

Minutes of the May 2026, meeting of The Alliance Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

The AARC met on Wednesday, May 13th, 2026, at Aultman Alliance Community Hospital cafeteria conference room.

The meeting was called to order shortly after 7:00 PM by Steve – KB8RFE.

A devotion (prayer) was offered, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve

A roll call and introductions were taken of members and guests. We had 15 members in attendance. A guest, Teresa, attended seeking information on obtaining her Technician license. Another guest, Joan – AD8AQ was in attendance.

Birthdays

The following birthdays were acknowledged (May 13th – June 9th):

- Dave, KE8IYN
- Sandy, KE8ZLY
- Bob Warner, WB8OVQ

Committee Reports

President's Report

- Next club meeting will be June 10th, 2026, at 7:00 PM. An officers' pre-meeting will be held June 10th at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria.
- Member updates: Lorin, KD8WVE, is home recovering. Ron's status is uncertain; he may have been heard on the 440 net. The club keeps him in its thoughts.
- John (Secretary) is recovering and is scheduled for surgery next month. Alex Sweeney, KE8VXG, has stepped in to take meeting notes and has accepted the IT Manager position. The club thanked Alex for stepping in on short notice.
- 440 antenna work: the President and Bob tested the new 440 antenna. The building's roof strut cannot support the full weight and wind load, so only half of the antenna was installed — now approximately 16 dB gain instead of the planned 32 dB. The repeater is reported to be working considerably better. Work continues with Bill on a better mounting solution.
- Net Managers were reviewed:
 - Thomas, KC8ZEH — 2 Meter Net Manager
 - Alex, KE8VXG — 440 Net Manager
 - James, KD8VT — Homeland Security Net Manager
 - John, WG8X — Secretary & 10 Meter Net Manager
- A call was made for volunteer net control operators to assist the net managers. A sign-up sheet was circulated; anyone interested should sign up or contact the President.

Motion to accept the President's report: Motion by Patty – KB8QWH, seconded by Karen – WB8BIW.

Vice-President's Report

- A POTA (Parks on the Air) activation was held Friday, with 49 contacts made on phone. Conditions were cold and rainy, so it was cut short. The plan is to hold at least one POTA activation per month.
- Taking on the role of Event Coordinator — will begin organizing contests and operating activities so the club has more opportunities to get together and operate.

- Club equipment: moving forward, the club should operate its own equipment rather than borrowing members' gear. The club owns two HF radios but typically operates three stations, and two generators have sat unused for a year. After Field Day, the club will return to using club-owned equipment and members are encouraged to get familiar with it.
- Proposed purchasing a portable HF radio (e.g., an Icom IC-891) so the club is not borrowing a third radio, along with power supplies and headphones. Members noted a club-owned FT-920 / FT-1000MP could serve as the third radio for now. Discussion to continue.

Motion to accept the Vice-President's report: Motion by Jim – KE8VZE, seconded by Butch – KE8IYN.

Secretary's Report

Read on behalf of John, WG8X (absent):

- The minutes from the April meeting have been posted on the website. Thanks to Alex for documenting the meetings during John's absence.

Motion to accept the Secretary's report: Motion by Jim – KE8VZE, seconded by Keith – KF8GEI.

Treasurer's Report

Paul gave a rundown of the club's finances since the last meeting, including recent deposits, reimbursements, expenses, and the current account balances. Detailed figures are kept on file with the Treasurer and are available to members on request.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's (financial) report: Motion by Patty – KB8QWH, seconded by Doug – KE8OWD

Dues Procedure (Treasurer)

- Three members recently received notices that their dues were unpaid, although the dues had in fact been paid. The issue was a breakdown in communication when money and information are passed between multiple people at the table.
- Going forward: members should pay dues by downloading and completing the dues form from the club website, dating and signing it, and submitting it with payment to the Secretary. Once the Secretary records the payment, he forwards the money to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will no longer accept dues payments directly.
- The form must be completed even if a member's information has not changed. Alan volunteered to make up membership cards to be issued when dues are paid.

