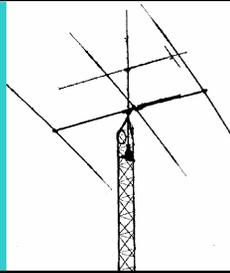


The AARC Beacon



*Serving radio enthusiasts
and communities in
Central Virginia –
The Radio Club for
Central Virginia*

Volume 2011, No. 3



March 2011

Selected as 2011 Dayton Hamvention "Ham Club of the Year"

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The President's Letter

Jim, K4JEC

Who has not heard the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club has been selected the "Ham Club of the Year" by the Dayton Hamvention Awards Committee – the largest convention of hams in the world? That is the highest honor any ham club can receive and I sincerely believe you deserve it. When I took the phone call from the Awards Chairman shortly after the Thursday Night NPEN of February 17, I could not believe what the caller was saying – all the time thinking who is playing this practical joke on me?

Eventually, it became clear that it was not a practical joke but the real deal. In the beginning, I must have sounded like a real idiot because I just couldn't comprehend what the caller was saying. My breathing was shallow and my heart was racing as I listened to the words. I started to float off the chair and had to hold onto the arms to keep my seat. I somehow wrote down who was calling, the time, the news and what was required of us ASAP to get the wheels in motion. When I hung up the phone, my first thought was, "I just have to call someone!" But who to call first, I just couldn't think clearly. I opened my cell phone and the first number that popped out of my directory was Dave, K4DND – after all I have spent the past two years collaborating with him on everything related to club business. I have to admit, he took the news much more calmly than I really expected. The next person I called was Greg, our vice president. He expressed the expected amazement. And, lastly, I called Jim, K4BAV, who had prepared the application, and Harry, W2HD, who had first recommended that we apply and who had worked with Jim in the preparation of the application. All of this took until a little after 9 p.m. Pat and I watched a little television and realized that it just couldn't hold our attention and went to bed. I lay there all night reliving that phone call that I just could not get out of my head. I kept thinking that good news can be just as emotionally upsetting as bad news.

Friday morning, I jumped out of bed and went straight to the radio/office room to get on the computer. My thought was, "Oh good grief, where do we go from here." Obviously, this required a notice be shared with our entire membership and

Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 8, 7:30PM at NRAO**. This will be the final reading of the proposed changes to the AARC Bylaws. The program will be on ARES/RACES. Be sure to attend!

Also, please mark your calendars for a special gathering of the AARC at NRAO auditorium on Tuesday, March 22 at 7PM. This will be your opportunity to preview the Dayton Hamvention Forum presentation.

that started a flurry of emails like the club hasn't seen ever before.

I want to express my sincerest apologies to those who just can't cope with such a flurry of emails. That served to remind me that our club email list reaches over 150 mailboxes, the majority are members but also includes past members, prospective members, ARRL organizational authorities and civil authorities. Remembering that puts a whole new perspective on what should really be shared on the Club's Email Reflector. At the peak of the exchange, which was compounded by yet another club incident, I realized, that this just had to slow down because we started getting "drop me from" emails. It was at that point that I decided that I would do my part by not sending another reflector email for at least 36 hours. I suffered emotional trauma from the decision but stuck with it. All emails during the 36-hour period that I sent were one-on-one emails taking care of club business.

All too often we hit the "reply to all" key when we really have a message for only one recipient and that just adds to the clutter. The Club Email Reflector plays such a valuable role in club communications; we just can't afford to turn people off from its value because of volume or abuse. Please, we must all subject our use of the email reflector to this test. Do I want the entire world of ham radio and friends to receive this communication? My feeling is that it must be an individual choice and that we should not have rules pertaining to its proper use where good common sense should prevail. Several years ago I produce a monograph entitled, "The Power of Electronic Mail." You can tell from the title that it was a few years ago. I wrote it primarily as a reminder and instruction to myself that I shared. In it I said, "Electronic Mail (E-Mail) is not only the wave of the future but the scourge of today. While it has improved the speed and efficiency of written communications beyond our wildest imagination, it has also become the standard excuse for hasty, inaccurate, and error ridden missives of distraction, destruction and devastation -- **three deadly D's**.

