

AJARC

Meeting Minutes March 7th, 2023

Location: Old Oak Tap Room

Present: 27 Members, 5 guest, Bryan Smith (AA4BS)-President, Joe Bowman (N4JAB)-Vice President, and Larry Whiteside (KN4MVH)-Sec/Treasurer

Next meeting: April 4th, 2023 19:00, Greene County Fairgrounds.

Meeting

The meeting will be called to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and a prayer.

1. Secretary/Treasurer report

A thank-you card was read by Larry Whiteside from the Family of Ray Elliott. It was from John (KD4IMW) and Teresa Rutledge (KJ4GID) thanking the club for the flowers that we provided to them. They stated that Ray was great influence on them and that as a result there are nine hams in their family. They stated that they dearly miss him. It was signed "Our Love in Christ, Teresa and John".

Larry Whiteside asked if anyone wanted the minutes from the last meeting – and no one wanted them read. Larry Whiteside thanks Chris Gass for taking the notes at the last meeting.

Larry Whiteside (KN4MVH)-Sec/Treasurer report: Deposits of \$14.44 (\$12.93 last amazon smiles donation, \$1.51 interest from APEX Bank), Expenses totaled \$684.68 (GLPS of \$35.00, webhosting 245.68, HamFest prizes \$299, and printing for HamFest flyers \$105.00). Checking balance as of February 28 2023 is \$12,811.55 of which \$5,750 is earmarked for ARRLF grant project, leaving operating funds of \$7061.55. Currently, we have 67 members, 22 members would be quorum. Six memberships have expired as a Feb 28th, 2023.

No checks have been written against the earmarked fund for the ARRL Foundation Grants. I have received receipts from Steve Bible for purchases made for supplies related to the project. They total \$1,225.92 and I have double-checked the receipts against the list provided to me. Larry ask for a motion to write a check to Steve Bible (N7HPR) for \$1,225.92. Larry White (AG4OB) made the motion, seconded by Steve Weiss (KJ4EOC), motion passed. Larry will provide the check to Steve.

With this payment, we will have \$4,524.08 left in the budget for the project.

As Amazon ended its Smiles program, Walmart has started a program called "Spark Good" program. I attended a zoom meeting on March 2nd to hear more about this new program. There are a number of interesting options for non-profits and one of them is called "roundup" where as a purchase is made online, customers can elected to round-up the bill to the total dollar amount and they donate it to their non-profit of choice. I have signed up the AJARC for this program. If were one of the first 2000 organizations to sign up, we will get a \$250 donation to AJARC and receive a two-to-one match by Walmart for donations. Given we already were in the Walmart system, it was a very quick process. I also learned that the Walmart employees that participate in the VAP, can in fact be board members of a non-profit and count their time doing board work toward the VAP program.

Please check on your membership on the AJARC.org web site. Renew through PayPal or by check. If you have questions about your membership please contact Larry Whiteside at KN4MVH@gmail.com. Minutes are on the website for review.

The IRS 990-N has been filed for the year 2022. We are still in good standing with the IRS as a 501C1 tax exempt organization. Paperwork for State of Tennessee charitable status needs to be filed May for a June deadline. This would also update them on the leadership of AJARC.

2. Old business:

Hamfest 2023 (April 15th): We have ARRL sponsorship. We have acquired donated door prizes from DX Engineering (\$100 gift Certificate), ARRL Certificates (3), and a number of items from MFJ (\$214.65 value). Flyers have been printed locally for \$105 and are being distributed at events. The Major Door Prizes have been received. They totaled \$299 from GigaParts (they gave us a HamFest discount, and we used our tax exempt status). Bryan reported that the ticket paper has been ordered. Flyers were distributed at Dalton Hamfest. Hoping to follow up with vendors this week. Bryan thinks he someone that will donate the fee for the commercial building but it is not finalized yet. It was mentioned that the Boy Scouts did the parking at Dalton Hamfest and maybe we could get them to do the parking and let them collect donations. It was noted that many events are reporting larger turnouts for their Boneyards part of the events. Next meeting at the Fairgrounds

Bryan reported receiving the contract from the fairgrounds. We have received our Liability Insurance coverage certificate that the Fairgrounds require to rent the facility.

Hamfest chairman report -Bob Etheridge report: Nothing yet to report other than he has been working on the CB shop for possible attendance.

Towers / repeaters: No one has been up there to work check out condition.

Education Committee Bryan Smith (AA4BS): Education committee met Thursday March 2nd 515-630 pm. The education committee reviewed the ARRL Foundation 180-day Report which has been submitted as required by the ARRL Foundation and suggested that it be put up on the AJARC website. The committee also reviewed a draft MOU for the GCM and it should be ready for presentation to the AJARC at the April Meeting. We learned that there is some construction work planned at the GMS on some of the space but it has not started yet.