Trustees' Report

- No report.

VE Testing

Reported by Andy, AC8JR:

- VE exam sessions are confirmed for June 20th and September 26th, 2026.
- Location: Christ United Methodist Church, 470 East Broadway St, Alliance. Gather at 8:00 AM; testing begins at 9:00 AM.

Fundraiser Report

Reported from John:

- As of April 26th, 679 tickets have been sold, with 821 tickets remaining. Sales have been split roughly 50/50 between PayPal and face-to-face.
- The club will be selling this weekend at the Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest. Thanks in advance to James, Karen, and everyone helping to sell and relieve at the booth.
- The main drawing will be held at the July Club Picnic on July 8th, at the Jaycee Pavilion at Silver Park.

Club Equipment / Repeaters

2 Meter

- Echolink was down due to work done at the site by the IT company, but is now back up and running. Thanks to Bob and Gabe.

440 MHz

- The old antenna was taken down (Alex, Tony, Dale, Dave). Numerous issues were found — the antenna was spinning, bolts were missing or worked loose, and there were other bad connections. These have been repaired and the repeater is running well.

Club Activities & Hamfests

- Breezeshooters Hamfest, Pennsylvania — June 14th, 2026. Help is needed selling tickets; contact John if you can help.
- Silver Park Club Picnic / Meeting — July 8th, 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The radio raffle main drawing will be announced here, and the event will be livestreamed.
- Sale of the old club radio (FT-920) is on hold pending the decision on the club's third radio.

New Business — Field Day

- ARRL Field Day will be held the last weekend of June — June 27th–28th, 2026 — at the church camp in Sebring (Hwy 62 East to Johnson Road).
- The club will run 3A. Stations will be dedicated by band (rather than by mode) to avoid interference. Members are encouraged to come out and get familiar with the club radios and logging software.
- Flyers have been posted to the club Facebook page. A sign-up sheet covers operating modes (SSB/sideband, CW, Digital — PSK31/FLdigi, and FT8) and shifts (morning, afternoon, night). The morning and night operating crews are most needed.
- Food: a picnic-style dinner this year. The club will supply hamburgers and hot dogs; buffalo burgers are being donated by James. Karen and Charlene are in charge of food sign-ups. Members are asked to bring a covered dish to share.
- Setup is Friday; teardown is the biggest need, targeted for about 2:00 PM. A dedicated teardown crew is requested so the operators are not left to pack up after 24+ hours.
- Traffic handling will be done for points, including sending a radiogram to the Section Manager; coordination is confirmed with the section.

- Education: a tape-measure Yagi antenna build (kids' kits approximately \$10 — PVC, hose clamps, tape measure, and coax). This is for a future fox build — the club is NOT holding a fox hunt at Field Day, only building the antenna. Interest in an attenuator build was also noted.
- Alex will handle all IT and Wi-Fi connections for the event.
- Camping spots are \$10 per site; a fire ring will be available. Bring an HT — the group will communicate on simplex around the site to keep the repeater open.
- Field Day committee meetings: Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00 PM at the Get-Go (Alliance); and Monday, June 16th at 7:00 PM at the church site for a site visit to plan antenna and equipment placement.
- A motion was proposed to set an annual Field Day budget (covering food, equipment, advertising, and supplies). Discussion followed regarding whether the amount should be per-event or total, and whether a bylaw change or further treasurer input is required.
 - **The motion was tabled / to be continued — no vote was taken. Figures will be reviewed with the Treasurer and the officers before a decision (likely in August).**

Good of the Order

- Three laptops were donated by Alex (fresh installs of Windows 11). They are set up and ready for Field Day and general club operation.
- Keith noted the Louisville Sportsman gun raffle is this weekend; you do not need to be present to win.
- The 50/50 drawing was held for this meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alex – KE8VXG, seconded by Doug – KE8OWD. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.

Minutes prepared by Alex Sweeney, KE8VXG, Acting Secretary.