In it I remind myself, "It is so simple, fast and convenient that it catches us unaware, and far too often, we fall pray to its deadly bite. Not like the rattlesnake that sounds an alarm before it strikes, e-mail appears on our screens as a passive servant of our words, thoughts and deeds. E-Mail empowers us to communicate beyond the bounds of yesteryear in the flash of an electron. So fast that once you stroke the send key, it is sent on its way with no possibility for second thoughts. After suffering extreme embarrassment, harassment, intimidation, frustration and heart-felt anger, I am moved to commit my thoughts to record as a reminder that I must treat my e-mail as carefully and thoughtfully as a formal letter of agreement, for they too set the standards by which I must live, or die. I must always remember that while I judge the intelligence, integrity and credibility of the author of the e-mail I receive; those to whom I communicate also judge me. That dire thought must always influence my compositions. The speed and efficiency of e-mail puts it before us so fast and furious that we are forced to move through it with all haste just to keep up with the flow. Unfortunately, we tackle responding with the same furious

pace that clearly establishes the truism "haste makes waste." Therein lies the culprit for most of the inaccurate and error ridden missives of the deadly three D's that come back to haunt us in more ways than we can imagine. Remember, while it's the speed and efficiency of e-mail that has courted us, it's that very same speed and efficiency that can bring us down, because once our intelligence, integrity and credibility are placed in question, our reputation will soon follow.

Take that with an aspirin tablet and the world will be okay! Thanks for being there. You deserve only the best our club can offer. Please remember, I only want to serve you to the very best of my ability, so criticize. I can take it for the good of the club.

Veep Peeps

Greg, N4PGS

It looks like the groundhog was right... it's warming up and beginning to look a lot like spring - perfect for outdoor Public Service activities! The end of March brings a couple of good ones, one that's fairly new and another that's been around for a long time.

The Bel Monte Endurance Run on Saturday, March 26 is an outdoor event that doesn't need a lot of hams but poses a few challenges due to the relatively remote terrain. Kind of like a mini Field Day. The other, one of our 'classic' Public Service events, is the Jefferson Cup Bike Race on Sunday of the same weekend. Talk about fast paced action! Haven't done many Public Service events? Wondering if these are too tough as 'starter' events? Not at all! These are great events to start with as we have plenty of old timers who are willing to show newer hams the ropes. Both events are opportunities to 'buddy up' with an experienced ham and learn about 'in the field' communications. While I plan to work both events (I haven't missed a Jefferson Cup Bike Race for years) I'm expecting the appearance of a new grandson about that time so may miss the events, so I may need a replacement. Contact Dave K4DND and sign up to help with one, or maybe both of these events!

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with Club activities this year. Check out the calendar of activities on the Club web sites. In addition to Public Service activities, there are picnics, a Field Day, a Cruise In, ham fests, etc. The list is long! It's going to be a busy summer. See you there.

de N4PGS - Greg

Club Business

Patsy, K4PMC

Board Meeting

Call to Order – Meeting called to order by President Jim, K4JEC at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: K4JEC, K4PMC, K4DND, N4UVA, AD6JV, K4CGY, K4BAV, and KA4JJD.

K4JEC announced that he had provided handouts to each of the committee heads for the Strategic Planning Session. The package included a Master Roster, Master Calendar, Financial Report Spreadsheet, suggestions to be addressed during the session and a sign for the planning session breakout.

Secretary's Board Report

The minutes of the December Board Meeting were published in the Beacon. Does anyone have any corrections or additions? If not they stand as published. No response. There was no board meeting in January due to the Annual Awards Banquet. At this time, we have 96 club members on our 2011 Master Roster. We need help in getting all our members renewed for 2011.

Treasurer's Report-

Beginning Balance as 1/1/2011	\$5,101.94
Deposits	\$1,316.58
Withdrawals	\$888.88
Ending balance	\$5,529.64

Vice President's Report

N4PGS was not present due to illness.

President's Report

K4JEC, Jim, announced he had in hand a letter from Harry, W2HD, to recommend Bob Pattison, for life membership in the club. W2HD made the motion. The board approved the nomination to be made to the General Membership meeting with the Board's recommendation.

Jim turned over the new FCC licenses for WA4TFZ and W4DO to Jim Owen as the new trustee

I request that the minutes of the special called meetings in January be attached as supplements to the minutes of this meeting These include the designation of the signatories authorized to sign financial papers at the banks of the club and the appointment of Jim Owens, K4CGY, as the Club Station Trustee.

