

## **AARC Meeting Minutes April 13, 2021**

Meeting called to order by Ed Berkowitz, President, at 7 PM.  
Meeting held online via Zoom.

Treasurer's report – Don Eason:

Beginning Balance: \$24,967.77

Debits: \$1,490.00

Credits: \$0.20

Ending Balance: \$23,477.97

Club Liability insurance renewed and premium was paid.

New member voted in is Bill Hurd, KN4AOG.

Repeater report given by Ed with input from Gordon Winn.

Reports of 895 repeater with sensitivity problems. Dave Damon and Gordon Wynn will go out to site to investigate. New antennas will be required for Bucks Elbow.

Education – Bob Pattison:

General class training in progress. 24 signed up with 8 instructors. Class held on Wednesdays at 7 PM. Exam to be held on May 15 at 9 AM at Fellowship Hall at Methodist Church. VEs to get there at 8:30 AM. All must wear masks and social distance.

Ed reported on Fall picnic to be held in late September or early October at Darden Towe Park assuming we will be able to make a reservation with Albermarle County Parks. We have two leftover VISA gift cards that will help defray the expenses. Members were enthusiastic about an in-person event.

### **Presentation was a demo of WinLink by John Porter.**

Use WinLink for emergencies. Every Wednesday ARES team does tests using WinLink. WinLink uses email address consisting of call signs. It allows long, complex messages to be sent without errors. Provides standard emergency forms used by Red Cross and ICS. WinLink Express used on Internet only. It works over VHF radio to an RMS node at Wintergreen N4PGS. WinLink over HF is used for contacts outside Virginia. Peer-to-peer network is also used and there is a Youtube link on how to setup WinLink Express.

Four different methods of connecting WinLink are used.

1. Use of telnet WinLink demo'd by John Porter.
2. Greg Faust did demo of WinLink over VHF to gateway using VERA FM modem at 441.075 Mhz. Message transfer successful and fast.
3. Joe, KO8V, sent WinLink message out-of-state using VERA HF link on 80 meters (Vera is a low-priced sound card). Received message from K4DND, Dave Damon.

4. If Internet is totally down, use peer-peer network. Dave used WinLink Express software to send/receive messages. Peer-peer messages selects gateway, not modem on Internet. Uses Vera P2P HF modem. VERA uses forward error correction which improves reliability. VERA is from Spain and cheap.

If you are using FT8, then already setup with proper equipment. Thanks for all those who did demo.

Old/new business:

Field day will be similar to last year where we will not host a central FD station. Bob Romanko will review at our June meeting.

Our special guest tonight is Joe Palsa, ARRL Section Manager for VA. Discussed ARRL trying to modernize. Spoke about new FCC rules concerning RF exposure. Hams don't need to worry for most part. Current exceptions to rules will have new rules. Talked about VM (volunteer monitor) program and there are 140 VMs nationwide.

John Porter said he would setup breakout sessions on Zoom after meeting.

Meeting adjourned by Ed as of 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kramer KN4CJI, Secretary

## AARC Meeting Attendee List

4/13/2021

27 Attendees

Ed Berkowitz	N3US
Dave Damon	K4DND
Steve Kramer	KN4CJI
Don Eason	N4UVA
John Porter	KK4JP
Joe Giovanelli	W2PVY
Ron Richey	K4RKA
David Beebe	KN4UEK
Joe DiVecentis	KO8V
Larry Eicher	K4JZQ
Warren Yursik	KN4LYF
James Owen	K4CGY
Bob Pattison	K4DU
Fred Rollins	K4GVE
Jim Wilson	K4BAV
Michael Rein	KA4JJD
Ian Callahan	KN4TBG
Allan Graves	AG4VA
Andrew Wiley	KK4SHO
Greg Faust	N4PGS
Bill Hurd	KN4AOG
Mike McPherson	KQ9P
Dave Thomas	WD3O
Dennis Terrible	WR4I
Rich Freeman	KI4QKV
Barbara Freeman	KN4LAH
James Lawrence	KK4EDT
Guest Joe Palsa	K3WRY