennis projected photographs of some of the 300 boys who participated in this Boy Scout event. He noted that Ed Berkowitz, N3US, and Bob Romanko, AK4BR, and himself were the three club members who led this effort. "We made 'um spell their names in Morse code," stated Dennis, who kept a list of the names of the 151 kids who sent their names in code. Dennis invited any interested members to join the fun during the second weekend in October next year.

#### *Inexpensive Test Equipment –*

Dennis, Terribile, WR4I, displayed various items that can be purchased inexpensively to test cables and batteries. These gizmos tell you what your device is using in amps or volts. Dennis commented that your wall charger may be "a piece of junk" and that not all batteries are created equal. He summarized, "The charger that comes with your phone is probably the best charger."

*A Two Watt 30 Meter Transceiver –*

Bill Phillips, AD6JV, showed us the small box that he had constructed, the reproduction of a NorCal 40 superhetradine Receiver. But he stated, “This is yesteryear’s Technology.” He suggested we purchase the next more modern model kit that will cost about \$50. Of course, it is totally CW, he added. Dennis cheered!

*Morse Code Cell Phone App –*

Dennis Mennerich, K4THE, informed us of the valuable Morse code cell phone application that is available.

These interesting presentations are now available for viewing on the club web site [Albemarleradio.org].

**Club Raffle/ Fund Raising Committee:**

A.J. Miller, KE4AJ, provided the evening raffle items, with Stan Hazen, K2SSB, pulling the winning tickets from the big plastic jar. Raffle prizes for the evening included:

A box of various cables (free to anyone who needed them)

A giant air compressor

20 feet of RG80 coax

A five channel 49-meter walkie-talkie

A seven-function digital volt meter

A DC micro ammeter

An Airborne brand precision attenuator for testing equipment

A Radio Shack brand digital noise reduction filter

A Leads & Northrop brand resister substitution box

Following the raffle and its multitude of smiling faces by prize winners, A.J. Miller announced a total of \$52 from raffle tickets, money added to the AAARC treasury.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

Upon a motion by Rich Freeman, KI4QKV, seconded by A.J. Miller, KE4AJ, the Minutes from the meeting of October 9, 2018 were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

AAARC Treasurer, Don Eason, N4UVA, presented his report for the month of October 2018:

Beginning balance: \$17,831.21

Debits: \$ 877.80

Credits: \$ 2,018.25

Ending balance: \$18,923.63

**Report of the Technical Committee:**

Bill Pond, N0WP, commented, “We’ve done some work on two sites.” He then described those recent improvements to the club repeaters.

**Report of the Education Committee:**

Rick Oliver, W3KDR, stated that the annual “Maker Fair” at Barns & Noble book store has been cancelled for this year. He noted the fun that our members had shared during previous Maker Fairs. Rich also stated that no new amateur radio classes have yet been scheduled.

**Report of the Estate Committee:**

Jim Owen, K4CGY, noted that he picked up three more estate items the previous day, items to be evaluated, cleaned up, and prepared for selling. Jim noted that he still has a significant inventory of radio equipment for sale from previous estates. "I've got a lot of test equipment," he added.

**Scholarship Fund Donation:**

Treasurer, Don Eason, N4UVA, said that he wrote a check for \$1,000 to mail to the ARRL for their annual scholarship fund. Don suggested this AARC scholarship be given high priority to students who are U.S. citizens, who are licensed radio amateurs, who live in the local region, and who are pursuing a career in electronics. Don reminded us that this donation is a first for the club and that it should be considered on a year-by-year basis. "I think it's a good thing to do," summarized Don.

**Awards Banquet December 11, 2018:**

President John Porter, KK4JP, reminded members that the annual club awards banquet is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>, that this dinner meeting will replace the usual meeting at NRAO headquarters.

Treasurer, Don Eason, N4UVA, estimated that the club will pay the banquet ticket price for ten to twelve people, mostly City and County officials. President John Porter, KK4JP, proposed that our own Jim Condon, AD4YM and his wife, be included in the honorary guests. [Jim provides AARC with the wonderful meeting space at NRAO.]

**Club Web site:**

President John Porter, KK4JP, stated that the club web site "crashed," deleting the list of new 2018 AARC members. John stated that he is temporarily serving as web master until someone volunteers for this important job. Because of the loss of records, John suggested that the new 2018 members have their dues waived for 2019. John also noted that 2019 dues can not be paid by "Pay Pal," because that feature currently does not work.

**Sign-In Sheet:**

The sign-in sheet of 31 people attending this meeting included:

Jim Condon AD4YM

Larry Eicher K4JZQ

Stephen Kramer KN4CJI

Richard Freeman KI4QKV

Dennis Mennerich K4THE

Joe Giovanelli W2PVY

Kevin Cwalina K4SHR

Bill Phillips AD6JV

Chuck Gross KS4NW

Bill McDermott KN4LAN

Rick Oliver, W3KDR

George Grotz AA4B

Michael Ellington KN4BFB

Jin Ellington KN4BFB – XYL

Warren Yursik KN4LYF

Jim Owen K4CGY

Wynn Solomon AT4MV

Steve O'Connor KM4PEN  
Kieran Garred KN4GGZ  
Bob Pattison K4DU  
A.J. Miller KE4AJ  
Stan Hazen K2SSB  
Don Eason, Jr. N4UVA  
Dennis Terribile WR4I  
Dan Shumere N6DJS  
Brad Perreault (no call sign)  
David Morris Guest  
Jim Wilson K4BAV  
Bill Pond N0WP  
Connie Pond XYL  
John Porter KK4JP

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

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