

AARC Meeting Minutes **11/10/2020**

Meeting called to order by Larry Eicher, VP presiding at 7:00 pm.
31 members in attendance. Did introductions.

Larry introduced Allen Graves, AG4VA, to give presentation on SOTA.

SOTA is Summits on the Air and is an award scheme for hams that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. Started in Great Britain in 2002 and Allan got involved for last 18 months. SOTA is operational in nearly a hundred countries around the world. Each summit earns the activators and chasers a score which is related to the height of the summit. Each country participating has an association which defines the recognized SOTA summits. VA association is W4V-VA.

Main website is sota.org.uk. Basically it is organized with activators and chasers. Activators hike to mountain summit and setup ham gear and antenna. Chasers are hams who try to contact the activators.

There is a SOTA WATCH 3 tab which lists who is on the air. SOTLAS is a map of where activators are located. SOTA website includes a Results & Summits database. Chasers can submit log entry for any contacts they made.
Scores related to elevation of summit. Need at least 500 ft. from valley to mountain top.
There are 150,000 summits globally in 100 countries. Only one-third of summits are activated.
Allan gave local example of Stony Man mountain in Shenandoah, W4V/SH-002. Received extra points due to winter. Need to do 4 QSO's minimum to activate summit.

You can click on maps in SOTA website and get route to summit. Safety is most important priority for SOTA. It is essential to print out topographic maps. Uses caltopo.com. Print to pdf and print hard copy of customized topo map for summit. Use GPS and compass to hike to summit. Make sure to file hiking plan to someone not on hike.

Recommended equipment to bring: QRP rig (less weight), batteries, HT radio, antenna and cables. See www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/ten-essentials.html for good advice on what supplies to bring with on hike. Your pack weight should be about 10% of body weight (20-25 lbs.).

There are various apps that are helpful: SOTA GOAT or SPOTTER, hamgps, hamclock, SOTA finder, repeater directory.

Can be successful on QRP at 5 watts.

Activation zone is 25 meters or 82 ft from mountain top.

End of talk followed by various questions.

Treasurer's report – Don Eason:

October 2020

Beginning balance:	\$24,717.49
Checks:	\$153.00
	(SERA - \$35, USPS \$118)
Credits:	.21

Ending Balance: \$24,564.70

Don said we have money reserved for scholarship fund yet to be awarded.

Public Service – John Porter:

All events canceled due to pandemic. Need to check with Red Cross about reinstalling their rooftop antennas.

Education – Bob Pattison:

Fourteen people took Technician exam, there are now 13 new technician and 1 new General class ham.

Thanks to all those who participated as instructors. Bob said they are planning for a Spring, 2021 General license class.

Technical Committee report – Dave Damon gave report:

The 220 repeater was repaired requiring 2 trips to site by Gordon Wynn.

Elections and Nominating Committee – Dave Damon:

Nominating committee has 3 members and nominates people for club officers and directors up for reelection. Dave asked for volunteers to be on committee. Send email to Dave for nominations (k4dnd@arrl.net). All 4 officers up for election. There are 3 directors: Bob P., AJ. Miller and Paul McKee whose terms go through end of 2021. The other 3 directors are Gordon Wynn, John Porter and Jim Owens who are up for reelection.

VP report on speakers for next year:

There will be awards ceremonies but no in-person dinner this December. Jim Wilson is compiling list of awardees.

January meeting will be elections for 2021.

February meeting – Allen Wunderlink from Batteries Plus talking about batteries.

Estate Committee – Jim Owens:

Received donation of Hallicrafters receiver which does need some work on it. He also has some 2 m antennas.

Miscellaneous business:

Larry reminded everyone of MNIN on Mondays at 8 PM. It is available for new members to join in. There is an opening for a net control operator for the third Monday of the month.

New member voted in: Peter Pelney no call sign yet.
Dave Damon mentioned Dave Elkins attending.

Meeting adjourned by Larry Eicher at 8:25 PM. Members welcome to stay and chat on Zoom session.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kramer, Secretary

AARC Meeting Attendee List for 11/10/2020.

Meeting on Zoom.

31 Members/Guests present.

Larry Eicher	K4JZQ
Steve Kramer	KN4CJI
John Porter	KK4JP
Don Eason	N4UVA
Bob Pattison	K4DU
Allen Graves	AG4VA
Fred Felgenhauer	KO4AXU
Michael Ellington	KN4BFB
Michael Rein	KA4JJD
Warren Yursik	KN4LYF
Wynn Solomon	AI4MV
Mike McPherson	KQ9P
Jim Owen	K4CGY
Ron Richey	K4RKA
Ian Callahan	KN4TBG
Dave Damon	K4DND
Rich Freeman	KI4QKU
Dennis Mennerich	K4THE
Dennis Terrible	WR4I
Jim Wilson	K4BAV
Benjamin Kidd	KG4EIF
Tim Freeze	KO4ELL
Joe DeVincentis	KO8V
Patrick Donohue	KK4UZS
Dave Elkins	KN4LQN
Peter Pelny	new member
Dave Beebe	KN4UEK
Mike McMahan	
David Thomas	WD3O
Fred Rollins	