

AARC Board Meeting Minutes
3/2/2019
Conference Room at Earlsville Volunteer Fire Company

AARC Board members attending:

Ed Berkowitz (President who presided meeting), Bob Pattison, Paul McKee, Bill Pond, John Porter, Stephen Kramer.

Non-Board Members attending: Michael Rein, Dave Damon, Mike McPherson

Meeting started at 10:15 am

John Porter reported on website, mailing lists and publicity.

Club has multiple mailing lists. Google sheets are used for membership master list. Email list uses Sympa and our website uses Wordpress. John wrote some code to compare lists. He stated that a large number of people on email list are not members of the club or are members who have not renewed their dues for 2019.

Ed suggested dropping anyone from list who are not paid members after June 1. John suggested 2 mailing lists: one for members, one for non-members. Discussion about allowing an opt-in on non-member list and ability to unsubscribe. Access to members list should be restricted to members only. Mike McPherson felt the number of club wide emails is quite minimal.

Resolution: The Board agreed that John Porter will shortly issue an email to all who have not renewed their dues. It will gently state that if you do not renew by March 30, they will no longer receive club emails nor will they be able to access portions of the club website that require login. It will also encourage renewal of dues online

Furthermore, Ed stated that as organizer and current Chair of the Antenna Team, he will not assist non members on Antenna projects. Ed also convinced the Board that we will permit non-members to sell ham related items on the club online Swapfest because it provides a benefit to club members should they desire the item.

Public Service discussion.

John P. listed several upcoming events for public service including Del Monte 3/9, Jefferson 4/20, Fluvanna 5/5, Crozet 7/7.

Dave suggested our club should be more selective on what events to participate in because we are often asked to serve in roles not related to communications.

Discussion by Mike M. on reasons club participates in events.

Primary roles are:

1. Give back to community.
2. Fun for us.
3. Practice in emergency communications.
4. Obtain publicity for ham radio and our club.

Field Day 2019

Report by Paul M. on need to start promoting FD soon. This led to discussion on where FD should be this year. We were reminded that the FD committee makes decision. Merits of ECC site vs. EVFC were discussed. More public exposure at ECC but more facilities at EVFC.

Referred to Bob Romanko as head of FD committee. He sent out email after meeting saying that EVFC was decided at general membership meeting last year but we can discuss future venues at the FD recap meeting this year. Moreover, the parking situation due to construction at the ECC has further deteriorated.

Awards Committee report by Michael Rein.

Michael discussed his Notes for Board Meeting (attached).

Some highlights from presentation, see notes for more detail.

Nature of Awards Committee. Awards committee is informal, not done by board, has no physical meeting, everything done by emails.

Various awards are given at Award Holiday dinner in December.

Main duties are to respond to emails and send suggestions for ideas to committee. Michael suggested that all Board members be on Awards committee.

A separate mailing list should be setup for awards committee members. May want to attach awards to monthly raffle.

Awards Banquet

Operating awards were not given last year because no one applied for any!
Members are not getting on air enough.

Michael Rein used a streamlined presentation at last dinner by putting awards in folders and having awardees get them after presentation.
He will require some additional funds to print certificates for 2019.
Dave Damon felt that last year's awards dinner seemed rushed. Need to have start on-time with some time to socialize before serving dinner.

More discussion on encouraging operating awards, especially for new members. Awards should have separate tab on website. See attached hand-out from Michael Rein about Awards.

Report given by Bill Pond on repeaters.

Bill ordered a new S-COM repeater controller to evaluate it for replacing all our ARCOM controllers. He will first replace ARCOM controller at Martha Jefferson. New controller costs \$535. If all goes well with pilot operation with new S-COM, then we should standardize and replace all old repeater controllers with S-COMs. The old ARCOM controllers would then be sold.

One potential issue with the S-COM controllers is that they do not have an auxiliary port, only 3 ports for repeaters and links so not able to attach a weather radio on an additional auxiliary port to broadcast weather alerts.

New 110 ft. tower will soon be installed at Buck's Elbow by county.
Recommendation is to move our antennas over to new tower after other services on the same tower to avoid possible damage by other groups moving their antennas.

We'll use same tower service that the County recommends to move our antenna.

Bill is actively looking for someone to succeed him as Technical Director.

Report by Paul McKee on Public Relations

We need to get on TV Ch29 events calendars for FD.
Need to put out FD 2019 poster soon.

Education Discussion

We should promote Green County Tech classes.

Miscellaneous:

Bob P. suggested making club badges for new members and also provide club badges for everyone. He will obtain pricing.

Need to promote club and ham radio to public. ARRL tends to defer to local clubs to promote ham radio to public. Could tie in to schools. Discussed ways to approach publicity.

Upcoming club meeting

March Members meeting: Mike McPherson giving update on ARES.

Michael Ellington giving presentation on NFC Tags.

Bill P. will give demo on repeaters at some future monthly meeting.

Ed noted MNIN net starts at 8 pm on Mondays.

Next Board meetings may also follow the VE Session at the EVFC or we may decide to conduct our Board meetings at the Northside Library.

Remaining VE dates are June 8, September 14, and December 7.

Adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephen Kramer, Secretary

Awards Committee: Notes for Board Meeting, March 2, 2019
Michael F. Rein KA4JJD

- Nature of the Awards Committee
 - Why started: previously all awards from President, wanted to get more people involved
 - No physical meetings; everything by email
 - Not represented in Bylaws or on Board
 - Concerned with content, not logistics
 - Should decisions be ratified by Board?
- Awards Dinner
 - Format of the Awards Dinner: Should there be changes?
 - Invite VIPs
 - Operating Awards
 - Education: Courses
 - Outreach: Special events
 - Field Day
 - Scouts, Apple Harvest
 - Maker Faires
 - High School Tech Day
 - Elmering: nominations from AARC
 - Public Service
 - Lighthearted
 - Meeting presentations – Vice President
 - Life Memberships
 - President’s Award – President
 - Ham of the Year – President
 - How chosen?
 - Speed things up: individual folders picked up afterwards (KM4RSL and K4DU)
 - Site okay?
 - Change certificates? Who signs these?
 - Special raffle items
 - Better publicize dinner?
 - Increase in price?
 - Things that are not AARC Functions:
 - ARES/RACES
 - Volunteer Examiner
 - UVA Radio Club
 - Mention ARRL Awards
- How to encourage operating awards, especially for new hams
 - New awards?
 - Discuss at meeting
 - Make them a little fancier (e.g. folders)
- Financial support for Awards Committee
- Obtain members for Awards Committee
 - Anyone want to take it over?