**Minutes of a Special Called Meeting of the AARC Board of Directors
December 28, 2010 at 12:19 p.m.**

Participating and voting were: Dave Damon, Don Easton, Bill Phillips, Greg Faust, Jim Owens, Jim Wilson, Michael Rein, Patsy Crosby, Linda Beard and Jim Crosby.

Be it known, that at the above stated date and time, a special Internet called meeting of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc was held, for the sole purpose to name those persons to be authorized to sign checks drawn on club account. Traditionally this has been the president and/or

treasurer to cover emergency absences by either to conduct necessary business.

It was moved by the vice president/president elect, Jim Crosby, that the Board of Directors name James E. Crosby, President and Donald H. Eason, Jr., Treasurer as those club officers who are authorized to sign checks drawn on the club's accounts now deposited with the Bank of America. With all members of the board voting, the motion carried by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Patsy Crosby, Secretary

**Minutes of a Special Called Meeting of the AARC Board of Directors
JANUARY 1, 2011 AT 4:07 PM**

Bob Pattison, K4DU, has requested to be relieved of the responsibility of Club Station Trustee. This is a board appointment. Jim Owen, K4CGY, has agreed to accept the appointment and Club President, wholeheartedly nominate him to the board.

Due to rule changes by the FCC, this must be accomplished in the next 30 days.

Be it known, that at the above stated date and time, a special Internet called meeting of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc Board of Directors was held for the sole purpose to name Jim Owen, K4CGY, as Club Station Trustee and that the board express its appreciation to Bob Pattison, K4DU, for his many years of service to the club in this capacity. It was moved by president, Jim Crosby, K4JEC, that the board appoint Jim Owen, K4CGY, to be the AARC Station Trustee to succeed Bob Pattison, K4DU. I further move that the Board express its appreciation to K4DU for his loyal service in this capacity.

With all members of the board voting, the motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Patsy Crosby, Secretary

I offer a roster of the Elected and Appointed Leadership of the club to be attached to the minutes of this meeting. Our two newest appointments are Marty Wangberg, W4MBW as Photo Gallery Editor and Don Bush, KE4DDR, as our Sergeant-at-Arms.

Elected Leadership 2011

- Jim Crosby – K4JEC President
jecrosby@comcast.net
- Greg Faust – N4PGS Vice President
n4pgs@arrl.net
- Patsy Crosby – K4PMC Secretary
patsycrosby@comcast.net
- Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA Treasurer
deason@comcast.net
- Bill Phillips – AD6JV Director – Education
billp1048@earthlink.net

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Jim Owen – K4CGY Director – Technical
k4cgy@yahoo.com
Jim Wilson – K4BAV Director – Public Relations
jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net
Michael Rein – KA4JJJ Director – Fundraising
mfr6t@virginia.edu
Linda Beard – KI5LLB Director – Estate Services
lindaskyone@embarqmail.com
Dave Damon – K4DND Director – Public Services
dnd@virginia.edu

Appointed Leadership 2011

Jim Owen – K4CGY Club Stations Trustee
k4cgy@yahoo.com
Dave Damon – K4DND ARES/RACES Liaison
dnd@virginia.edu
Ron Richey – K4RKA SERA Representative
k4rka@juno.com
Kenneth Kang – KJ4KIH Club Webmaster
ksykang@gmail.com
Dave Damon – K4DND The Beacon Editor
dnd@virginia.edu
Dave Damon – K4DND Finance Committee Chair
dnd@virginia.edu
Jim Owen – K4CGY Finance Committee
k4cgy@yahoo.com
Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA Finance Committee
deason@comcast.net
Bruce Budinger – AB3BB Volunteer Exam Liaison
ab3bb@arrl.net
Ron Richey – K4RKA Swap Fest Coordinator
k4rka@juno.com
Harry Dannals – W2HD Monday Info Net
w2hd@embarqmail.com
Joe Giovannelli – W2PVY ARNewsline
joegio1@earthlink.net
Marty Wangberg – W4MBW Photo Gallery Editor
marty_wangberg@yahoo.com
Don Bush – KE4DDR Sergeant-at-Arms
ke4ddr@hotmail.com

Club Calls WA4TFZ and W4DO

I offer a copy of the AARC Master calendar for 2011 to be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