ARRL Foundation Grant Status Report (Steven Bible-N7HPR): An electronics and computer club meetup (2nd Wednesday of each month). Electronics, Linux, Arduino, etc. are being brought up in this. Introduction to Robotics class has been created. So far, 4 teens have been involved with this. The 180-Report has been uploaded to the web site.

VFW Johnson City communication equipment at their post- Bryan Smith (AA4BS): Bryan reported that VFW has purchased more equipment and we need to schedule a site visit. Members interested include John, Eddie, Bob, Kyle, K1HHD, AG4OB, Scott, Dennis (N4DWH), Larry Whiteside, Wolf.

Bryan Smith (AA\$BS) status of Dan Freeman ham radio gear. Bryan, any word on if he is donating equipment to the club? Nothing to report.

VOTA W1AW/4 (item from January meeting new business): Bryan (AA\$BS) reports that - We will have a 3 hour window for operation as W1AW/4. All modes and all bands except 12m & 17m. Dale Knight is sending me the schedule so we can get operators lined up. Date is March 27th from 9am – 12 noon and again in September. People interested include Dennis, Larry (AG4OB), Larry (KN4MVH) Bob EBZ and Dennis (N4DWH).

Science Alliance event March 24th Beth Bulawa (W8DOC): Beth wants everyone there at 6am. Club going to set up tower the night before at 6pm. Bob and Bryan went to the school and found the source of the noise and reported it to GLPS. They said they would check it out and report back.

Bike Ride event – Bryan Smith (AA4BS) / David Houser (WA9OTP): May 21st, 2023, three routes, 23 mi, 41 mi, 68 mi as part of the Iris Festival, Greene County Partnership. It would be a chance to work with Techs, other clubs and practice our skills. Greene county partnership is doing a bicycle ride as part of the Iris festival. They have approached the club and requested assistance as safety communications. May 21st on Sunday will be 3 routes, 22 mile, 41, and 68 mile route. Circling quite a lot of Greene County. These routes are concurrently ran. Lead car and follow car will be used. More information about routes will be attached (Ask Bryan for this. Bryan reported 2 cars per route. Checkpoints - 6 in total. See Picture of routes at end of agenda. It was brought up that maybe we could team up with other radio clubs. They will need 12 operators and would be good for people to use their HT. Eddie reported that he did something at a car event and it was great experience. They will be using the W4WC repeater for the event.

3. New Business

Discussion about club debit card for purchases by Bryan Smith (AA4BS) and Larry Whiteside (KN4MVH): We need to make some additional purchases for the ARRL Foundation project from Amazon and in order to do them with tax exempt status, club needs to have a way to purchase directly. Amazon does not accept PayPal and would not allow us to link our checking directly to our amazon account. Discussion on options. There was a motion to allow Larry to get a debit card for club it bank would allow it by Larry White (AG4OB) and seconded by James Stewart (KE4KKI). Motion passed. Larry Whiteside stated that he would work something out if we can't get a debit card, most likely what he did for the book donations.

Larry requested a motion to be made to allow for the additional purchases up to about \$1,800 or \$1900 for items for the next phase of the ARRLF grant. Ian Bible (KE4EAC) made the motion to make purchases. It was seconded by Scott Bird (KM4FYJ), motion passed.

Asset Tags discussion. There was discussion on buying/printing asset tags to be put on club property like the items purchased through the grant and that it would be sec/treasurer responsibility to keep track of the numbers and the items tagged. Items that are not consumable with a value of over \$25 would be tagged. There was a motion by Chris Gass (N4CAG) and seconded by Eddie Barker (KO4EVE), motion passed to make the purchase and start the project of tracking assets.

4. Roundtable

John J Ellenburg, Jr from the Lakeway Radio Club presented a project that they are working on at Bulls Gap with the City to create a club space/old radio museum on the second floor of a building the city took possession of recently. In exchange, the radio club(s) would have to assist the community with developing, training and installation of radio equipment to help the city. The city would provide electricity and other services to the building for free. Currently, the city's emergency services has limited radio communications and rely on cell phones. City is at the crossroads of I-81 and Norfolk Southern rail lines and face some challenging Hazardous material transportation concerns. They want their employees and others to become licensed and get a dedicated call sign. The City's contact person is Mike Solomon. There are three hams in Bulls Gap. The building has old electrical wiring with some knob and tube

Motion by Larry White to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned time: 20:15