



ALBEMARLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

APRIL 1997

AARC VE SESSION

The AARC VE team will conduct an ARRL Examining Session on Saturday, April 26, 1997, at 900 AM. The location will be the usual one, the Auditorium of NRAO, Edgemont Road, UVA grounds, Charlottesville, VA. **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 Nov. 1993 or later
2. A list of examination elements you desire to take
3. A check for \$ 6.25 made out to AARC VE Session
4. Photocopies of your current license and relevant CSCE's, if presently held
5. For written confirmation of your proper registration please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope

Registration materials should reach the VE team on or prior to April 23, 1997. **SPECIAL NOTICE:** ANY candidate requiring special accommodation because of handicap or disability should contact ME (W6UZ) well in advance of the examination in order to discuss the arrangements necessary.

EXAMINATION DAY APRIL 26, 1997

You should bring to the session the following items:

1. Your **CURRENT ORIGINAL** Amateur Radio License, if any
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 973-0194.

Dogwood Festival

Plans for the 1997 Dogwood Festival float and demo are approaching completion. Those who attended the March meeting saw what a fantastic job KF4NOP and KF4NOQ did in creating the HT mockup for the float. It was grrreat. The float will have a station on a truck and a PA so the spectators can hear both sides of all QSOs. Plans have been slightly modified for the parade and will be announced at the April meeting. All that remains is to have YOU--the club members--pick an operating time(s) to operate our special event station. Details and sign-up sheets will be at the meeting. Sign up with W2EIU - Ernie. And also take part in the parade if possible. This will be a fun event and, incidentally, a warmup for Field Day.

73 and 88 (as appropriate) de W2EIU



NEXT AARC MEETING

Tuesday, April 8, 1997, at 7:30 p.m.

NRAO Auditorium, Edgemont Road (UVa Area)

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

In April, Bow, K4QKH, will discuss HF mobile antennas, complete with some interesting demonstrations.

Next, it's **Boat Anchor Night!** The May 13 AARC meeting will be dedicated to boat anchors--old amateur equipment and related memorabilia. Dust off your favorite tube rig and bring it for display or demonstration. If you have any 35 mm slides of boat-anchor stations, please contact Jim, AD4YM (email jcondon@nrao.edu or phone 823-4898 before 8 PM).

Field Day is coming more quickly than you might think, so June's meeting will be devoted to that fun subject. You're not licensed to use HF? Well, come and find out how you can operate those usually forbidden bands!

July's presentation applies to any of us who are "spaced out." Our discussion centers around amateur satellite operation. Operating via outer space may be easier than you think!

The days are still long in August, so our meeting will be outdoors. Yes, it's our annual picnic. Stayed tuned for more!

Joe, W2PVY



Well, March is gone and with it Old Man Winter. Spring is beginning to paint the landscape with a whole palette of color and here in the Amateur Radio world, we're gearing up for our busy season. Now is the time when many of us will check our antenna systems for winter wear and tear. I think its especially appropriate that our topic for this months meeting will be antennas. And while you're checking your antenna's, don't forget your mobiles and portables. Public Service season has begun and we need to keep our gear in good order. Speaking of Public Service, be sure to call Greg - N4PGS or Hein - N4FWA if you have not already signed up to help with an event or two. As Greg pointed out at last month's meeting - its really a lot of fun.

Now is also the time when all good hams come to the aid of their Club. Tis time to begin preparations for Field Day. I'll be getting the Field Day Committee together very soon so get ready. Also, please try to make sure you can operate during that event. We've had the great fortune in this Club of having really great Field Days and each year seems to be an improvement on the one before it. If this trend holds true (and I'm sure it will) this year will be the BEST EVER! Make plans to attend.

As a reminder, if you have not already signed up for the Dogwood Festival, either in an operating position or as a member of the Parade Procession, see Ernie -W2EJU ASAP. Time is running out and the spots are filling up. Also, be prepared to vote on the Bylaws Amendments proposed at the February Meeting. I apologize for not getting to them at the last meeting. I'll make sure they are on this months agenda.

Finally, I would like to unveil Project SAREX. After consulting with Chuck Mills -W4SM about the requirements and logistics, and contacting the Albemarle County School Board, we have been given a very enthusiastic green light. It is the proposal of this project that one of the Albemarle County Schools will be selected and registered with AMSAT and NASA to participate in an upcoming SAREX Shuttle Mission. The kids will be given an appointed date and time and frequency with which they will be able to speak directly with the Shuttle astronauts. This will be probably one of the longest running projects we've undertaken. I plan on applying as soon as the School Board gives us the participating school and I have a chance to meet with them. (PLEASE don't send me school names for participation. The school choice will be up to the School (*see President, p. 3*))

I'm here again! If you heard me on the air from time to time, you probably thought I'd miss the deadline. No such luck!