2011 Calendar of Scheduled Activities
Albemarle Amateur Radio Club

DATE	TIME	EVENT
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FEB	08 – 1930	- Regular Club Meeting. Board Meeting at 1900 hours. First Reading of 2011 Proposed Bylaws Amendments. Strategic Planning Session for 2011 Projects & Goals.
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FEB	12 - 0900	– Vol Examination Session at NRAO.
MAR	08 – 1930	– Regular Club Meeting. Board Meeting at 1900 hours. Final Reading of 2011 Proposed Bylaws Amendments

MAR	26 – Saturday	– Bel Monte Endurance Run at Sherando Lake SP
MAR	27 – Sunday	– Jefferson Cup Bike Race at Walton School.
APR	12 - 1930	– Regular Club Meeting. Board Meeting at 1900 hours.
APR	30 – 0900	– VA Ham Radio Cruise-In at Towe Park.
MAY	01 – 0800	– Lake Monticello Triathlon
MAY	10 - 1930	– Regular Club Meeting. Board Meeting at 1900 hours.
MAY	14 - 0900	– Vol. Examination Session at NRAO.
JUN	04 – Saturday	– Tour de Greene Bike Race
JUN	11 – Saturday	– MS-150 Bike Tour first day
JUN	12 – Sunday	– MS-150 Bike Tour second day
JUN	14 - 1930	– Regular Club Meeting. Board Meeting at 1900 hours.
JUN	25-26	- Field Days at Earlysville Fire Dept.
JUL	12 - 1930	– Regular Club Meeting. Board Meeting at 1900 hours.
AUG	09 - 1730	– Picnic/Auction at Darden Towe Park.
AUG	27 – Saturday	– Devil's Backbone Mt. Cross Bike Race
SEP	10 - 0900	– Vol. Examination Session at NRAO.
SEP	13 - 1930	– Regular Club Meeting. Board Meeting at 1900 hours.
SEP	24 – Saturday	– Great Eastern Endurance Run at Sherando Lake SP
OCT	11 - 1930	– Regular Club Meeting. Board Meeting at 1900 hours.
NOV	08 - 1930	– Regular Club Meeting. Board Meeting at 1900 hours. Nominating Committee to be named.
NOV	12 - 0900	– Vol. Examination Session at NRAO.

The following dates assume that the Proposed Amendments of the Bylaws Pass.

DEC	13 - 1830	– Annual Awards Banquet. No Board Meeting.
JAN	10 - 1930	– Annual Meeting of the Club. Board Meeting at 1900 hours.

Version: 01/27/2011

To quote Dave, "The Richmond Frostfest was a fun time for all." I have never seen so many members of our club who made the trip. I also talked with many members of the Va Fone Net and hams who came to our Cruise-In last year. Dave was asked to address our clubs participation in Frostfest. He stated we had a lot of club participation and came home with a lot more items than we wanted to bring back, however they will be held over to our Picnic/Auction in August.

Committee Reports for the board.

Educational Committee –Bill, Ad6JV, stated that we could get more recognition for our annual awards at the Science Fair if we made a multi-year commitment. He recommended we make an award of two-\$100 checks to the Science Fair for a five-year commitment. . It was pointed out that the club cannot make a commitment beyond the present fiscal year. A discussion followed and it was resolved that Bill made a motion that we make a commitment to support the

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Science Fair for five years subject to an annual affirmation. That was accepted as possible and the board voted unanimously to approve such a commitment.

Old Business -- Nothing offered.

New Business -- President Jim presented the 2011 Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws and following some discussion regarding changes our member/attorney, Dayton, AA4DH, had recommended to bring them into compliance with the Code of Virginia, a motion was unanimously approved to present them to the General Membership for a First Reading.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

General Membership Meeting

Call to Order -- The meeting was called to order by President, K4JEC at 7:35 p.m.. All were invited to state their name and call. There were 37 members present constituting a quorum.. Sign-in sheet attached to file copy in minutes book.

Secretary's Report

General Meeting Minutes for December and the January Dinner Meeting were printed in The Beacon. Are there any corrections to be noted? None noted. Minutes stand approved as published.

K4PMC reported that we have 96 members renewed for 2011, so far. I have no new applications at this time.

Treasurer's Report – Reported by N4UVA who presented the Finance Committee with a copy of the most recent bank statement.

