

Club Picnic

It's September, and that means it's time for the annual club picnic. In place of the regular meeting at NRAO, we'll be gathering at McIntyre Park in Charlottesville on Tuesday, September 10 from 6:00 p.m. until the park closes at 10 p.m. We'll be in Shelter #1. This year's picnic will be a pot luck. Bring a covered dish to share, along with plates and utensils for your own use. The club will provide drinks. A gas grill will be set up and running for all those wanting to grill their food.

Sharon Duvall, KO4OC, will be coordinating the menu so that we don't end up with 40 desserts and no vegetables (or worse, 40 vegetables and no desserts!) Call her to let her know what family favorite you're cooking up, or if you need a suggestion for what to bring.



The next test session in Charlottesville is scheduled for Saturday, November 23. Further details will be coming, but start studying for that upgrade now!

Novice/Tech Theory Class Starts Aug. 28

AARC is once again sponsoring a novice/tech class at CATEC. The class starts Wednesday, Aug. 28, but there's still time for you to spread the word. Remember, the class itself is free. The *Tune In the World* book costs around \$20.00. If you have any friends/relatives/neighbors who've seen you sporting that HT and would like to know more about the hobby, this is a great opportunity for them.

The class will run twelve weeks, finishing just in time for the VE test session in late November. Teaming up to teach this session will be Harry (W2HD), Dick (KD4KWE), Don (KD4MCA) and Dave (KE4YLR). Morse code will be introduced, but not taught, due to the shorter-than-usual class time.

When: From 6:30-9:00 PM, Wednesdays

Where: the electronic shop at CATEC (located on Rio Road east of 29N)

Who: all interested prospective hams

For more information, contact Harry Dannals, W2HD, at 974-7388.

The President Speaks

Fred Laun, K3ZO, recently wrote this tongue-in-cheek tale of what might be to come in the hopefully distant future. I hope you get as big as a kick out of it as I did!

See you at the picnic!

- Pete -

The date was May 20. The year was 2046. Four days earlier, the Forces of Evil had detonated a massive thermonuclear weapon high above the Kansas countryside, creating an Electromagnetic Pulse which had immobilized the entire North American Continent, dependent as modern society had become on the semiconductor for carrying out even the most elemental tasks. Attempts to communicate with distant cities and states were useless. All systems were down. Few vehicles of any sort were running, what with the sophisticated semiconductor-based ignition systems of the day.

The QRP'er was out foraging for food, looking for rabbits in the bush, when he happened to pass by the hill on top of which could be found the shack of the Old Timer. Of course, all of the remaining practitioners of that quaint hobby, Amateur Radio, were QRP'ers these days, as the result of the events set in motion by the implementation, way back in 1997, of the Guidelines on RF Exposure by the Federal Communications Commission. Rather than subject themselves to constant legal action, most Radio Amateurs had long since thrown in the towel and ceased amateur radio operations, relying instead on the Internet to entertain themselves. After all, the Internet incorporated many of the same elements that had proved fascinating for earlier generations of amateurs.

In the vast silence the QRP'er detected the unmistakable put-put- put of a gasoline-driven generator coming from the direction of the Old Timer's shack, so he went up the hill to see what was happening. As he entered the Old Timer's shack, he could see the glow of dial lights from some of the ancient equipment that the Old Timer had regularly exhibited at county fairs around the area. He was surprised to see the equipment working; he thought all electronic equipment had

been rendered useless by the EMP. Looking carefully at the ancient transmitter he could make out the words "E. F. Johnson Co." and "Viking I". The receiver bore the inscriptions: "Hallicrafters" and "SX-100".

The QRP'er rudely interrupted the Old Timer: "What are you doing?"

"I'm having a QSO with XT2AA in Burkina Faso," was the immediate reply, "Come on in."

The QRP'er entered and sat down in awe. Here the whole country was immobilized, and the Old Timer was having a QSO with Africa, no less! There was no need to ask what band the Old Timer was on: it had to be 20 meters. The big LEOs and little LEOs had long since used their financial clout to wrest all of the VHF and UHF bands away from the Amateur Radio Service, and with the great drop in Amateur Radio activity created by implementation of Guidelines for RF Exposure in the major industrialized countries of the world, the ITU had reassigned all of the HF bands to other services. Before going out of existence, the ARRL and IARU had managed to convince the United Nations to declare the 20 meter band an "Amateur Radio Historical Zone" and preserve it for amateur use as a matter of historical interest. The only Amateur Radio organization still in operation was the Antique Wireless Association.

"What is that thing you're using?" the QRP'er asked, pointing to a strange object that the Old Timer was using his hand to manipulate.

