

AARC Meeting Minutes July 13, 2021

In the absence of Steve Kramer KN4CJI, Secretary, Larry Eicher, K4JZQ took minutes for this meeting.

President Ed Berkowitz, N3US, called the meeting to order at 7PM via Zoom. A total of 29 participated in the meeting. Names are listed at the end.

Treasurer's Report for June – Don Eason, N4UVA

Beginning Balance: \$24,630.17

Checks: 60.00 (annual picnic shelter)

Credits: 106.74 (\$86-cable, \$20.54 Donation, \$.20 Int).

Ending Balance: \$24,676.91

Committee Reports:

Technical – In absence of Gordon Winn, Ed Berkowitz N3US reported for Gordon that two weeks ago Yaseau repaired and was about to ship our 2 meter fusion repeater. Gordon hoped to get the tracking number shortly. Since one of our antennas is defective, he will wait until we transition to the new County tower before we put this Repeater back in service. It is not cost-effective to pay a tower climber to install a replacement antenna on the old tower. Ed suggested that Gordon convene the Technical Committee on next steps.

Introduction and Vote on New Members –

Ed N3US moved to conduct the approval vote of new members, based on current bylaws, but indicated a future revision of the bylaws might omit the need to have members formally vote new members into the club.

Discussion: Dave Damon K4DND suggested that the club keep the vote requirement by the general membership but assign older members as Elmers to each new member. This will be discussed in the future.

New Members Nominated for Membership in AARC:

Chris Gill, KO4RLJ Technician

Mike Johnson, KD4NNL, Technician

Stephen Esposito, AE4SJ, Extra

Ben Lechlitner, KC9INE, General

Sara Townsley, No license yet but about to take her Technician exam

Ben Lechlitner, KC9INE, Stephen Esposito AE4SJ, and Sara Townsley all gave brief background comments.

Michael Rein KA4JJD called for the vote to be taken; seconded by John Porter KK4JP, Vice President. Vote was unanimous and Ed, N3US welcomed these new members to the club.

Ed, N3US reminded members that we have been holding monthly meetings for over a year via Zoom due to the Covid pandemic and NRAO not permitting in-person meetings at their facility. Currently as conditions seem to be getting easier, Ed N3US and Don N4UVA have been searching for a possible alternative location for in-person meetings but first they want to check with the pulse of the membership and whether there is a consensus on this issue. We still have a paid-up membership in Zoom from April 2021 through April 2022 at \$10 per month. Ed advised that Steve Kramer KN4CJI had found a location close

to Wegmans near the south of the city as a possible location for a future in-person meeting. The rental for the room would be \$60 for two hours, with the usual privileges and limitations such rental rooms cover.

Comments from members were almost unanimous in favor of keeping with Zoom vs. an in-person meeting. Some asked whether we could integrate an in-person meeting with Zoom for those members unable to attend in person. John Porter KK4JP indicated that would require a good internet connection which is not necessarily possible at some rental locations. Ben KC9INE indicated that Zoom can be recorded for others who don't attend a meeting can still watch it later; Ed commented that we also recorded and posted our in person meetings. Ben KC4EIF has young children so for him the Zoom option is best, Frank W4NUA prefers Zoom due to distance that he would have to travel, Steve KA4FOX said Zoom meetings allow him to multi-task during the meeting, and Dave K4DND also indicated he likes Zoom.

While no one spoke in favor of in-person meetings, Ed N3US did indicate we have a picnic scheduled in October and our Annual Awards Dinner in December so there would be some in-person contact as well as a resumption of our Panera Bread Barracks Road breakfasts every other Saturday beginning in July. Michael KF4BFB suggested that we alternate between in-person meetings vs Zoom meetings. Ed N3US agreed to continue this conversation and asked members to send him other ideas and/or possible suggestions.

Estate – Jim Owen K4CGY

Equipment sales have been excellent lately due to the donation of equipment and even a car to AARC by Stan K2SSB. Over the past weekend Jim K4CGY, Larry K4JZQ and Ron K4RKA helped lower a few donated antennas at Stan's QTH. Jim transported other ham equipment to his QTH to check out prior to re-sale. Info has been

posted on the AARC website as part of the Swap List and sales have been brisk.

Ed N3US reminded members that Jim K4CGY is the club Trustee but he is looking for a younger ham to take over this position.

Ed N3US then asked Michael KA4JJD to discuss the need to activate the AARC Facebook page and have it become more prominent. Bob K4DU and Michael KA4JJD would welcome more members to a Facebook committee to come up with ideas on how to achieve this.

Fund Raising – No report

Education – No Report

Publicity – No Report

Education – No Report

Ed N3US then turned the meeting over to John Porter, VP, KK4JP for his presentation on the “Nano Vector Network Analyzer”. This presentation is recorded and will be put up on the AARC YouTube channel for those interested in going over this data in more depth. John KK4JP received many compliments on his presentation from members.

Ed N3US noted that September’s monthly meeting is lacking a speaker and asked anyone to volunteer and to contact John KK4JP.

Ben KC4EIF will give a talk on printed circuit boards at our Zoom August meeting. Details to follow.

Old/New Business –

Dave K4DND indicated that there will be a PSA event at Walnut Creek on August 22 and anyone interested in helping with communications for this event should contact him.

Dave K4DND proposed a discussion that implied hams participating in our recent Field Day event should have notified AARC if they participated in order for their contacts to be counted. This is not a requirement from ARRL. John KK4JP pulled up a list from ARRL records showing the callsigns of AARC club members who participated in Field Day 2021; thus indicating this information is already in the hands of ARRL and our club leadership. No further action needed.

Meeting Adjourned by Ed Berkowitz, N3US, President at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Larry Eicher, K4JZQ acting secretary

List of Attendees:

Ed Berkowitz (Host)
Steve Fox
Don N4UVA
James K4CGY
Stephen AE4SJ
Frank Haynves W4NUA
Charles Grisham
Ron Richey K4RKA
Larry Eicher
KN4LYF Warren
John KK4JP
Dave K4DND
Michael Rein
Steve KN4TKR
Ben Lechlitner
Bob Pattison K4DU

Jim Wilson K4BAV
Ian Callahan KN4TBG
Mike KQ9P
Jon K6OJ
Michael Ellington
Barbara Freeman
Ben Kidd
Dennis - WR4I
Rich Freeman
Wynn AI4MV
Bill Pond
Benjamin KG4EIF
Sara Townsley