	Current Report
Opening Balance	\$5,101.94
Deposits	1,316.58
Expenses	888.88
Closing Balance	\$5,529.64

President's Report –

K4JEC placed the nomination of Bob Pattison for approval for Life Membership on the floor. He read a letter written by W2HD in recommendation and nomination. (Copy attached in the Minute Book).. The President announced that the board had reviewed the nomination and had approved it for presentation to the General Membership. Joe, W2PVY, moved that the club approve the nomination as presented. The nomination was approved unanimously.

K4JEC placed the 2011 Proposed Bylaw Amendments on the floor for discussion. He stated that he had asked Dayton, AA4DH, to review the bylaws. Dayton made a recommendation for changes to bring them in compliance with the Code of Virginia. The changes were approved the Bylaws Committee and recommended to the Board. The Board reviewed the changes and approved they be

presented to the General Membership Meeting. Our president pointed out that the recommendations of council had been posted on the website and announced to the entire membership. K4DND brought up some discussion of points that were not clear in the current version and made the motion that the newly revised Bylaws Amendments **be tabled** and re-posted on the website for the remainder of this month and that they be presented to the March Meeting for a First Reading and be read for a final vote at the April meeting.. N4UVA seconded the motion.. W2PVY called for the question. Motion carried unanimously. K4JEC thanked Dayton, who was absent, for his time and recommendations.

Frostfest was held on February 5 and Jim asked Dave to give us a report on how it went. Dave stated that club participation was excellent and we had a lot of items on the table for sale. While the crowd was good and we had a lot of friends and club members come by the table, we unfortunately brought home a lot of the items that did not sell. We sold enough to make the effort worthwhile and more than cover our expenses. I will hold onto the left over items and take them to our picnic/auction in August.

Vice President's Report

Greg, N4PGS was absent due to illness.

President Jim stated, "Let's take a ten-minute break before we continue the meeting. When we return, we will have a demonstration of a 'Personally Portable Ground Plane 2-Meter Antenna System."

Prior to the break, Michael, KA4JJD, announced that he had made a display of several stacks of books on the riser in front and that they were the raffle prizes for this evening. He proceeded to sell raffle tickets throughout the break.

Following the break, President Jim put on his pith helmet; which had been lined with foil and sported a rubber ducky antenna sprouting from the top. He hooked the antenna lead to a handheld radio that he clipped onto his belt. Following an appropriate laugh enjoyed by all, the meeting continued.

Committee Reports President Jim asked that we break into our Strategic Planning Sessions now and have committee reports when we reconvene the meeting to summarize the planning sessions. He asked that each member in the room migrate to the committee session of their interest to participate.

Each committee chair offered a verbal report of the discussions in their session and were asked to formalize those reports in writing to the Secretary for the next meeting in March

Old Business- Nothing offered.

New Business –

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President Jim stated that the secretary had received two new membership applications during the meeting and he would like to put their acceptance vote on the floor at this time so they would not have to wait for a whole month for action. Michael Gilmore, K8RVR and his spouse Dawn, KD8BBR – a Family Membership - and Doug Goode, who is working on his license. The applicants were accepted unanimously.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

For Sale and Wanted...

Ron, K4RKA

For Most recent listings – See
www.albemarleradio.org

DX Notes

Alan, K9MBQ

First and foremost is the ARRL Intn'l Phone DX Contest on 5-6 March!! On air exchange is Signal report and State (e.g. 59 Virginia). The contest is a good way to work some new countries quickly.

Also, the CQ WPX SSB Contest (Worked All Prefixes) will be on 26-27 Mar (Exchg is Sig Rept and a serial # (e.g. 59 001). There will be a lot of DX on all bands, and it won't take a big antenna and a lot of power to work them if you are patient and persistent. Good Luck!

In the area of some special operations that may be of interest, here are a few to watch for:

- XF4 Revillagigedo (I can't pronounce it either) its an Island off the coast of Mexico, so close and should be easy to work. They will be on 3-20 Mar with call sign 4A4A from Socorro Is (NA-030), on all bands and modes. QSL Mgr is EB7DX SASE w/ 1 IRC or \$2.
- VU4PB Andaman Is one of the most wanted in the world!! The team will be on Mar 15-31 on all bands and modes with a 17 member team and good equip and antennas. This is a "call them and they will probably hear you" operation assuming there is propagation over the N Pole. QSL to W3HNK; web site is www.arsi.info/VU4PB
- PJ7/W8EB St Maarten on now thru 19 March. This is one of the new PJ entities that was created in Nov 2010. Bill will focus on digital modes, but will be in the ARRL SSB contest next weekend.
- Cambodia XU7FMZ: Nob, JA1FMZ, will be active 2-28 Mar on 20-110M on SSB, and will be in the ARRL SSB contest, and the CQ WPX SSB Contest (Sig rept and serial #

exchg) on 26-27 Mar. QSL via LoTW (Log Book of the World) or home call.

