

Test Session Planned

The AARC VE team will conduct an ARRL Examining Session on Saturday, April 27, 1996 at 9:00 AM. The location will be the usual one, the Auditorium of NRAO, Edgemont Road, UVA grounds, in Charlottesville. **ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** To register, send the following items to John Gray, W6UZ, 110 Carrsbrook Court, Charlottesville, VA, 22901.

1. A completed FCC Form 610 dated November 1993 or later
2. A list of examination elements you desire to take
3. A check for \$ 6.05 made out to AARC VE Session
4. Photocopies of your current license and relevant CSCE's, if presently held

Registration materials should reach the VE team on or prior to April 23, 1996.

April Club Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 pm
National Radio Astronomy Observatory
Auditorium, Edgemont Road (UVA area)

April's program features LeRoy Sutter, WA4MHP, who will be talking about crystal oscillators. He works at a firm that manufactures them, so he'll have plenty of good data to impart.

-See you there!

1995 President's Award

The 1995 President's Award was presented to the team of AD4TU - Pete Wildman, KJ4OP - Jon Katz, KC4UCK - Pete Taylor, and KC4ASI - Richard Land for the outstanding service that this team provided to the people of Madison County during the floods that occurred in June of 1995.

The award was presented during the winter dinner as part of the awards ceremony. Congratulations to the recipients.

LeRoy - WA4MHP



Increasingly we hear tales of government plans to auction bits and pieces of the bands currently allocated to the amateurs. News of this sort makes you realize that there is a limited amount of spectrum available for all of the different uses mankind has devised. While the satellite car location systems and personal wristwatch phone companies are scrabbling for frequency, we hams are experiencing our own difficulties with a shortage of spectrum. If you've taken a spin through 75 meters at night, 20 meters on the weekend, or listened to 2 meters during a band opening then you have an understanding about how limited our radio frequency resources actually are.

Unfortunately this crowding on the bands occasionally leads to arguments and then jamming and other deliberate and malicious types of interference, clearly operation that is not permissible under the FCC laws that govern amateur activities. The well-behaved hams that constitute the majority have been left to lament the fact that these offenses usually go unpunished. However recent ham periodicals bring news of a turn in the right direction by the FCC. A U.S. ham was denied renewal of his license after the Commission gave consideration to the violation-filled record of the applicant. Another ham known to deliberately interfere with ongoing communications on 20 meters was ordered to pay a fine. Additionally, I read in a recent amateur magazine that the FCC is considering suspending the licenses of hams who operate in violation of the rules and regulations.

This move towards a more vigorous prosecution of those few 'rotten apples' will hopefully put a stop to the kinds of operation that have no place in amateur radio. While it's naive to expect that hams will never again have conflicts over the use of a frequency, it would be nice if these conflicts could be resolved in a more civilized (and legal) manner!

Pete, AD4TU



On a routine radio check, a young army radio operator was heard to say, "eenie, meenie, miney, mo, how do you hear my radio?" The reply from his counterpart at another base was, "fee, fi, fo, fum, loud and clear with a little hum."

(reprinted courtesy BDXCC Log Entries)

Once again the warmer weather is upon us and many folks are getting the urge to go outside. For some, that means yard work, home improvements and the like. For hams, it's an opportunity to see what modifications Mother Nature has made to antennas and towers. But for some hams, it heralds the beginning of the Public Service season. Now that the bicyclists and walkers are out in full force, there comes the events that help us hams publicize our hobby by helping them with their communications needs. Hein has already set up and organized the ham assistance to the Charlottesville Velo Club during the Jefferson Cup Race held March 10th. It was our first time out this season and aside from the few minor glitches, went very well. Plenty of bicyclists braved the cool spring weather and rode the 40 mile course up in Madison and Culpeper counties. Hams rode along with the cyclists in their own cars, rode with others and some stayed as base stations to provide communications all along the course. Enough hams participated to fill out the roster - this time.

