

AARC Board Meeting Minutes
8/17/2019
Meeting Room at Northside Library

AARC Board members attending:

Ed Berkowitz (President-presiding meeting), Bob Pattison (VP), Don Eason (Treasurer), Stephen Kramer (Sec'y). Bill Pond (Technical Committee), John Porter (Publicity), Jim Owens (Estate sales).

Non-Board Members attending: Pete Thorsen, Bill Oleksy,

Meeting called to order by Ed at 1 PM.

Ed Berkowitz discussed Strategic Planning with reference to how to spend club funds. Don reviewed annual expenses.

Liability Insurance	\$200
State corporation fees	25
Post office Box fee	100
ARRL Scholarship fund	1000
QST subscriptions library	147
Total annual costs	\$1472

Club has around \$20,000 in checking account. We should have financial reserve for new repeaters and unexpected expenses, e.g. having to change meeting location to a place that charges rent.

One possible club goal would be to setup an HF station with remote access for club members.

Discussion continued about emergency communications among central VA hospital consortium. Several hospitals including Sentara Martha Jefferson and UVA North have an HF/VHF station setup for emergency communications that are run by hospital consortium from Winchester. These stations are not used regularly and club members could volunteer to help out by operating stations frequently so they are ready for emergency use.

Discussion by John about setting up a mesh network for emergency comm's. Build relationship with Rivanna hams, setup antennas. Bob said he would ask Mike McPherson to do presentation about mesh networks. Mesh nets are digital and connect locally via ethernet.

Jim Owens talked about estate sales. He has little equipment for sale right now. Bob obtained a Tektronix oscilloscope and a signal generator for sale. These items were donated by a retired UVA Professor, John Boring.

Bob Pattison requested Publicity committee develop plan to promote amateur radio. He wants it to be year round, not just for Field Day. We should talk to friends, non-hams, and youth.

Club should develop speaker's bureau to talk about ham radio before various groups.

Another idea for publicizing HR and club is to setup a Facebook group for AARC and a Twitter account. Bob said he would talk to several membes about setting up Facebook group.

Discussion about UVA ham club; not very active and need to get college students involved.

Pete said he could reach out to PVCC contact about HR at PVCC.

Discussion on getting commitment from Education committee to provide two licensing classes per year, probably for Technician and General licenses. Motion was made to direct Education committee to so provide 2 classes per year. Motion seconded and approved by Board.

Exams are held 4 times per year. Club should coordinate giving exams with other clubs in Culpepper, Green county and central VA.

We should give out information about AARC meetings to new hams at these exams.

John Porter said that goal is to get members active in hobby and club. He suggested getting list of new hams in area. We can use QRZ or FCC databases.

Ed suggested newcomers should visit experienced hams shacks. Newcomers can start with HT and repeaters, then move to HF operation. Most active repeaters are 145.925, .895 and .730 in this area. Other groups use 220 band.

Our emphasis should be on recruiting new hams to club. We should restore communications with other nearby clubs, possibly establish regional group.

John Porter on Public Service events: Next Saturday, 8/24, is Walnut Creek Triathlon. Future events are Boys & Girls Club event 9/15 and the Charlottesville Triathlon 9/22. Club volunteers requested to handle communications during events.

Picnic sign-up sheet was posted and sent out to club. Members should bring side dishes. Jim Owen and Bob Pattison will coordinate silent auction.

Bill Pond Technical Committee: Club purchased last two S-COM controllers. All 3 of old ARCOM's sold on QRZ. Working on programming new controllers. Problem with audio quality on link between 895 and 925 controllers. Hear higher pitch but fixing could cause other problems. Repeater for 220 had problem and was rebooted. Discussion about replacing old 220 repeater, cost would be \$1200 for Bridgecom. Bill wants to get to site and fix problems.

Long term is to move our antenna to new County tower at Buck's Elbow once county finishes construction of new tower. Move may be 6 months away. New tower is at least 50 feet from our shack. We have to pay professional tower climber to install our antenna; cost is \$1000-2000.

Ed reminded us about Monday Night Information Network. The number of stations checking in is averaging 9 -12 each week. Club needs more people to volunteer as net controllers. We should check-in to other area clubs' nets as part of our effort of improving communications with area clubs.

Bob asked about club funds placed in accounts earning interest. Don said there are some issues with doing this.

Next Board meeting will be in September or October.
Board meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephen Kramer, Secretary