There are many more, but these should wet your DX appetite if you have one. When in need of QSL info US or DX, go to www.QRZ.com

See you in the Pileups!

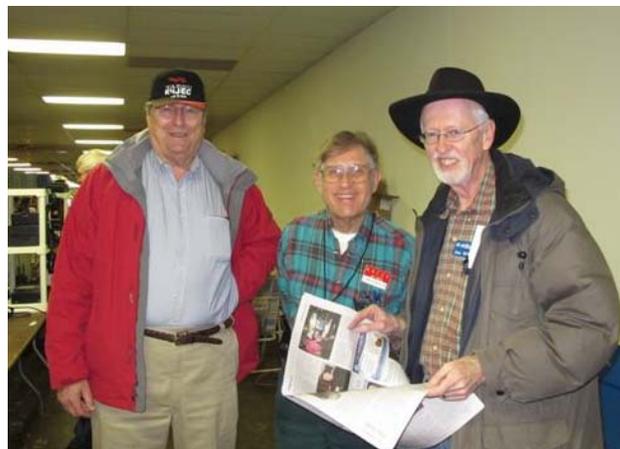
Alan K9MBQ

AARC at FrostFest

Dave, K4DND
Photos by Jim, K4BAV

FrostFest was a great time, and if you were not able to attend, you missed out on a great day of stuff, and meeting up with lots of friends from around the VA Section.

What a difference in WX this year compared to last year when we got slammed with enough snow to keep just about all of us home looking over the boxes of goodies we finally decided to turn loose. The silver lining has to be an entire year to contemplate the wisdom of our selection process!



Jim K4JEC, Jim K4CGY, and Jim K4BAV – good thing they have call signs

AARC Member Focus



Patsy K4PMC mans (womans?) the AARC tables



Two AARC members renew at FrostFest (L-R) Al KF4AGT and Dave K4NZ



Patsy K4PMC, Jim K4CGY and Bill AD6JV with our treasures

AARC Membership Renewal

Dave, K4DND

It is that time of year again, time to renew your Albemarle Amateur Radio Club membership. This year for the first time you can renew on-line, pay your membership dues, and make a donation to the AARC Repeater Fund using PayPal. If you are interested in using this convenient service, just go to the club website at: <http://www.albemarleadio.org/node/19>

If you are not comfortable using PayPal, just download the usual membership application from the website by going to: http://www.albemarleadio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf . Mail the application in with your check as usual and your membership will be promptly updated.

You may ask why you need to fill out the information again? People change phone numbers, email addresses, call signs, and license class. We need to have your current information in the AARC database.



Bill AD6JV, John KU4KAE and Dave K4DND plan strategy

AARC Makes the Crozet Gazette

Dave, K4DND

From the Crozet Gazette of February 15, 2011, the following is reprinted courtesy of Mike Marshall, Editor.

The modern world is dependent on electronics on a scale new to mankind. Life is wonderfully easier when our gadgets working. What would we do if they crashed? We'd rely on our Crozet ham radio operators to hold things together.

"What I like about amateur radio is that the infrastructure can fall to pieces and we can still do our thing," said ham Greg Faust. An electrical engineer for General Electric, he has lived in Albemarle for 28 years on the Earlysville side of Free Union and has served on the Western Albemarle Rescue Squad for the last five as a mediclevel EMT (one notch below paramedic). He is also the supply officer for WARS and keeps food, medical supplies and snacks stocked at the station.

"When you look into it, you see that there is an infrastructure that's making things work. It's a great way to combine a hobby with something useful. We use these frequencies and we don't pay for them. And this way we can pay that back. And it's fun.

"It's hard to say why people do it. I've seen that they are technologists and geeks and tinkerers and selfreliant types. People are users of technology today. When I started out, we built our technology. Amateur radio is the last service I'm aware of where the individual is licensed and you can make your own equipment." Faust built his first radio when he was 13.