As you may already have read, April's program is a very important one, dealing with HF antennas, mainly used for mobile operation. Even with compromises in bandwidth, such antennas can also find applications where space for larger antennas is limited. Our speaker is well versed in antenna design, so you're in for a treat. He is Bow Owen, K4QKH. It sounds to me that this is a night you will want to be with us. If all this wasn't enough, the refreshments are great!!

Moving on, I do quite a bit of listening on a couple of our club repeaters. I can't help noticing how hard the Technical Committee is working to make good repeaters even better. You'll hear part of their work when you participate in the Thursday night Northern Piedmont Emergency Net. I am now back on packet after a rather long absence. Greg, N4PGS, has done a great job in keeping that board operating at top-drawer efficiency.

You may want to present your ideas as to how these club services can be improved. I have to say, though, that improvements cost money. We have been fortunate that the Tech Boys have procured reliable equipment, so our repair costs are reasonably low. Still, though I hate to say it, there will come a time when major repairs will be needed, and they cost money.

What am I getting at? Right now our treasury is in reasonably good, and this will be reflected in Treasurer's reports presented at our meetings. The dues we collect do not cover our expenses. The production and mailing costs for this newsletter are considerable. I don't have figures at hand, but It's probably around \$600 per year. We have telephone line costs, and a host of other things which mount up pretty quickly.

We have made out as well as we have mainly as a result of what we often call "The recycling Committee." You know, that's the guys who sell junk with the hope it will become somebody else's treasure! Well, we no longer have the space to store the items used for fundraising. If anyone has an unused barn or shed which can be used by the Recycling guys, let us know. Meanwhile, and here's my bottom line, we used to ask people to contribute \$5 to a fund to be used for repeater maintenance, (*See VP Corner, p. 3*)

PRESIDENT

(from p. 2) Board and our SAREX advisor as he will know where the terrain will allow for the largest window and longest contact for the kids). I say this will be one of the longest running because, with the current waiting list of schools, I don't think we'll see the actual contact happen until the latter part of the 1998 school year or possible later. One thing I do think, though, it that the kids should have a GREAT time and to those of us who participate in this project, I think we'll have a pretty good time as well. I'll keep you informed as this project goes forth.

I would like to say Thank You to Annie - KF4JHA, Mella - W2HTJ, and my wife, EJ - KD4IGX. They have graciously volunteered to head up the Fundraising Committee. Please give generously when they come by with their pistols and bats....hi. All of the Committees are now Chaired and operating. "Whew" you say?.....NOT SO! We still have room on some of these Committees for additional bodies. Join today. I would like to thank all the Committee Chairfolks as well as those individuals serving on the Committees. On behalf of the club, I'd like to say that we appreciate your efforts.

Well, that's enough for me this month. Eileen will probably shoot me because she already had quite a bit of info to print. See you at the meeting or on the air.

Bill - KC4TQF

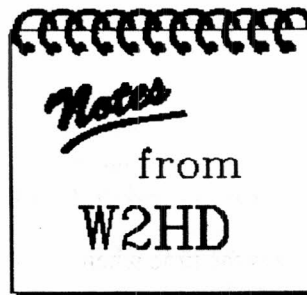
VP CORNER

(from p. 2) and another \$5 to go into a fund to maintain our packet system. We kinda let that slide because we were doing well. Now we are asking you, if at all possible, to contribute toward the operation of these facilities.

This is a wonderful time to help YOUR CLUB because we don't have to be panicked into this. We can build up these two funds against the time when they will be needed. The Treasurer's report will reflect this special income. When you give or send money to our Treasurer, Sharon, let her know into which fund/s the money is to go. We certainly don't want to make a problem for anyone, but we think that \$5 is a fair request. If you feel like it and can afford it, we will gratefully accept whatever help you can provide. On the other hand, if you can't help with the full \$5, any amount will certainly be appreciated. Again, tell Sharon which fund should get the money.

Thank you for reading this, and thank you for the cooperation that this club is famous for!

Joe, W2PVY



BE PROUD OF IT

You studied for your Ham license. You worried through an exam by the Volunteer Examining team. You anxiously awaited your FCC callsign. You trained with the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net. You participated in Public Service events and you might have taught classes in Amateur Radio after gaining needed experience. And then, what?

