

AARC Meeting Minutes September 14, 2021

Meeting started at 7 pm by Ed Berkowitz, N3US and held via Zoom.
Meeting held on Zoom.

Treasurer's report – Don Eason, N4UVA (given by Steve Kramer, KN4CJI):

Balance:	\$25,779.13	
Checks:	\$121.26	(Gordon Winn Repeater items)
Credits:	\$1,762.00	(Donations and 0.23 interest)
Ending Balance:	\$27,419.87	

Board meeting held recently, see posted Board minutes for details. Main point is that dues will be reinstated for 2022 at usual rates.

New member voted in: Christopher Marotta, KO4SLA.

Benjamin Kidd, KG4EIF said new code oscillator kits will arrive by next week. 13 kits are on order. He needs one kit to test and another for teaching.

Equipment sales – James Owen, K4CGY:

He has Yaesu 1400 dual-band transceiver for sale. Not on swapfest yet. He has other miscellaneous equipment. Check club website swapfest.

ARES report – Mike McPherson, KQ9P:

Bimonthly Saturday drills going well.

Tech committee and Public Service report – Dave Damon, K4DND:

Repeater updated. Mike McPherson working on temporary antenna for Buck Elbow to get repeater site working.

Public Service events in October: Tour de Green on the 9 but club not involved unless we are requested..

Oct. 16 Backyard Ultra Marathon not much support needed from us. Takes place on private property

Oct. 30 Richard Pence bike event in Valley.

There will be a swapfest instead of the picnic on Saturday, Oct. 2 at Darden Towe Park.

Ed said the picnic is canceled due to the increase in COVID cases in the area.

Thanks to Larry, K4JZQ for looking into food suppliers.

Facebook page – Michael Rein, KA4JJD:

He said FB page doing well. Members should read and contribute posts. Thanks to Ian for help with the FB page.

Training – Bob Pattison, K4DU :

There will be a Technician class starting 9/29 via Zoom. He has signed up several instructors. Still working on finalizing instructors. Class ends 12/8 followed by VE session for license exams. Exact date to be announced. Using 4th edition of ARRL Technician Class License Manual.

Presentation:

John, KK4JP introduced Kevin Cwalina K4SHR as presenter tonight to talk about a future special event.

Kevin spoke about planning a special event in Shenandoah National Park for next Spring. The idea is to activate overlooks, picnic areas and waysides in the park. He displayed a map with many of the locations to be activated marked. He went on a 10 hour drive from Front Royal to Rockfish gap to scout out these points. There are 66 overlooks, 6 picnic grounds and 3 waysides in the park. He created a large database describing what each area offers for activation including photos of views and parking areas.

He would like to reduce the number of activations to around 10. There are 3 main types: pull-off areas which have great views but not much area; median separated with stone walls and grassy areas, and picnic areas with lots of room, restrooms and near waysides but not good views. Pinnacles and Piney River CCC building may be good areas. Some discussion about historic CCC structures built in 1930s when CCC built park system.

Some rules for successful activation:

- no generators allowed in park so need to use batteries and solar power.
- small footprint needed since other people use these areas.
- antennas must be self-supporting and they can't be hung from trees
- Could tailgate or use back of car

Kevin suggested one antenna to use is Wolf River Coil vertical with self-supporting base but needs radials. Another choice is a 40m inverted V on telescoping mast. A third option is an end-fed ½ wave antenna with telescoping pole which is less of a tripping hazard. They tend to have high levels of noise. Using a Buddipole is another option with minimal footprint but they are expensive. Masts could use drive-on plate or a hitch mount.

Presentation followed by QnA. Suggestion to relate activation event to CCC site. Where should emphasis be: on park or CCC site? Larry asked members to volunteer to help Kevin. John suggested Kevin put his email on chat window so people can contact him if they want to volunteer. Suggested date is May, 2022.

John will setup breakout sessions after meeting for those who want to stay and talk.

Ed thanked Kevin for presentation.

No other club business.

Meeting adjourned by Ed at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kramer, KN4CJI, Secretary

AARC Meeting Attendee List

9/14/2021

23 Attendees via Zoom

Ed Berkowitz	N3US
Dave Damon	K4DND
Steve Kramer	KN4CJI
John Porter	KK4JP
Joe DeVincentis	KO8V
Larry Eicher	K4JZQ
James Owen	K4CGY
Ian Callahan	KN4TBG
Wynn Solomon	AAI4MV
Benjamin Kidd	KG4EIF
Kevin Cwalina	K4SHR
Frank Haynes	W4NUA
Tim Freeze	KO4ELL
Bill Phillips	AD6JV
Allen Graves	AG4VA
Michael Rein	KA4JJD
Ron Richey	K4RKA
Bob Romanko	AK4BR
Rich Freeman	KI4QKV
Dennis Terribile	WR4I
Bill Oleksy	KF4IE
Mary Loose DeViney	KM4CWP