

**AARC Meeting Minutes**  
**July 12, 2022**

Zoom Meeting started at 7 PM by Acting President, Ed Berkowitz, N3US.

**Treasurer's Report – Larry Eicher:**

Don Eason made Treasurer Emeritus by Ed, recommended by Larry, concurred by Board.

For June, 2022:

Starting balance: \$34466.51

Debits:                 \$ 1693.71

Ending Balance: \$32772.80

**New Members voted in tonight:**

Family Membership:

Len Soika – General

Deanna Soika – Technician

Zepherin Soika – Technician

Troy, VA

**ARES Report – Mike McPherson**

AUXCOM is a new umbrella organization for non-professionals for emergency communications. Applying for IRS non-profit status.

**Public Service – Dave Damon:**

Fall event Rockbridge Gravel Grinders.

**Repeater report:** Gateway at Buck's Elbow failed due to broken antenna.

Need to get permission to install new antenna.

Issue with 895 repeater not decoding control code. Dave and Bill will reload controller program.

Ed: picnic and silent auction scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 11 at Darden-Towe park. Members must sign-up and bring a side dish.

Board meeting at Firehouse Subs on Rte 29N Saturday, July 23 . Agenda to discuss club meeting in person and getting people to run for club offices.

Two presentations

1. Presentation by Bob Romanko on a post-event review of Field Day 2022.

Highlights: Fire department very helpful with FD. Three shelters worked out well. Great publicity with CBS19 news coverage. Ann Mallek, county supervisor, was there. ARRL Section Manager and Emergency Communications Center two representatives including the Director visited our FD site.

Larry Eicher did great job with getting food and coordinating meals. Safety went well. John Porter did great job with GOTA and education for newcomers. Transceivers worked well.

Note: Bob's presentation was interrupted due to storms and power/internet problems. See attached presentation.

2. Presentation by Joe DeVincentis, K08V VHF/UHF Radio Setup for events.

This is both a primer and sharing of experience. Need to plan several weeks in advance.

See attached presentation for details.

Kevin Cwalina talked about POTA. He has not been able to work on this due to heavy workload. He's hoping to get back to it by end of this year. Problems to be aware of in using National Parks: no generators allowed and don't put anything in trees.

Next month meeting JOTA expedition by Bob Romanko.

John Porter will setup breakout sessions after meeting.

Meeting adjourned by Ed at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kramer KN4CJI, Secretary

**AARC Meeting Attendee List  
7/12/2022**

23 in attendance via Zoom.

Ed Berkowitz	N3US
James Owen	K4CGY
Steve Kramer	KN4CJI
Dave Beebe	KN4UEK
Ian Callahan	KN4TBG
Joe DeVincentis	KO8V
Larry Eicher	K4JZQ
Michael Rein	KA4JJD
Ben Kidd	KG4EIF
Steve Hull	KN4TKR
Ben Casto	NX4S
Kevin Cwalina	K4SHR
Bob Romanko	AK4BR
Wynn Solomon	AI4MV
Frank Haynes	W4NUP
Bill Phillips	AD6JV
John Porter	KK4JP
Warren Yursik	KN4LYF
Rich Freeman	KI4QKV
Mike McPherson	KQ9P
Michael Ellington	KN4BFB
Dave Damon	K4DND
Len Soika and family	new members



