

## **AARC Meeting Minutes 8/8/2023**

Meeting held at PVCC. Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM by Bob Romanko, president.

A.J. Miller described items for raffle.

Bob said we would hear presentation first then do regular business meeting.

Presentation by Bill Morine, N2COP, Vice Director of Roanoke Division of ARRL.

Roanoke Division consists of 4 states: West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. 238 ARRL-affiliated clubs in Roanoke Division. Dr. James Boehner, N2ZZ, is Director of Roanoke Division. Virginia section manager is Jack Smith, KE4LWT.

The 15 ARRL division directors make up the Board of Directors of the ARRL. Bill sits on the Finance and Investment committees. There are 12,500 RD ARRL members and 450 ARRL Field positions e.g. ARES and public relations. There are 40 hamfests per year and 160 FD sites.

At the July Board meeting, a dues increase was announced. The last dues increase was in 2016. Some reasons for the increase include average member age is 70, more members entering senior retirement homes where ham operation is not allowed, there are fewer hamfests, and members becoming SK's faster than expected.

ARRL staff is 40% less than in 1980's. QST magazine printing costs are higher now. Due to paper shortage, ARRL needs outside sources for paper which costs more. It cost \$500,000 to print May 2022 Edition of QST. Many programs reduced or eliminated since 2016 and ARRL is now down to core programs. Member dues survey supported dues increase.

Bill pointed out that ARRL supports spectrum defense. Advocacy by ARRL very important to members. He reminded us that our member benefits are much more than subscription to QST. We get On-the-Air, QEX and NCJ digital magazines. Newsletters and contest updates are sent out regularly. Each member can get up to 2 hours of technical support from tech lab each

month. The free publications require opt-in. The new fees are 16 cents per day or \$58 per year.

Board is doing several things to attract new members. May start online on-demand exams. There is a Lifelong Learning initiative offering extensive online training and mentoring. There will be an emphasis on growth areas: public service, emergency communications, STEM and recreation. He noted that 20% of new Technician licenses use it to pursue drone usage.

Bill gave an update on Legal and Regulatory matters. The FCC has not acted on many proposed rule changes. FCC is being pushed by House and Senate members to make rules changes. One is the removal of symbol rate limitations for digital modes, like PACTOR4.

A new bill was introduced in the House, HR 4006 "Elimination of Private Land Use Restrictions Affecting Amateur Radio", the PLUS Act. ARRL Legal action committee is working on promoting passage of the PLUS Act. They want to hold off on a grass-roots campaign until initial hearings are held.

The Shortwave Modernization Coalition, RM-11953, backed by High Frequency Traders, is pushing to remove out-of-band emission limits in bands 2-25 MHz so they can run 20kW with 50 kHz bandwidth. This would allow substantial power to radiate into adjacent HF ham bands. The ARRL is responding to this request and pointing out what amateur radio does for communities and this request would severely harm ham radio.

The 2022 ARRL Annual Report ran to 56 pages and includes a section called Report to America explaining what hams do for communities. This year is Year of the Volunteer. VotA includes 7000 + ARRL volunteers. There are Town Hall quarterly meetings. We can get information from [arlr-roanoke.com](http://arlr-roanoke.com).

End of presentation. Q&A followed.

Question about exams from Warren. Bill responded that ARRL has training classes for VEC's to do online test sessions. Online classes will supplement regular exam sessions. Online tests are restricted, but monitors will be used to ensure test integrity.

Dennis mentioned that there is currently no one at UVA that uses the UVA

club ham station. He asks how to contact hams at UVA without violating privacy. Bill said Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1RO, heads up college programs and we should reach out to Bob about contacting computer science and EE departments at UVA.

Nine-minute break, then started regular business meeting. We restarted meeting at 8:10 and skipped introductions due to time constraints.

Bob R. stated that our by-laws require 20 members to constitute a quorum. Four new members voted in:  
Joe Duquette, Palmyra VA, KK4TBJ  
Christopher Gillis, Charlottesville, W6AFK  
Chris Striker, Arrington VA, KO4KQO  
Dudley White as associate member, not licensed.

**Treasurer Report - Larry Eicher:**

\$35,964.77 is club account balance.

**Public Service - Dave Damon:**

There will be events in September and October.

**Public Relations - Dennis Terribile:**

At Hamfest, he met someone about contacting schools. Wanted to know can club donate radios.

**Estate Sales - Bob Romanko:**

They are looking at selling 95 ft tower that was donated to club. We do have buyer for tower which will result in good income for club.

**Fund Raising Raffles - A.J. Miller:**

Held raffle, raised \$30 tonight.

**Technical committee report - Bill Pond:**

Bill reported on proposal for Sinclair antennas installation at Bucks Elbow. Project was on hold until they found Hightower Communications. They sent good bid to install both antennas at new County tower at Bucks Elbow including all materials and required connections. Bid is for \$9825. (Proposal is included in board meeting minutes for 8/3.)

Q&A followed:

Bob sent email as president about special board meeting which was held 8/3. This will be largest club expenditure. Board had extensive discussion and then unanimously approved expenditure.

Club treasury in good shape from dues and estate sales and contributions from SK families. We want to look ahead to next generation having high quality antennas.

His main points are first to use repeaters, secondly to have a succession plan for find younger members to use and support repeaters. Club should investigate increasing traffic on repeaters. There are no monthly fees for antenna use. Quote states not to exceed amount quoted.

Hightower can have project done within 2 weeks of approval by us.

Bill Pond made motion to approve expenditure of \$9825, seconded by AJ Miller.

Further discussion:

Hightower would be service maintainer at added expense, if needed. Warranty on work, we don't pay until 30 days after work completed. Actual bill could be less if it takes one day instead of two or needs less equipment.

Larry pointed out originally, he had opposed request because we didn't have full proposals but now supports it. Considers this an investment in the community. He congratulated team that worked on this whole project.

Vote for proposal was unanimous from those attending meeting.

Raffle was then held, raised \$30.

Meeting adjourned by Bob Romanko at 8:40 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kramer  
Secretary

Attendee List:  
25 attending

Bob Romanko	AK4BR
Ed Berkowitz	N3US
Bill Phillips	AD6JV
Larry Eicher	K4JZQ
Connie Pond	guest
Bill Pond	N0WP
Steve Kramer	KN4CJI
Dennis Terribile	WR4I
Joe Giovanelli	W2PVY
John Porter	KK4JP
Jim Owen	K4CGY
Ben Kidd	KG4EIF
Dave Damon	K4DND
Jim Wilson	K4BAV
Rich Freeman	KI4QKV
Daniel Stornetta	KQ4IGK
Chris Striker	KO4KQO
Joe Duquette	KK4TBJ
Toni Simpson	KQ4EWT
Mike Gilmore	K8RVR
Chris Gillis	W6AFK
Len Soika	KQ4BBR
Ben Casto	NX4S
Warren Yursik	KN4LYF
Mike McPherson	KQ9P