The Old Timer replied: "Oh this! This is known as a bug. They were widely in use before the IARU decided that the Morse Code was no longer important for Radio Amateurs to know and did away with the Morse Code examination requirement. With this old bucket of bolts, I didn't think I could get through on phone, so I decided to drag out the old bug and fire up on CW."

The Old Timer finished the QSO and said: "It's pretty hard to find a ham station on the air these days, but some of the Africans are still pretty active, since their countries never developed to the extent that they can easily obtain Internet access. He says that he has been trying to find out what is

going on in the rest of the world after all the normal systems went down, but except for other African stations I was his first QSO in the last four days."

The Old Timer continued, "In earlier days in a situation like this, the other hams around here and I would have been busy on two meters handling emergency traffic, but after the little LEOs got two meters, the Amateur Radio emergency systems just sort of died on the vine. The little LEOs assured the world that no matter what sort of emergency came up, they would be able to handle it, and they have -- until now..."

"Well OM," the QRP'er said, "guess I better get going and find me some grub. Nice to have had the chance to see you."

"No problem," said the Old Timer. "If we manage to get through all of this, drop in again some time."

From the Editors

Thanks to all of you who have been sending contributions to us! It makes the job of putting together the *Bulletin* so much more fun. And, as our illustrious predecessor KD4RWX used to say, it's *your* newsletter. So if you've got an idea you'd like to see in print, send it to either Paul, WB9HGZ, or Eileen, WD9EIA.

By the way, we've moved--electronically, that is--and now have a new email address: wd9eia@super.zipco.com If you prefer, write to us at 4300 Sylvan Lane, Charlottesville, 22911. To reach us through the club bulletin board, send your articles to Mike, KE4UKX, our resident packet operator, who'll forward them to us.

See you at the picnic!

73, WB9HGZ & WD9EIA

**DEADLINE for the October issue of
AARC Bulletin is September 19!**

Bits and Pieces

New Address: Pat Wilson, N0RDQ, sends word from Richmond that he has a new email address. You can now reach him electronically at: pw@i2020.net

New Member: Welcome Nancy Holliday, our newest member. Nancy is studying for her Technician license. Good luck, Nancy, and we look forward to hearing you on the air.

Convention, Anyone?: The ARRL's Roanoke Division (that's our area's division, for you new hams) is holding its 1996 convention at Virginia Beach on September 21 and 22. Doors open from 9-5 on Saturday, and from 9-3 on Sunday. The hamfest/convention is sponsored by the Tidewater Radio Conventions and will be held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion. Call 804-HAM-FEST for information.

REMINDER: An Earthquake is coming to the Charlottesville/Albemarle area on Thursday, September 19, at 6:00 p.m. Are you ready to help? Contact Hein (N4FWA) if you want to participate in this emergency services drill and haven't signed up yet. (Remember, for this exercise an official photo ID card is **REQUIRED** for all participants.)

How's Your Fist? The CW club F.I.S.T.S. is sponsoring its 9th annual "Straight Key Week" from September 1 through 7. According to the Sept., 1996, *QST*, "Ragchew style CW contacts are encouraged." Participants may nominate their most interesting QSO and the best straight key fist they either worked or heard for one of the awards given. Send logs to Pete Kozup, 5115 N. Park Ave., Warren, OH, 44481.

To Code or Not to Code: That seems to be the question coming up at the 1999 World Radio-communications Conference, where decisions will be made regarding the current Morse Code proficiency requirements for Amateur Radio licenses. If you want to have *your* opinion noted, why not fill out the ARRL's survey on p. 49-50 of this month's *QST*?

AARC and ARES

Dave Damon KE4YLR

Most of you are probably very familiar with the information presented here. If so, bear with me. We have a continual supply of newly licensed hams who become club members, and for those of us who are new hams and even for those who have been around amateur radio for a long time, taking a little time and space to go over some of the basics can assure that all of us are acting in concert.

ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is comprised of licensed amateurs who volunteer their time and equipment for organized communication service during public emergencies. Neither membership in ARRL (American Radio Relay League), nor AARC (Albermarle Amateur Radio Club) is a prerequisite, only that the volunteer be a licensed amateur.

At the national level, ARES is organized through the ARRL, with regional organization corresponding to the ARRL Sections. We are in the Virginia Section of the Roanoke Division, which is made up of amateurs located in Virginia, West Virginia, and the Carolinas. Our Section Manager (SM) Chris Wright (KD4TZN) of Rocky Mount, VA, is responsible for appointment of a Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC). The Virginia SEC is Robert Lewis (N4SCK) of Centerville, VA.

