

AARC Board Meeting Minutes October 3, 2020

Meeting called to order at 10 AM by Ed Berkowitz, President.
Meeting conducted using Zoom.

Attendees: Ed Berkowitz-N3US, Don Eason-N4UVA, Larry Eicher-K4JZQ, John Porter-KK4JP, Steve Kramer-KN4CJI, Paul McKee-AK4OH, Bob Pattison-K4DU, Jim Owen-K4CGY, Gordon Winn-WW4GW and non-Board members Ian Callahan-KN47BG and Hank Perritt.

Ed requested brief financial report from Don.

Don stated that club has \$24,717.31 balance as of September. Still have \$500 to give to PVCC for a Fall scholarship and need to pay Paul for club business cards and brochures.

Larry Eicher proposed motion to board: Due to the excellent state of the club treasury and the continuing COV-19 pandemic, dues for all current 2020 members will be waived for 2021.

Furthermore, we also will offer free membership for 2021 to any former AARC members who used to be on our membership rolls, but who currently are not members due to lack of dues payments in 2020 or 2019. We will contact these former members via email and ask them if they wish to opt-in to this offer

Discussion of proposal highlights:

147 club members, normal dues are \$20 per year. Announcement of proposal, if passed should be made at the November meeting. Paypal should be removed from new member form for 2021.

Gordon brought up that current \$20 dues are minimal compared to what hams spend on equipment and other hobby expenses. Club expenses are unknown for next year. May be repeater expenses including replacing antenna at Bucks Elbow and installing it on the new County tower.

Club does waive dues occasionally on case by case basis. Club does get other income from equipment sales.

Annual expenses about \$1500. Someone mentioned club equipment is stored in various members homes. Ed said a spreadsheet is kept showing where club equipment is kept. Ian suggested leave out sentence about state of club treasury from proposal.

Club expenses next year may be to move antenna at Bucks Elbow which may cost \$2000-3000. Some companies are buying up towers and land so pushing up one-time and possible monthly costs to anyone who wants to rent tower space for antennas. So

far, no club antenna sites have been taken over by commercial tower leasing companies.

We may need to pay monthly meeting costs once we can meet in person if NRAO no longer permits us to use their facility.

Larry said we should encourage previous club members to come back to club. Larry proposed revised motion which was passed by Board with one dissenting vote.

Motion: Due to the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, dues for all current AARC and any new 2020 members will be waived for the year 2021. Note this is for 2021 only.

Repeater report from Gordon Winn:

Repeaters appear to be OK. There was a report of one problem regarding the 220 mhz repeater at Heard Mtn but a site visit by Gordon didn't find any oddir. Discussion about the previous Remote base at Martha Jefferson hospital. Base is disconnected, no one using it. Hardware removed and is in storage at QTH of N0WP.S

Ron Richey keeps requesting we re-activate this Remote base but there is no club bonafide requirement for it.

John P. mentioned that Fusion repeaters at Wintergreen allow wider use. Repeater at Bucks Elbow site is connected to Internet. Yaesu Wires-X hotspot can be anywhere and allows connection to Fusion. Hank pointed out that a bridge can be setup to connect Wires-X to DMR. Many DMR users have hotspot at home.

Gordon discussed Heard mountain repeater pros and cons. Club has had site for many years at no cost. Wood shed is still there. It provides coverage to southern half of Albemarle County but not good coverage to northern half of county. Repeater has low usage. We may still need this repeater for use by ARES. May want to add 440 mhz coverage. Operates at 224.76 Mhz and 144.76 Mhz. There is a 30 ft limit on antenna height. These Repeaters are also important for some public service events. Link equipment is available but not turned on. Consensus of board is to keep Heard mountain repeater.

Bob Pattison gave brief summary of our current Technician class. We're half-way through class. Have 29 logins including students from Colorado and NYC. Great group of teachers. Some sessions recorded. An estimated 24 students will take exam. Discussion of VE exam. Ivy Creek United Methodist Church agreed to allow us to hold Tech. exam there on the first Saturday in November. Those wanting to take exam need to register ahead of time. Masks and social distancing will be required. Gordon mentioned that other clubs had attendees sign liability waiver. We may want to do the same so no club liability due to anyone getting COVID-19. Larry suggested that directions to Church be included in email about exam and on our website.

Paul McKee on Public Affairs:

He saw in ARRL newsletter about website that would allow us to locate all hams in 20 mile radius. May need some programming to translate locations to addresses. Ed said use QRZ.com which has search for all hams in a county or zipcode. Many of the ham records on database have their email addresses on them. Could do mass emailing or US mail letter to those hams who got licenses in last 2 years or to all hams within the greater Charlottesville area. Paul will complete a estimate of cost to do this project. Jim Owen pointed out a mass mailing was done 10 years ago and got little response. Still may be worth trying new mass email or US mailing.

New Business:

Larry: need to setup election committee for electing new officers. Announce at October or November meeting.

Jim Wilson now chairing Awards committee. Need volunteers for Awards committee. Larry stated we shouldn't bother our vendors in 2021 for food donations for FD due to the pandemic as many have financial problems.

Larry reminded about speakers list for October and November meetings.

Oct 13: Greg Butler on Winlink

Nov. 10: Allen Graves and Leonard Vincent on SOTA.

Board Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM by Ed.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kramer, Secretary