"What you're responsible for is what you put on the air. And that better be right. There is freedom and responsibility on the amateur radio. Thankfully, it is still popular and it's not just old guys. "I wonder, what if things break? Then you have to be able to do the basics. I'm not sure if we're giving that to our children. Technology is magic to some people. But it's not magic. It's a tool. What we need to be is communicators."

Jim Crosby of Crozet is now the president of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club (Faust is a past president), which has 130 members including about 16 hams in the western Albemarle area. Now retired, Crosby ran The Bulletin, Crozet's broadsheet weekly paper, for 16 years from 1978 to 1994. He was instrumental in organizing the Western Albemarle Rescue Squad, whose necessity was clear to him after he once waited 45 minutes for an ambulance to come to Miller School from Charlottesville. He was also was instrumental—he wrote the incorporation papers—in the formation of the Crozet Community Association in 1978 and the Albemarle County Fair. He noticed that 4-H club members at Western Albemarle High School, where there was once an agriculture program, had no place to show off their projects. For 22 years Crosby was also a boating instructor and organized the Coast Guard patrols that now serve on Lake Anna and Smith Mountain Lake.

"Radio has been a life-long hobby," he said. "As a kid I built my first crystal radio and used my wire bed springs as an antenna. All the wires annoyed my mother. "Radio is a unique combination of science and art," said Crosby. "The form of the communication is the art part. It takes talent to communicate verbally without pictures. In emergency communications, clarity and understanding are critical.

You get into the International Phonetic Alphabet: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, etc."

Crosby goes by the call letters K4JEC (He has them embroidered on a baseball cap.) and his wife Patsy, also a licensed ham and secretary of the club, goes by K4PMC. "A person's call is unique to that person in all the world," Crosby explained. "There are two types of hams. We are public service oriented. Some are hunting for contacts to put in their logs. They are talking to strangers. They're collectors. "In an emergency, when you are activated, you have to keep a log.



Patsy K4PMC works a PS Event

I've gotten more involved since I've retired." Crosby has five antennas at his home near Crozet Park. "We can transmit on all FCC-authorized frequencies." There are 16,000 licensed hams in Virginia, he said, including about 800 in Charlottesville and its surrounding counties. Hams must pass a written FCC licensing exam and the club offers classes to prepare for it. "Mostly you learn by doing it," Crosby said. He said the origin of the name "ham" is unclear, but his favorite theory is that it comes from vaudeville slang, in which talkative comedians were known as hams. "It's about talking a lot," he said. "It's not an acronym."

"There a nice marriage between hams and emergency services," said Faust. "We keep our skills and equipment up and we are ready to be put to use as needed. You're by yourself and no infrastructure is needed. The last communicators to go off the air will be ham operators. When all else fails, we're available."

Equipment is prepositioned at WARS for a licensed ham to use in an emergency. The club maintains five repeaters on

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ridge tops in the county that pick up signals and amplify them for broadcast over long distance. One is on Bucks Elbow Mountain and allows local hams to reach Richmond. Others are on Afton, Carters and Heards mountains. Faust often carries a small radio and power supply with him that is capable of reaching anywhere in Albemarle county, including the relay tower on Bucks Elbow.

WARS could be used as a shelter or as a base for a ham who volunteers for RACES, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. "When emergency flags go up, we work for FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency," said Faust. "Emergency evacuation plans for Tidewater and D.C. send displaced people to us, toward the shelter of our mountains." Volunteers do regular "Net checks" to confirm the readiness of hams. "Nets have to practice to be able to work together," said Faust.



Jim K4JEC and Patsy K4PMC at their home station

A lot of hams went to the Pentagon on 9/11 and to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, he said. Most hams keep a "go-kit," a complete mobile station—computer and radio—they can put in their car. "As long as I have gas, I'm good to go." His Ford Escape sports twin antennas that touch the railroad bridge downtown if he has them up.

"Fortunately we've never had an emergency like that in western Albemarle where we've been called in that way." Crosby said a weather emergency would be the most likely cause for hams to activate.

"There are a lot of ways to participate," said Faust. "You don't have to join the army to serve. You can be a radio communicator. Communication is the most important thing we work on." Careless or inexact talk can result in chaos, Faust said. "Our job is to pass information, not make it up or corrupt it. We try to teach people not to color it, don't interpret it, pass it on to the people who really need it."