# AARC Field Day 2022

## Post-Event Review

Bob Romanko

AK4BR

Field Day 2022 Chairman

# Topics for Review

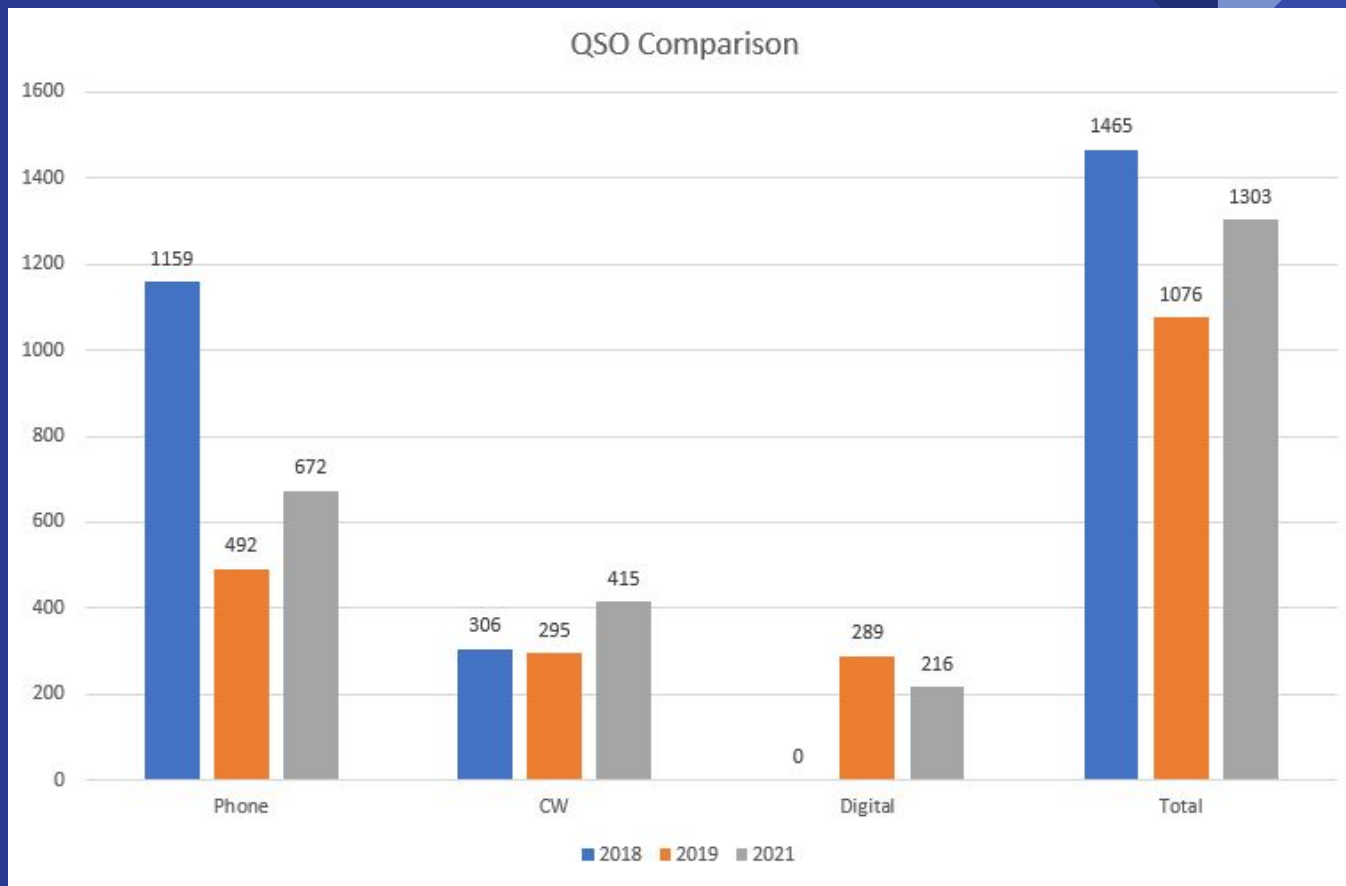
- Areas of Responsibility Performance
- QSO Report
- Points
- 2023 Action Items
- Thank you

# Areas of Responsibility Performance

Our Strategy Worked: *"Everyone Does a Little"*

- Chairman (Bob Romanko)
- Volunteer Communications (Bob Romanko)
- Facilities (Bob Romanko)
- Point Tracking (Bob Romanko)
- Publicity and Invitations (Ed Berkowitz)
- Food/Refreshments (Larry Eicher)
- Welcome Table/Greeter (Rich Freeman)
- Safety (Ian Callahan)
- GOTA/Education (John Porter)
- Transceivers (Jim Owen)
- Antennas (Dennis Terribile)
- Operator Scheduling (Dennis Terribile)
- Generators/Power (Joe DeVincentis)
- PC/LAN/Logging (Kevin Cwalina)

# QSO Report



# Points (5,218)

- QSO (3,868 2 x 1934 pwr multiplier)
  - Phone 672
  - CW 830
  - Digital 432
- Bonus Points
  - 100% Emergency Power (300)
  - Media Publicity (100)
  - Set-up in Public Place (100)
  - Information Booth (100)
- Bonus Points (continued)
  - W1AW Field Day Message (100)
  - Natural Power QSO (100)
  - Site visit elected official (100)
  - Site visit served agency (100)
  - Educational Activity (100)
  - Youth Element (100)
  - Safety Officer (100)
  - Web Submitted (50)