The SEC is usually responsible for the appointment of a District Emergency Coordinator (DEC). Morris Jones (NM4R) who we all know from our Thursday night Northern Piedmont Emergency Net is our DEC. Morris's District includes Charlottesville, and the counties of Albemarle, Greene, Fluvanna and Louisa. The DEC recommends appointments as Local Emergency Coordinator (EC) to the SEC. Currently, Hein Hvatum (N4FWA) is the EC for Charlottesville, Albemarle and Greene. Leroy Sutter (WA4MPH) was the EC for Fluvanna and Louisa counties. The local level is where the action takes place, action that is carried out by ARES volunteers who make themselves and their equipment available for a variety of services. These can be as diverse as local walking/biking fund raisers, to U.S. Cycling Federation sanctioned bike racing, to actual emergencies like

we experienced last year with the flooding in Madison County and the potential threat to Sugar Hollow Dam and Reservoir.

Why do amateurs do it? There are a variety reasons and I'm sure you can come up with several more than are mentioned here. It's fun for one thing. It's worthwhile and rewarding to be able to use your equipment, your skills and talents to provide help to others in difficult circumstances. Also, it's part of the reason that we have been allowed exclusive use of portions of the radio spectrum, one of the more compelling arguments that should help retain our current spectrum allocations.

But beyond the fun that we get from working public service events (not to mention the T-shirts), don't lose sight of the fact that we are training while we're working those events. Everything that we do as club sponsored public service is practice for the day that we are called on to provide emergency communication for people in our community who will be counting on us.

We'll discuss this in further detail in subsequent issues of the newsletter, but meanwhile, any comments, questions, suggestions pertaining to ARES would be welcomed any time by N4FWA, NM4R or myself.

On a more practical note, most of you know that we have antennas installed at several sites around the area for emergency use. One was just put up at the Western Albermarle Rescue Squad. Other locations are the Lake Monticello Rescue Squad, the 911 Center, the Red Cross building, Martha Jefferson Hospital, and Zehmer Hall at the University of Virginia. Do you know where these buildings are, where the antennas are, where the feed lines are? Your location at any time and distance to the nearest of these antennas could be important in future ARES training exercises.

Vanity call sign stats: As of August 6, the FCC's Larry Weikert reports 3545 applications have been filed with Gettysburg to take advantage of the program, which began May 31. Still no word on when Gate 2 will open.

ARRL Update, Aug. 16, 1996

MY CALL IS MY NAME

Harry Dannals

Other than our Social Security number, our chief form of identity is our name. The local telephone book lists personal names from Aalto to Zyderveld. Most of us are happy to have the names given us by our family ties, plus the addition of a first name which is our individual identity. However, that isn't always the case.

Take a look at many, many of the given names of Hollywood's stars and starlets. In the majority of cases, the names are selected for their short, easy to recognize, and glamorous form. Aw, c'mon Harry, here you go again with stuff that doesn't make sense!

Ahh, but it does make sense, fellas and gals! We Hams are a very proud bunch of people. We have worked long and hard to achieve a status in the world of communications. Our calls become our names on the Amateur Radio bands. There are few folks who would know Harry Dannals, but fellow Hams might readily recall the identity when W2HD signs on the frequency. And so it goes...

However, in somewhat the same sense as the Hollywood situation, we have among us those whose calls seem less glamorous or, shall we say, difficult to send or say on the air. Yes, we were very much overjoyed when the FCC license appeared and it didn't make any difference if the call were KXY4ABC or plain old N4A. That call was ours... exclusively! Time and experience have a way of changing the way many of the Hams of the day see their calls. If you are involved in contesting or DXing, short, easy to remember calls are very important.

Recently, the FCC opened up the "Vanity Call" system wherein Hams meeting certain criteria may obtain callsigns of choice instead of "out of the computer" calls. Nostalgia played a part in the first "Gate" or opportunity to obtain a Vanity Call. Relatives of deceased hams were able to obtain the calls of those who had become silent keys. My son obtained his Grandfather's call since he had been taught by him during a six-week vacation in Florida. My son is now W2GG and there's a big lump in my throat everytime I say the call or send it via c.w. Others were able to obtain a call which had been lost when the FCC insisted that callsigns be changed when moving to a new call area.

But, there are other groups seeking special Vanity Calls. These are those fellows who would like a call more fitting their types of operating... DX or contests. Additionally, there are those who would gladly drop a

letter or two from a 2x3 and become a 1x2 or 2x1, or perhaps their initials (who would be so vain?).

As one who wrestled with this problem 20 years ago, I can say it isn't easy to change one's name (from W2TUK to W2HD) but I would do it today under similar circumstances. After all, some folks do change their names!