With a few exceptions, the folks that showed up were the familiar faces of the core public service group that shows up for most of these events. We need more new faces! It's a great group that helps out with these events, but we need more people to keep filling the ranks. As attrition of various types takes its toll, the numbers of hams willing to work these Public Service events is growing smaller.

Some ask, why is this important to our Club or to ham radio in general? There are several good reasons, but probably the most important is our ability to field a group of trained communicators in the event of an emergency. These events are excellent practice for the real thing. They give us lots of opportunities to try out equipment and procedures, in the field, under non-emergency conditions - and the experiences are very valuable.

What can we do to increase the ranks of Public Service Amateurs? It's simple. Talk it up! Remind folks that an event is coming up. Offer to take along a partner. One of the best ways to get someone started is to provide all the equipment needed, and take them along to see how it's done. Most people, when asked why they don't participate, answer that they are unsure of what is required, in equipment and skills. If you take along a partner to your next Public Service event, you can show them just how easy and fun it really is.

So the next time Mr.. Clipboard asks you to help with an event, think about who YOU can ask to come along and share the experience.

73, Greg, N4PGS

SKYWARN CLASS



An introductory class on the basic skills necessary to become a member of the SKYWARN program is again being held in Fluvanna County. SKYWARN is a national network of volunteers responsible for reporting severe weather conditions to the National Weather Service in the event of a weather emergency (such as tornadoes, floods, etc.). This class will train volunteers in the proper weather spotting procedures and reporting techniques.

**Saturday, April 13, 1996
9:30 to 11:30 A.M.
Lake Monticello Fire &
Rescue Building
Maple Room**

If you missed the one in January, here is your second chance.

All amateur radio operators and their friends in Albemarle County and all of the surrounding counties are invited and encourage to attend.

HOW TO FIND IT

Coming from West: Take route 53 heading East. Cross into Fluvanna County. Turn left on route 618. Go to T intersection. Turn right on route 600. Building about 1.5 miles on right.

Coming from North: Take route 15 heading South. Cross U.S. 250 and continue to head South. Turn right on route 616. Next turn left on route 600. Cross river bridge. Building will be about 1.75 beyond bridge on right.

Coming from South: Follow U.S. 15 North through the town of Palmyra. Several miles North of Palmyra turn left on route 616. Next, turn left on route 600. Cross river bridge. Building will be about 1.75 beyond bridge on right.

The Fire and Rescue Building is located outside of the gated area at Lake Monticello.

If there are any questions, please call me at 295-3101 (daytime) or 589-3822 (nights).

LeRoy - WA4MHP
E.C. Fluvanna/Louisa Counties

FURTHER NOTES ON THE VOLUNTEER EXAMINING SESSION OF APRIL 27, 1996

The code examinations will begin promptly at 9:00 AM, with the theory exams following. You should bring to the examination session the following items:

1. Your **CURRENT ORIGINAL** Amateur Radio License
2. Original of CSCE's for element credit you wish to claim
3. At least one pencil (#2 lead) and suitable eraser
4. An ink pen
5. Two forms of positive identification (in addition to your original license) from this list:
 - A photo ID plus one of the following, OR two of the following:
 - non-photo drivers license or other ID card (school or employer)
 - Birth certificate with appropriate seal
 - Passport
 - any business or personal correspondence addressed to you

For a Form 610 send a Stamped Self Addressed Envelope to the above address. Any questions contact John - W6UZ at 973-1094.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

- April 6 Chesapeake ARS, Virginia Beach, VA
Preston Ipock, N4SHI, 1026 Calloway Ave.,
Chesapeake, VA 23324, 804-543-4610
- April 14 North Carolina State Convention, Raleigh, NC
Rollin Ransom, NF4P, 1421 Parks Village Rd.,
Zebulon, NC 27597 919-269-4406
- April 21 Roanoke Valley ARC, Salem, VA
Danny Pendleton, N4NPD, 4763 Jacklin Dr.
NE, Roanoke, VA 24019, 540-366-7354
- May 5 Antietam Radio Association, Hagerstown, MD
Bill Harclerode, N8UKC, 993 Falling Waters
Dr., Falling Waters, WV 25419, 304-274-3355
- May 5 Lynchburg ARC, Lynchburg, VA
Nick, WD4ELJ, PO Box 4242, Lynchburg, VA
24502, 804-846-0267

HIDDEN SIGNALS

Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY

Every month or so, the AARC as well as the VARA engage in "fox hunts." What these really involve is seeking out transmitters hidden by fellow hams. In other words, if one is to find the transmitter, one must first find the "hidden signal."