Well, simply, many of you retire into the background of life as if your accomplishments were nothing but an ego trip which has been taken and completed and what's next? Is that it for you? If so, take another look at what you have truly done. You have put forth the necessary effort to become a resource to the community, the nation and yes, even the world, with your communications skills. Tell people about it! Let them know that we have always had an outstretched hand ready to welcome each and everyone ready to put forth the same effort to the same end.

I AM PROUD TO BE A HAM! I advertise that fact every day when in the public view. My callsign string tie, my call letter belt buckle proudly provide something for people to ask, "What does it mean? What is W2HD?" My car carries call letter plates as it has ever since they were first authorized in the state where I lived before retiring to CHO-land. I want people to ask about Amateur Radio. I think you do, too, but do you extend that inviting appearance? If not, invest in a little badge or pin with your call letters and welcome yourself to the questions which will soon come your way.

If you belong to a group who are constantly looking for speakers to address them with something new, arrange for a talk on Amateur Radio. If you don't feel comfortable standing before a crowd of questioning faces, ask one of the club officers about arranging a meeting with your group. It has been my pleasure to give talks before Kiwanis, Elks, scouts, civic groups and yes, even a dinner meeting of dentists who had tired of hearing dentists talking on dentistry! Obviously, there are the possible talks before youth groups within the local school systems.

Be proud that you are a Ham. No, you don't have to go running down the street shouting that you are an Amateur Radio operator! You don't have to take out an ad on the front page of your local newspaper. Just be ready to answer that question... "What is a Ham Radio operator?" Don't hide behind your call, but proudly wear it as a badge of your accomplishment and service. 73... de W2HD

Last month's newsletter included a copy of our new ARES/RACES phone tree. Why do we need a phone tree, you might have been asking? Let's look at a possible example to see why we would want to be called up by phone. Let's say that the southbound AMTRAK that passes by my place around 7:30 PM

ARES/RACES

Dave Damon, KE4YLR

makes an unusually long stop in Charlottesville, so it doesn't get moving south until close to 10:00PM. From Charlottesville, it heads on south through North Garden, and at 10:14PM, just past Coveseville, the train hits a truck stalled on a rail crossing and the entire train derails. By 10:19PM the 911 Center is activated, the elementary school in Lovingston is opened as a shelter for uninjured passengers, various fire companies are dispatched, along with area rescue squads and Pegasus to transport injured passengers to Martha Jefferson and the University of Virginia Hospitals. By 10:20PM, our services are required at the accident scene, at the 911 Center, at the two hospitals, at the emergency shelter and probably several other places as well.

OK, perhaps lots of us still have radios tuned to the repeater at that time of night, but I bet its a lot fewer of us than at 5:30PM. What if something like this happened at 1:30AM instead of late evening. We must have a tested mechanism in place that will result in a significant number of available amateurs on the repeater in as short a time as possible, for rapid assignment to these sites where we are needed. And this is what the phone tree is designed to accomplish. So now that you have the phone tree in hand, be prepared to get a phone call some evening soon, asking you to make your calls and then to check into the net on the designated repeater. If you are not included in the phone tree, and would like to be, check the instructions on the back side of the phone tree sheet to see how to be included. KD4RWX now has the phone tree in a computer program, so it should be easy for us all to keep up with any changes. That means that we should be thinking about this phone tree as more of a dynamic process, than simply as a static sheet of paper.

This current newsletter contains two ARRL message forms printed on one page. The message form is being distributed as a result of our last three NPEN exercises during which we worked on formal message format. If you are able, please make several copies of

this sheet. While we are going to take a break from message handling exercises, we will be coming back to this in future net sessions. You will be needing these forms, both for composing your own traffic messages, as well as for copying messages that others of us will be sending on these future nets. I am ordering message form pads from ARRL, but until they arrive and we can get them distributed, we are going to rely on our own forms.

Public service events 1997

Contact Hein, N4FWA, to sign up for events.

- BKR8 Saturday 5 April 1997**
Bike race. Time trial at Beaver Creek Dam. Afternoon. Only three hams needed
- BKR9 Sunday 6 April 1997**
Bike race. Criterium race, UVA grounds. Morning
- BKR2 Sunday 6 April 1997**
Bike race. Jefferson Cup #2. Start and finish at Walnut Creek Park 1330 EDT
- MSW1 Sunday 13 April 1997**
Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Charlottesville.
- BKR3 Saturday 31 May 1997**
James Madison Stage Race. Start at Orange High School
- BKR4 Sunday 1 June 1997**
James Madison Stage Race. Swift Run Gap Hill Climb. Start 0730 EDT near Stanardsville.
- BKR5 Sunday 1 June 1997**
James Madison Stage Race. Criterium race downtown Orange 1300 EDT
- MSB1 Saturday 7 June 1997**
Multiple Sclerosis 150 mile bike tour, first day. Overnight in Farmville
- MSB2 Sunday 8 June 1997**
Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour, second day
- DRL1 Thursday 18 September 1997**
911 Emergency drill
- BKR7 Sunday 28 September 1997**
State championships. Walnut Creek Park
- HRS1 Saturday 1 November 1997**
Montpelier Horse Races

Other possible/probable events: Diabetes walk ---
March of Dimes --- American Heart Association Walk

More Public Service Opportunities!

