

AARC Meeting Minutes
9/8/2020

Meeting called to order at 7 PM by Ed Berkowitz, President of AARC

Treasurer's Report by Don Eason:

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$24,282.28 |
| Checks: | \$0.00 |
| Credits: | \$165.03 (Dues and PayPal Donation) |
| Ending Balance: | \$24,447.31 |

Voted in 4 new members:

Jay Postak KO4FOP
Steve Fox KA4FOX
Scott Kordella
Nathan Pederson N4PED

John Porter reported on Silent Auction:

John setup an online page through Google Docs. Any club member can add items for sale to the list and can bid on it. See John's email for the rules. Bidding starts now and ends Saturday, 9-12-2020 at 4 PM.

Presentation by Bill Olesky on MARS:

Bill invited Paul English to give presentation on Army MARS.

Bill first talked about history of MARS (U.S. ARMY Military Auxiliary Radio System). Its purpose is to act as a contingency HF Operational Support to the Dep't of Defense. Also, to provide support services for a complex civil catastrophe and for defense against cyber attacks.

Pre-history before 1920 include wired, spark and then early radio. Used mostly by the Navy. Army used it during gold rush.

1910-15: wireless management done by Government and amateur radio.

Eventually, Federal gov't allocated frequencies and the ARRL setup a Volunteer Radio Corps. During World War I, 4000 hams volunteered to serve in the armed forces. The Navy was given control of all wireless operations until 1919 when Congress gave it over to civilian control.

Post-WWI Signal corps instituted. Volunteers in all 48 states recruited for mobilization and emergencies. Hams lead radio development by experimenting with new technologies. First commercial radio station was KDKA in Pittsburgh.

1920-30: rapid growth in commercial radio. War department linked to ARRL relay system. AMARS was established in the '20s.

1930-50: FCC established. Evolution of mode of choice from spark to CW to AM to SSB. Start of WWII caused ham radio shutdown, 25,000 hams in military. There were 2000 recruited to civil defense.

1950-2000: Value of hams to military operations and service member morale was shown. MARS reorganized into Army and Air Force. MARSgrams and phone patches provide free service to armed forces during Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars. 47 MARS stations in Vietnam handled 42,000 messages per month.

AMARS members were patriotic, dedicated, adaptable and innovative volunteers. They had to have General class or higher licenses, be technically skilled and able to follow and provide leadership.

Paul English WD8DBY presentation on AMARS:

Paul is chief of Department of Army MARS.

AMARS mission is to:

- provide contingency HF communications to support DoD and service members
- provide international humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to US combatant commands.
- provide contingency comm's for Defense Support to Civil Authorities.

AMARS is HF radio network and specially trained volunteer operators. It supports national command authority.

Paul reviewed diagram of Global HF Enterprise Network and Authorities.

AMARS interfaces with ARES and RACES. National level has liaison to state and local levels. AMARS supports various activities, e.g. QRPX low power HF competition. DOD COMEX 2020 and ARRL simulated emergency test and Canadian International HF competition.

DoD has time-slot on WWV/WWVH. 10 and 50 minutes after hour. See www.dodmars.org for details. They operate on 5 MHz, 60 M channels. There are 5 frequencies where hams and Federal agencies can interoperate under FCC section 97.111 which authorizes this communication. Frequencies 5330.5, 5346.5, 5357.0 5371.5 and 5403.5.

Gov't is primary on 60 meters and Hams secondary.

Some activities with AMARS: QRPX was in March '20 and 144 stations participated.

MARS members bring own gear, expertise and time. Harris radios used in DoD.

Contact Paul at paul.a.english.civ@mail.mil.

Ed asked Paul and Bill to send slides to him for posting on AARC website.

Speakers in 2020 and Award Committee by Larry Eicher, vp:

Speakers scheduled for rest of 2020:

Oct. 18 – Greg Butler on Winlinks.

Nov. 10 – Allen Graves, AG4BA and Leonard Vincent on SOTA operations

Dec. 8 – Awards Banquet will not occur this year.

We will still have Awards meeting on Zoom. We will mail pdf versions of certificates. Jim Wilson, K4BAV, has volunteered to head Awards committee this year taking over from Michael Rein. All members can serve on this committee.

Reminder that elections for officers will be held during January 2021 meeting.

Asked for volunteers for VP position, Larry will help out with getting speaker.

Ed reminded that antenna committee has 5 or 6 members but needs club members to request antenna assistance.

Education committee report by Bob Pattison:

Technician training class has started and has 31 people logged in and is going well. Meets on Wednesdays at 7 pm. There are 3 attendees from NY and 1 from Colorado and 1 8th grader. Bob very pleased with group of instructors. We still need to setup VE session for exams.

Public Affairs report by John Porter:

There may be a Tour de Greene bike race in 2021.

Reminder of Wednesday lunch bunch at 11 am via Zoom. Also, the second and fourth Saturday Panera meetings at 7 am via Zoom.

Dennis suggested at Zoom meeting could invite members to show their shacks in show and tell. Ed reminded us that we already have an Award for visiting members' shacks.

Don talked about when we are again able to meet in person in 2021, we could have 2 picnics or FD and a Fall picnic.

Ed mentioned that the Culpeper ARC is having a swap meet on October 10, 2020.
AARC Meeting Attendee List for 9/8/2020.

Meeting adjourned 8:08 PM by Ed.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kramer, Secretary

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28 members present for the AARC Zoom Meeting on September 8, 2020

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| Ed Berkowitz | N3US |
| Steve Kramer | KN4CJI |
| Dave Damon | K4DND |
| Joe DeVincentis | KO8V |
| Bill Olesky | KF4IE |
| Paul English | WD8DBY |
| Joe Giovanelli | W2PVY |
| John Porter | KK4JP |
| Don Eason | N4UVA |
| Bob Pattison | K4DU |
| Dennis Terrible | WR4I |
| Larry Eicher | K4JZQ |
| Jim Owen | K4CGY |
| Ian Callahan | KN4TBG |
| Warren | KN4LYF |
| Tim Freeze | KO4ELL |
| Kevin Cwalina | K4SHR |
| Mary Loose DeViney | KM4CWP |
| Joe Greenberg | KJ4PE |

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Bob Romanko | AK4BR |
| Bill Chapman | K4ERZ |
| Skip Dorsey | W4LDT |
| Ron Richey | K4RKA |
| Jay Postak | KO4FOP |
| Ed Ballard | |
| Bob Romanko | AK4BR |
| Allen Graves | AG4VA |
| Rich Freeman | KI4QKU |