"Fox hunting" is fascinating to the devotees of this aspect of our hobby. Actually, there are many other hidden signals and their pursuers are equally devoted to tracking them down. Where am I going with all this?

Most everyone who is reading this owns an FM radio of some kind. You tune in a favorite station and, hopefully, you enjoy what you hear. It well may be, however, that, lurking in the background is a second or even a third signal which you cannot hear and don't even know is present--on the same frequency and coming from the very transmitter to which your set is tuned. Interested? Read on.

I could give you a little historical background (as I did during one of our Thursday night "tech sessions), but I won't do that now. Rather, let us consider the makeup of the "composite signal" found on commercial broadcast FM transmitters. First we have the carrier, operating on a given frequency between 88 and 108 MHz. That frequency is "modulated" by PART of the audio. The maximum permissible modulation, or "deviation" as it is really called, is 75 kHz each side of this carrier frequency. Remember, this is a part of the main audio. You know that stereo has both a left and a right channel. Some of the information which is "common" to both channels is this main audio signal. The information which actually differentiates left and right channels is also impressed on the carrier frequency.

I hope you're following me so far. The highest audio frequency we hear is 15 kHz. You can see that we can place a steady frequency of 15 kHz on our carrier and it can be heard by many listeners. We can also place a 16 or 20 kHz signal on the carrier, even though we do not usually hear such frequencies. In actuality we do place a 19 kHz signal on the main carrier. It is there at all times, but with very little deviation. It is known as a "pilot signal."

I'm not digressing even though it might seem

that way. You know that we can transmit a single sideband signal on, well, 3.9 MHz. We have no legal right to do so, but such SSB signals can also be transmitted on lower frequencies, such as 600 kHz. We can also produce an SSB signal at a frequency of 38 kHz. Indeed, that's just what is done with commercial FM stereo broadcasts. The information which differentiates left and right-channel signals is the audio transmitted on 38 kHz. Of course, voice and music would sound terrible if the SSB signal was not demodulated or mixed. Well, it is. Remember that 19 kHz pilot. What's 19 times 2?

If you said "38," go to the head of the class. It is no coincidence that 38 kHz is the frequency of the SSB signal. I'm skipping details of combining that signal with the main audio signal because it isn't relevant here.

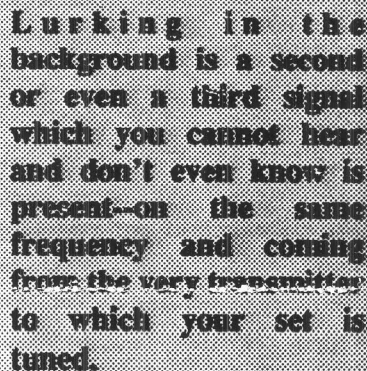
The region of our main carrier composite signal between 38 and perhaps 53 kHz is taken up by the sideband components of the SSB signal we have been talking about. It is necessary to provide what is known as a "guard band" above 53 kHz.

There is no problem in introducing yet another signal at 67 kHz. Just as it is possible to frequency modulate the main carrier frequency, it is also possible to frequency modulate the 67 kHz frequency. Memory fails me here, but I believe this modulation must be held to 7 kHz either side of 67 kHz. The amount of modulation of the main carrier by this 67 kHz tone is limited to 10 per cent of 75 kHz or 7.5 kHz either side of the center frequency.

If you're asking yourself what is modulated on this 67 kHz, you're doing the right thing and we're coming to the end of the story. With the correct receiver, or decoder one can hear background music such as might be heard in supermarkets or in restaurants. You might hear data transmissions. You might hear the spoken word. That could be the reading of books and newspapers and this is intended for blind or dyslexic individuals.

Yes, there's still room to add another frequency, usually 92 kHz. This one is also frequency modulated. This tends to be noisier than the 67 kHz signal but is still usable where overall signal strength is strong. Again, one might hear data or music. Foreign language services are often found on that "subcarrier" frequency.

The 19, 67 and 92 kHz signals are referred to as "subcarriers." The entire output (*see Signals, page 5*)



Lurking in the background is a second or even a third signal which you cannot hear and don't even know is present--on the same frequency and coming from the very transmitter to which your set is tuned.

EXAMS ARE COMING

Harry Dannels, W2HD

You will be hearing a lot about the 27th of April in the next few weeks. Reminders will be heard on the various nets... the Info Net on Monday and the NPEN on Thursday. Our Volunteer Exam Co-ordinator, W6UZ, will be placing notices on the WA4TFZ Packet System reminding everyone that it's Exam time again!

Why all this "noise" about ham examinations? Well, simply we are blessed with the responsibility of examining our own ham radio members. Properly accredited Volunteer Examiners do the work and you folks in this modern era are truly fortunate. Oh, I know you are thinking: "What's so 'fortunate' about taking an exam?" The answer is really quite simple, especially if you took the Federal Communications examinations some years ago in the dark, dingy FCC offices in our Nation's federal office buildings. Many of us remember the "smiling" faces of those FCC Inspectors who monitored our every movement!

Well, today it's very much a new ballgame. There is no sending exam for code. The examiners are your local friends who smile a little more frequently even when they have to tell you, "Better luck next time!" Oh, yes, the exam rooms are quite different, too. You may not have donuts and coffee, but the rooms are much more pleasant than those federal office buildings.

But, why all this talk about exams? Aren't they for the no-code and tech pluses? Not at all, the volunteer exam sessions offer exams for all grades of ham licenses. Not only that, but we very much encourage the up-grade approach to this great hobby of ours!

Don't stagnate and stay at the same level of license when there are so many other opportunities for ham radio fun with the higher grades of license. Oh, I know, it took enough work to get this far and I'm going to wait awhile before going on further. Wait a minute, fellas and gals! It will be much easier to up-grade when you continue the good study habits which brought you this far... whatever that license step may be.

Get together with another ham friend and cuddle up... whoops, be careful... (that sentence should read "...cuddle up with a copy of the next level licensing guide!") Oh, well, depending upon the situation, both approaches may be satisfactory! Any way you can accomplish the studying for up-grade... DO IT!

You will enjoy ham radio more and more each time you open another "window" in this great hobby. See you on 20 c.w.? 75 'phone?

Good luck and 73...

Harry, W2HD



Reprinted courtesy March, 1951 QST

Signals

(from page 4) from an FM detector (before these subcarriers are stripped off) is known as the "composite" signal.

These signals are perfectly legal and fall under what is called "subsidiary communications authorization (usually abbreviated SCA)". Receivers designed to receive such signals, therefore, are called "SCA receivers."

For a time it was fashionable to provide add-on devices to the detector circuits of FM sets which would allow the listener to hear these "hidden signals." There has been some question of the legality of supplying these devices, either as external units or as a part of the FM radio itself. Thus, they are not easy to come by now. All is not lost because I have seen schematics for phase locked loop circuits in applications notes supply by some semiconductor manufacturers. If I remember correctly, the Signetics 565 PLL is used in such applications.

I hope you enjoyed this. I'll be back later with, well, who knows what!

Joe, W2PVY

CLUB BUSINESS



AARC Board Meeting Date March 5, 1996

- * A discussion concerning the financial aspects of the Winter Dinner was held. Concerns were expressed about the total costs. A check will be made related to gratuity charges on the final bill.
- * The new antenna analyzer was discussed. Suggested: we need to have a checkout contract. (They are expensive). Also, a suggestion was made regarding the batteries. The user will be expected to supply the batteries for their use period. (Note: This might have the benefit of reducing damage due to battery leakage.)
- * Field Day Co-Chairs: Bob (KM4DU) and Pete (KC4UCK). Let them know how you can assist them.
- * There may be some IBM-clone laptop computers available soon. Check with Ron (K4RKA).

AARC Regular Meeting Minutes Date: March 12, 1996

(Thanks to Sharon (KO4OC) for taking the Minutes due to the last minute absence of Joe (KD4RWX).)

No Official motions concerning business were made or acted on except the motion to adjourn.

- * The program was presented by Greg (N4PGS): It concerned Packet Radio.
- * Mike (AC4ZQ) gave an overview on the new AEA antenna analyzer.
- * Remember that Field Day 1996 will be coming up in June. It is not too soon to be putting the plans together. Bob (KM4DU) is one of the Co-Chairs. Check with him concerning how you can assist.
- * The Western Albemarle Rescue Squad will accept the antenna. Volunteers are needed for the installation.
- * April 27 is National VE Day
- * Check the Public Service announcements in the Newsletter for activities, dates, and times. Sign up with Hein (N4FWA).
- * More computers are available for sale by the Recycling Program. Check with Ron (K4RKA). These can function very well as part of a packet station. They can assist with a number of the functions in an Amateur's shack.
- * Plans are being made to service the batteries at the Carter's Mountain site. This provides a

mechanism to keep the batteries in tip-top shape. Assistance was requested.

- * LeRoy (WA4MHP) will be presenting a program on the Basic Theory of Oscillators.
- * Concerns were expressed about the 925 Repeater being keyed by interference. Pursue tone?

* **[Note: The following was not mentioned in the meeting due to the absence of Joe (KD4RWX):**

The 925 Repeater experiences periodic interference, part of which is probably related to a source from within the Hospital. We do not necessarily turn the repeater's tone on each time we experience interference, as is frequently done on the primary 76 Repeater. It's interference problem is far more lengthy in duration. We purposely delay turning on the tone, sometimes, in order to assess the interference source. At other times, the repeater just may not be monitored. (Some lives are not devoted entirely to repeaters.) Also, while the repeater has been placed on tone several times, the Control Operators are reluctant to do so since that would mean that both of the 2 meter repeaters would be on tone and might lock out some of the operators of older equipment.

Plans are being made to check the squelch level to determine if that is contributing to the problem.

The 925 Repeater has performed very well in the new location. We have attempted to make sure that we do not interfere with any of the MEDCOM communication activities, or the activities of the hospital in general. They do not seem to interfere with us, except for the aforementioned brief episodes of apparent interference from a hospital source.

Some persons who scan the frequencies of several repeaters will be treated to an unnerving condition when the 935 Repeater experiences the brief, periodic problem. Try turning your receiver off of scan for a while. Call Joe (KD4RWX), 973-1738. Ask him to check it out. Some of his radios are sick and he might not be monitoring the repeater. So far, we do not have as serious of a problem as is found on the 76 Repeater. We hope conditions improve. With your assistance and patience they will.

Keep us informed. Joe (KD4RWX)]

Submitted by Joe Fritz (KD4RWX), Secretary AARC.

Amateur Radio Exam Dates for Virginia

04/12/96 (ARRL) Galax, David Roberts, 540-773-2446
 04/13/96 (ARRL) Harrisonburg, 703-434-3133, Brown Snyder N4ZHV
 04/13/96 (W5YI) Norfolk, 804-531-9292, William Schauf
 04/13/96 (ARRL) Richmond, 804-798-5048, Rick Cook
 04/13/96 (ARRL) Toano, 804-688-3178, Michael Conte
 04/13/96 (ARRL) Virginia Beach, 804-531-9292, Bill Schauf
 04/20/96 (W5YI) Chester, 804-330-0006, Anthony Amato
 04/20/96 (ARRL) Sterling, 703-450-2304, Michael Weber


04/21/96 (ARRL) Roanoke, 540-890-6782, Terrance Vlugg
 04/27/96 (ARRL) Boonesville, 804-736-8010, Gene Lyles
 04/27/96 (ARRL) Charlottesville, 804-973-1094, John Gray
 05/02/96 (ARRL) Warrenton, 540-347-9637, Robert Courtney
 05/04/96 (W5YI) Ben Hur, 540-546-2323, Charlie Poe
 05/05/96 (ARRL) Alta Vista, 804-821-6233, Calvin Burnette
 05/10/96 (ARRL) Galax, 540-773-2446, David Roberts

Remember, if you are interested in taking an Amateur Radio exam at any of these sites, CALL AHEAD for information. Not all test sites accept walk-in registrations.

DEADLINE for the May issue of AARC Bulletin is April 21

Send your articles to either Paul (WB9HGZ) or Eileen (WD9EIA) at: 4300 Sylvan Lane, Charlottesville, 22911 (U.S. mail), or at 74146.446@COMPUSERVE.COM (email).

To reach us through the club bulletin board, send your articles to Mike, KE4UKX, our resident packet operator, and he'll see we get them—MUCH faster than if you packet straight to us!

APRIL 1996						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 INFO-NET 7:00 pm ☼ KE4WLL	2 Board Meeting & Technical Session 7:00 pm	3 Lunch Old Country Buffet 11-1 ☼ KD4WSCV	4 ARES NET 8:00 pm	5 ☼ WA4MHP	6 ☼ KD4RWX
7  EASTER	8 INFO-NET 7:00 pm	9 AARC Meeting 7:30 pm	10 Lunch Old Country Buffet 11-1 ☼ W2PVY	11 ARES NET 8:00 pm	12	13 ☼ KB4MUF
14	15 INFO-NET 7:00 pm ☼ AD4YM ☼ W2HD	16	17 Lunch Old Country Buffet 11-1 ☼ N4PWA	18 ARES NET 8:00 pm	19	20
21	22 INFO-NET 7:00 pm	23	24 Lunch Old Country Buffet 11-1	25 ARES NET 8:00 pm	26	27
28	29 INFO-NET 7:00 pm ☼ KB4DJN	30				



CLASSIFIED COLUMN

To list an item in this section that is NOT on the WA4TFZ packet bulletin board, contact Paul, WB9HGZ or Eileen, WD9EIA.

WANTED: TNC AND HF TRANSCEIVER 1/18/96
Jim, WD4HMMW, wants a tnc for VHF. He also is looking for an HF xcvr. He is open for anything including an older tube rig. Call him at 804-823-2277.

FOR SALE: BUNCH OF ITEMS 2/8/96 AB6FI,
Ned Hamilton, has several items for sale.

- Alpha 87A amplifier. \$4000
- FT1000D Yaesu hf xcvr. \$2800
- Yaesu FIF232c, rs232 interface to computer.
- US Tower TX472 72 ft crankup tower. \$1500
- A3WS Cushcraft tri band beam w/30m add-on.
- ARX2b Ringo Ranger.
- Kantronics KAM all mode tnc.
- KLM KT34A 4 element triband may be sold
- Heil BM10 and HM10 dual element desk mike, single element boom headset
- Yaesu FT2400 mobile 2 meter transceiver. 50 watt.
- Three Rohn 25g tower sections.
- Rohn SDD25G base section for 25g tower.
- Rohn BAS25G thrust bearing.
- Create RC5A-3 heavy duty rotator

If interested in any of these items, please call Ned at 804-977-8750 or contact him at nedh@virginia.edu

FOR SALE: TNC 3/14/96 LeRoy, WA4MHP,
wants to sell an AEA PK12 VHF TNC. Call 804-589-3822.

FOR SALE: HEATH RLC BRIDGE 3/14/96
For AARC benefit. Model IB-5281. Donated by Joe, W2PVY. If interested, call Ron, K4RKA, at 973-3640 or catch me on .925 mostly.

FOR SALE: PHONE PATCH 3/14/96 For AARC
benefit. Water Model 1003. Donated by Joe, W2PVY. If interested, call Ron, K4RKA, at 973-3640 or catch me on .925 mostly.

FOR SALE: COMPUTER 3/22/96 IBM XT (5 1/4"
drive, 20 mb hard drive, 640 kilobytes memory, Hercules video card and bus mouse). Good for Packet; \$50? Also selling Epson RX-80 8-pin dot matrix printer. Call J.L., KE4UKZ, at 978-4903 ☞

☞ denotes classified sent directly to AARC Bulletin.

ALBEMARLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME

Hamfest Sales	146.00
(Richmond Frostfest)	
Surplus Equipment	230.00
Dues	780.00
QST Subscriptions	7.00
Textbook Sales	61.00
Total Income	1224.00

EXPENSES

Equipment	-1082.21
Refreshments	- 25.00
Entertainment	-715.82
(Winter Dinner)	
Postage & Publishing	- 209.90
Telephone	- 75.08
Total Expenses	-2108.01

TOTAL INCOME EXPENSE	-\$ 884.01
BALANCE FORWARD	4917.48
OVERALL TOTAL	\$4033.47

Treasurer: Sharon Duvall, KO4OC



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Contact Hein (N4FWA) to sign up for events.

1996 Events

BKR1	Sunday 24 March 1996 Bike Race
MSW1	Saturday 13 April (or Sunday 14) 1996 MS Walk in Charlottesville
BKR3	Friday 31 May 1996 Bike Race
BKR4	Saturday 1 June 1996 Bike Race
BKR5	Sunday 2 June 1996 Bike Race
MSB1	Saturday 8 June 1996 MS 150- mile Bike Tour Day 1
MSB1	Sunday 9 June 1996 MS 150-mile Bike Tour Day 2

On Becoming a Ham

Terry Henderson, KE4SSD

At the Winter Dinner on Feb. 25, KE4SSD presented KM4DU with an Elmer's Award. For those of you who weren't there, Terry sends along the text of her ode in honor of her Elmer, Bob Pattison.

With no science background, and scared to death of math, I decided to embark on the most formidable path of becoming a ham. It was a dare, you see, from my husband, Tim and from Ken, KD4VPE. They said "Sure, come join us!" as we strolled the hamfest. "All you have to do is pass the written test." "There's a TEST?" I pondered ... "how bad could it be? After all, the license is issued by the FCC." When I studied the book my heart sank in dismay. The questions I could memorize, but understanding? No way! My husband spent hours explaining things electronic. *(Remember, I'm one who thinks math is demonic!)* But my head is dense as many of you know, so I hunted a class -- found the Bob and Harry Show. "What is a frequency?" was the first question I'd ask. KM4DU understood they had the great task of molding a ham from this ignorant fool. And Harry, W2HD, had to just keep his cool while question after question I asked and implored. "Why?" I kept asking. "Please tell me more about this and that. I don't understand!" I'm sure some there thought from class I'd be banned. Yet Bob kept explaining with chalk drawings just for me; and soon I had a no-code license: KE4SSD.

But why stop there? Code was still being taught by Brian, HIA, sending dah after dot. My copying, though -- it wasn't going so well. I felt like telling Brian to go straight to Melbourne, Australia. But Bob knew what I needed. I took his advice and quickly succeeded in upgrading to tech. How I basked in that glory, then said, "What the heck! Let's add on to this story!" So I studied for General, surely a piece of cake. Little did I know how much work it would take to get thru the theory, let alone the Morse Code. I looked for a means to operate CW mode. KE4HVS had a great suggestion: "Let's practice code on ten meters!" But then there was the question of how and of when, and before I knew it we had wasted months without getting around to it. That's when a Wise Elmer came to my rescue offering to send me code. It was KM4DU. The first time we did it was horrible and scary. But Bob talked me through it, his voice calm and so very encouraging and helpful, guiding me through my first CW contact. Thanks, KM4DU!