Our friends in the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society are looking for public-service-minded hams to help out with some upcoming events. If you're interested and have the time, call Bob Oldham, KS4LB, at 227-3141.

- ✓ April 12: Ashland Railroad Run, Ashland. About 12 hams are needed.
- ✓ April 19-26: National Science & Technology Week demos, Science Museum of Virginia. Six hams are needed for each day.
- ✓ April 27: Richmond Electric Bicycle Rally, Science Museum of Virginia. 12 hams needed to cover this event.

Every formal radiogram message originated and handled should contain the following components in the order given.

<p>I. PREAMBLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Number (begin with 1 each month or year)b. Precedence (R, W, P, or Emergency)c. Handling Instructions (optional)d. Station of Origin (first amateur handler)e. Check (number of words/groups in text)f. Place of Origin (not necessarily location of station of origin)g. Time Filed (optional with originating station)h. Date (must agree with date of time filed) <p>II. ADDRESS (as complete as possible, include zip and telephone)</p> <p>III. TEXT (limit to 25 words or less, if possible)</p> <p>IV. SIGNATURE</p>	<p>MESSAGE EXAMPLE</p> <p>I.</p> <p><u>1</u> <u>R</u> <u>G</u> <u>A7BC</u> <u>14</u> <u>RENO, NV 2321Z</u> <u>MAY 1</u></p> <p>a b c d e f g h</p> <p>II.</p> <p>HARRY D. ORIGINATOR 123 BENTSPAR RD. CHARLOTTESBURG, VA 22901 123 456 7890</p> <p>III.</p> <p>GOOD TIME HERE IN THE TRUMP CASINO X PLEASE SEND LOT MORE CASH X</p> <p>IV.</p> <p>HAGAR</p>
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PRECEDENCE

EMERGENCY - Any message having life or death urgency to any person or group, which is transmitted by Amateur Radio in the absence of regular commercial communications. Includes official messages of welfare agencies during emergencies requesting supplies, materials or instructions vital to relief in emergency areas.

(P) PRIORITY - Important messages having a specific time limit. official messages not covered in the emergency category, press dispatches and emergency-related traffic not of the utmost urgency.

(W) WELFARE - Either an inquiry as to the health and welfare of an individual in the disaster area or an advisory from the disaster area that indicates all is well. Handled only after all emergency and priority traffic is cleared. Red Cross equivalent to an incoming Welfare message is DWI (Disaster Welfare Inquiry).

(R) ROUTINE - Most traffic in normal times. In disaster situations, routine traffic should be handled last, or not at all when higher-precedence traffic is being passed.

MESSAGE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Handling instructions (HX) conveys special instructions to handling and delivering stations. Its use is optional with the originating station, but if used is mandatory with all subsequent relaying stations.

HXA (number) - Collect landline delivery authorized by addressee within (number) miles.

HXB (number) - Cancel message if not delivered within (number) hours of filing time.

HXC - Report date and time of delivery (TOD) to originating station.

HXD - Report to originating station, the identity of station from which received, plus date and time. Report identity of station to which relayed, plus date and time, if delivered, report date, time and method of delivery.

HXE - Delivering station get reply from addressee, originate message back

HXF (number) - Hold delivery until (number, date).

HXG - Delivery by mail or landline toll call not required. If toll or other expense involved, cancel message and notify originating station.

TEXT and the CHECK

The text is limited to 25 words or less, and must be noncommercial in nature, so acceptable for amateur radio transmission. The text never contains any elements of the preamble, the address, or the signature. No punctuation should be used, nor should letter-like greetings or closings be used. If a phone number is included in the text, the area code is one word group, the exchange is one word group, and the final four digits is one word group. Sentences are separated by the letter "x" which is a separate word group. The check is the number of word groups used in the message, and so includes the "x" separators.

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CLUB BUSINESS



new Hams we have. Suggestions for topics will be received by members of the Board and necessary