# Areas to Improve

- Dining
  - Relocate shelter
  - Improve dinner registration
  - Feed hosts first
- Antennas
  - Move digital to a vertical
  - Move hex beam so as not to interfere with wire antennas
  - Add 75m wire with Windom and 20m or 15m dipole in-line
- Operating
  - End online sign up Friday
  - Only show available slots
  - Large, visible schedule
  - No floaters
  - CW rig can switch to phone
  - Resolve digital interference
  - 4A?
- Safety - Officer at refueling



Thank You

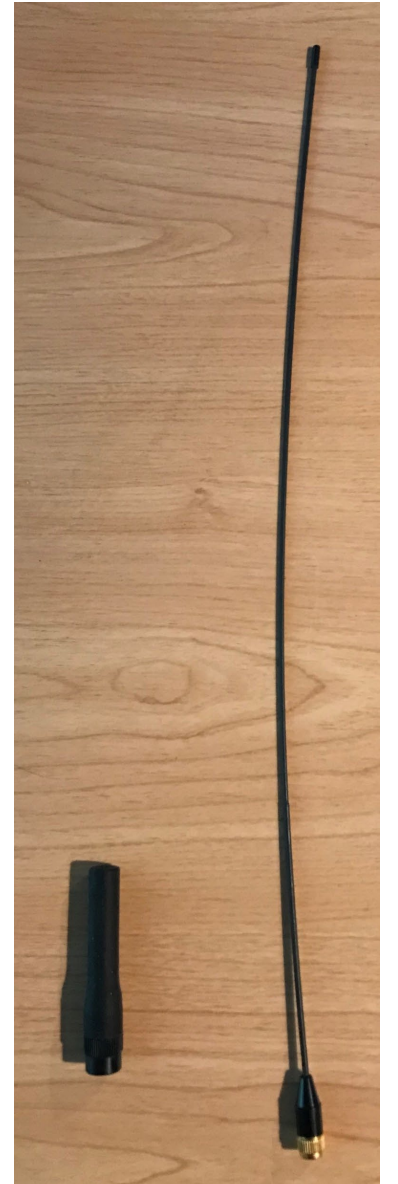
# VHF/UHF Radio Setups For Events

# Environments

- On Foot/Shadow
  - Lower Power (5 watts)
  - Noisy environments
- Mobile
  - Minimum 25 watts – consider 50 watts
  - Changing terrain
- Base
  - Trickiest setup
  - Power
  - Battery power
  - Mast and antenna

# On Foot/Shadow

- 5 watts is mandatory
- Antenna better than rubber duck
- Consider a dual band
- Preprogram Frequencies
  - Group together
- Carry extra batteries



# On Foot/Shadow

- Never run VOX
- If you haven't heard from NCS check your PTT
- Try to use a noise blocking headset
- Use a crossband capable mobile to extend



# Mobile

- Minimum 25 watts – 50+ preferable
- Dual band
  - Crossband repeat desirable
- Good gain antenna to deal with changing terrain
  - Bigger is usually better
- Noise usually not too much of a problem
- Second battery in parallel with car battery
- Low voltage disconnect
- Have a road hazard system in the car



# Base Station (e.g. NCS)

- Lots of challenges here
  - Power
  - Noise
  - Antenna
  - Cables



# Power

- AC may not be available
- Generator may not be possible
- Battery to last the day
- 20Ah LiFePO good choice
  - 10Ah max draw seen in an 8-hour day as NCS
  - Light weight
  - Should use a battery monitor



# Antenna

- Need to get high
- Use a base station antenna
  - Has built in ground plane
- Mast
  - Tip over
  - Bull float poles
  - Anchor
- What happens when a vehicle is not around



# Environmental

- Noise
  - Headset option
- Sun/Rain
  - Shelter 10x10
- Cables
  - Minimize cables
    - Desk
    - Ground

# Radio





# Radio



# Base Radio

- Battery self contained
- Only one cable needed (antenna)
- Radio has BT built in
- Can charge from solar
- Battery monitor
- Battery disconnect to prevent drain
- Can charge cell phones

# Rack Components

- 3U Chassis
- Flat 3U Blank for front
  - Don't get the flanged one
- 1U Shelf
- All holes easily cut with a Dremel
- Ventilated Panels Easy Mount
  - Use in back – always flange