And that was just the beginning. We met the next night. Bob sent some more code, in spite of my fright. And again and again with a slow steady fist Bob sent, and I copied. I started getting the gist of this musical language dear to many of you. I was actually understanding code. Thanks, KM4DU!

Just as the theory began to give me greatest woe there came a General Encore of the Bob and Harry Show. Yet this class was different: We were supposed to be smart. I was doing okay 'til we got to the math part. That's where I felt I was hitting the wall, that I'd never get my General Class License at all. But code practice still happened night after night. Since Bob understood my mathematics fright, he took time to explain of root mean square and exponents, reactance, modulation and smoke losing components. He never once belittled me, nor laughed at my questions *(though I am quite sure it gave him great indigestion)*. Like, when radio waves go bouncing o'er the Earth just like that, and they hit the water's surface, do they make a splat? And when trimming an antenna for the frequency you like, you MUST check the SWR before you EVER key the mike. In spite of this despair, I learned I should trust KM4DU's judgement in telling me to "Just hang in there, you'll make it." He believed in me. And because he did, I can sign stroke AG.

And we aren't finished. We continue to pursue electronic theory and CW too. I'm going to be an extra class operator one day, *if I can ever get this theory out of the way*. For I have an elmer who believes it can be done. *(Why, he even thinks it's going to be fun!)* For Bob has helped others better hams to be: Bill Bearden, Bob Ross and Elwood who like me needed the encouragement and skill of a friend to guide them down that path and around the next bend

There are so many others who have helped me as well, far too numerous their tales for to tell. I'd thank them all if we just had the time, *or even if I could just get their call signs to rhyme*. As well as their loved ones and spouses and mothers, who let them play radio so they could give to others from that bounty of knowledge and wisdom and skill. I thank you for loaning them, for your kindness and goodwill.

All said though, it is to Bob I defer in most humble gratitude. I thank you, sir, for our schedules, your sacrificial attitude; for your encouragement and guidance; for never giving up on me; for believing I could make it; for not stopping 'til you see that I'm standing on my own two feet, my ham life well begun.

I thank you my friend, my elmer, Mr. Bob Pattison

1996 ALBEMARLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Newsletter Editors	Paul Dean	WB9HGZ
	Eileen Dean	WD9EIA

CLUB MEETINGS

Regular Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

Board & Technical Meetings: First Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

Meetings are held at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) building, Edgemont Road (UVa area)

WA4TFZ REPEATERS

INPUT/OUTPUT	TONE ACCESS
146.160/146.760	88.5 (if enabled, DTMF 325* will produce temporary Tone off and 326* will turn Tone back on)
Emergency Autopatch to access 911 Center.....	DTMF 911*
Emergency Autopatch to access VA State Police.....	DTMF 918*
Autopatch ext.....	DTMF 0*
Time.....	DTMF 10*
Tone status of repeater.....	DTMF 700*
146.325/146.925	88.5 Hz (if enabled) 223.160/224.760 no tone
449.250/444.250	151.4 Hz (if enabled) 145.030 MACHO node
145.030 CHO	WA4TFZ Packet Bulletin Board

NETS

Northern Piedmont Emergency Net

146.76 repeater Thursday 8:00 p.m.

Plus Swap/Trade & Technical Sessions

Net Control: Morris, NM4R

Information Net

146.76 repeater Monday 7:00 p.m.

Newsline program and general news

Net Control: Mark, N4TZE

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6833
Charlottesville, VA 22906

**AARC BULLETIN
APRIL 1996**

CORRECTION OF LABEL INFORMATION REQUESTED ...TO CORRECT CALL PHONE 973-1738 Y D
KA4JJD N 1996 CURRENT MEMBER

Michael F. Rein
109 Sturbridge Rd.
Charlottesville VA 22901



Have you renewed your AARC membership?