73...

/s/ Harry, W2HD



At the Movies with K4RKA

When you watch a movie with a ham radio operator as part of the plot, do you watch for detail? I do, and I just watched one called HIGH FREQUENCY in which a young ham radio operator figures prominently.

He is Danny, WM1ATE, located on Vinelhaven Island off the coast of Maine south of Bangor and he is using a Drake TR4 transceiver. His first contact is with G3SPC aboard a ship. OK so far, but then he says "QRP, QRP for location?". Next he talks to Peter, HB9RFX, who is a Swiss ham located at a TV satellite relay station in the Alps. This guy is using a FRG-7 and an IC-R70 and a dish antenna. They have trouble with the signal so the guy suggests changing to 2.995MHz - WHOOPS! Do you reckon someone should send him a "pink slip"? Must be one heck of a dish! At least they are using lower sideband. They can also interrupt each other and the guy knows when the boy cuts his rig off. Now and then a Russian ham, UV3TJ, breaks in wanting to play chess. The plot involves a spy TV transmission on 6 Jigahertz - well that's pretty close!

About halfway through Danny's mother sits down at the rig and starts talking to Peter but Danny has left the house. Naughty, naughty! She is able to talk while waving both hands in the air, but maybe the VOX was working! The mother has more accent than the Swiss ham.

Other than the fact that their radios seem to work more like a house intercom than radios, the other details are pretty good. The bad guys are identified as UZ4KV and speak with a Slavic accent. It is basically a kid adventure story, but it kept me entertained for a while. If you watch it, see if you pick up on any other details.

Ron Richie

CLUB BUSINESS



AARC Board Meeting Date: August 6, 1996

Attending: Pete, AD4TU; Greg, N4PGS; Joe, KD4RWX; Rick, KO4WQ; Hein, N4FWA; Jessie, KE4OID; and Mike, AC4ZQ

A brief discussion concerning the 146.760 tone message. Wil, KJ4XZ, will make adjustments as deemed necessary. The APRS digipeter was turned off due to its interference with the 146.760 repeater. Efforts are ongoing to find a more suitable location for that system.

The September meeting is the annual AARC picnic. It will be held at McIntire Park shelter #1 starting at 6pm. It will be a covered dish event. So participants should bring a dish of food to share with others. A grill will be available for hamburgers and hot dogs.

Hein (N4FWA) is resigning as the Emergency Coordinator. He will continue to coordinate the club activities, such as bike races and walks where we provide radio communication support.

Special Emergency Identification cards are about ready to be processed. RACES cards are still being planned.

AARC Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: August 13, 1996

Harry led the group attending in the song "Happy Birthday Pete (AD4TU)" in recognition of our esteemed President's birthday. "A little red was noted in Pete's face."

Kaye Harden, Emergency Coordinator, discussed the upcoming Disaster Drill to be conducted on Thursday, September 19th. Special drill ID cards were distributed so that the individuals can take them to the Albemarle County Office Building for pictures and lamination. Other names were added to the list for increasing the number of persons with that type of identification.

The Virginia Beach Hamfest is September 21-22. (Call 1-804-HAMFEST for a taped message and a response opportunity.)

The Club's Novice/Technician class starts on August 28. If interested call Harry (W2HD) at 974-7388. The next

local exam is scheduled on November 23rd. Details will be announced as that date comes closer.

One new member was voted into the AARC. Her name is Nancy Holliday, a native of Charlottesville. She is currently studying for her Technician Exams through self-study.

A raffle for a random wire antenna tuner was won by Rick (KO4WQ).

Rob (WA3ULH) presented a brief discussion on homebrewing while showing some of his projects. Afterwards, several other homebrew items brought in by some others attending the meeting were also put on display.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz (KD4RWX), Secretary
AARC

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

INCOME

Donations:

Hamfest Sales	\$146.00
Repeater	140.00
Surplus Equipment	<u>655.00</u>
Total Donations	941.00
Dues	1177.50
QST Subscriptions	9.00
Textbook Sales	<u>61.00</u>
Total Income	2188.50

EXPENSES

Equipment	1210.16
Entertainment	715.82
Postage & Publishing	568.80
State Corporation Fee	25.00
Telephone	257.65
Insurance	297.31
Charity (Earlsville Fire Department)	100.00
Field Day Expense	72.37
Unpaid Club Jackets	325.00
Total Expenses	3817.11

TOTAL INCOME/ EXPENSE	-1628.61
BALANCE FORWARD	4917.48
OVERALL TOTAL	3288.87

Treasurer: Sharon Duvall, KO4OC