"You've got to be careful about what you say on the radio because any one on that frequency will hear it," said Crosby. No profanity is allowed and no one without a license is allowed to be on the air. Crosby is also a "spotter" who makes reports about local conditions to the National Weather Service when they are asked for. He and Patsy also help at local running events by calling in runners' times as they pass waypoints.

"The Internet has enhanced hams' radios tremendously," said Crosby. "Hams can now type on a keyboard, convert to encrypted sound, and send it by radio waves to another computer." "The advantage is," added Patsy, "that in an emergency you can transmit names without saying them out loud." Computers also keep the log up automatically. On the other hand, some skills are now regarded as obsolete.

"Amateur radio has taken a hit because of the development of modern radios," said Faust. "We used to have to learn Morse Code, which still comes in handy in some circumstances." And though we have hams who are ready and willing to help us, let's hope those circumstances don't happen.



Greg N4PGS at Western Albemarle RS station

Crosby now has spot 12 on the Virginia Fone Net, which has only 150 slots. A ham must make 50 contacts in 90 days to qualify. Net checks are held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6 p.m. Net members must check in. "Most of them are friends and they are socializing over the radio," Crosby said. "The point of the Net is to keep your skills up in case of emergency. When the Emergency Broadcast System goes off for real, then we go on the air." In last year's snow storms, Fluvanna County lost communications, Crosby said, and hams went in every police car and to the 911 center, the rescue squad and fire departments and maintained communications for two days. "The county cited a dozen hams for their service," he noted.

AARC Public Service Schedule

Saturday March 26	Bel Monte Endurance Run
Sunday March 27	Jefferson Cup Bike Races
Saturday May 1	Lake Monticello Triathlon
Saturday June 4	Tour de Greene
Saturday June 11	MS-150 Bike Tour Day 1
Sunday June 12	MS-150 Bike Tour Day 2
Saturday August 27	Devils Backbone Mountain Cross
Saturday Sept 24	Great Eastern Endurance Run

Area Hamfests

Vienna Winterfest	Sunday February 27
Manassas Hamfest	Sunday June 11
Berryville Hamfest	Sunday August 6
Va Beach Hamfest	Saturday September 17

FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
Upgrades	
Vanity Calls	

VE Session Schedule - 2011

Date: Saturday May 14 Location: NRAO Rm 230 (ARRL VEC)	Remember the new Technician Question Pool is effective as of July 1, 2010. DON'T study the old questions!!
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AARC Club Officers

President	Jim Crosby	K4JEC	jecrosby@comcast.net (434) 987-2006
Vice President	Greg Faust	N4PGS	n4pgs@arrl.net (434) 978-1962
Secretary	Patsy Crosby	K4PMC	patsycrosby@comcast.net (434) 978-2362
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Director	Mike Rein	KA4JJJ	mfr6t@virginia.edu (434) 9774281
Director	Jim Owen	K4CGY	k4cgy@yahoo.com 434-296-3044

Contest Calendars

ARRL Contests	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2011	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
Contesting Online	Just about everything contests!

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THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2011 No. 3
March, 2011



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month

Contact Information
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Next Club Meeting : March 8 - 7:30 PM NRAO Auditorium

CLUB MEETINGS and NETS

REGULAR Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM
BOD Meetings: Prior to regular meeting at 7:00 PM
Meetings are held at the NRAO building on Edgemont Road.
LUNCH BUNCH: Wednesdays -- Area hams gather at the **Wood Grill Buffet** on Rte 29 North from 11 AM – 1 PM
Monday Night Information Net – Each Monday at 7:00 PM
Northern Piedmont Emergency Net: Each Thursday at 8:00 PM
All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater

AREA REPEATERS

146.760 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
146.925 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
146.895 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
224.760 (-) No Tone **WA4TFZ**
444.000(+) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
444.250 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
Other Area Repeaters
444.775 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **KF4UCI**
442.075 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **KF4UCI**
443.000 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4UVA**
145.17 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4FCO** (Fluvanna)
146.79 (-) 110.9 Hz Tone **WW4GW** (Buckingham)
145.450 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **K4DND** (MJ Hospital)
IRLP Node # 4703
224.600 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **KG4HOT**

Membership application available in PDF format at http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf

