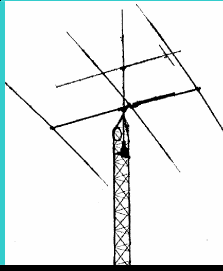


# The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2011, No. 6



June 2011

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

## Inside this Issue

1	Meeting Notice
2	The President's Letter
2	Club Business
2	Club Business
4	For Sale and Wanted...
4	DX Notes
5	Cruise-In Report
6	Goochland County Story
7	AARC Public Service Schedule
7	Area Hamfests
7	FCC Database Updates
7	VE Session Schedule - 2011
7	AARC Club Officers
7	Contest Calendars



Don – N4UVA and Jim – K4CGY our official club representatives to the Dayton Hamvention receive the club of the year award from the Awards Chairman Frank Beafore.



Check out the plaque the club received.

## Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday June 14, 7:30 PM at NRAO**. Join us for the "Club-of-the-Year celebration. The Board of Directors will meet at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there.

## The President's Letter

Jim, K4JEC

Our next big event is bearing down on us and will be here before we can blink twice. Field Day planning is underway with Jim-K4CGY and Bill-N0WP leading the charge. This year we will be operating from the back lot at the Earlysville Fire Department where we have been for the past two years. We set up a mess tent for the crews last year that operated throughout and kept everyone hydrated and nourished for best performance and as a reward for working the bands for the club. ARRL's Field Day is defined as about one-half social and one-half contesting – both are rewarding club activities.

It is not too soon to be planning and working toward our Summer Picnic/Auction. We experimented with a "silent" auction last year and it seemed to be an improvement over the one-item-at-a-time verbal auction of the previous year which took way too long and had very little audience left at the end. The silent approach allows members to bid against each other on the item's bid sheets and keep things moving along. In the end, the highest bidder settles up with the owner of the item if listed as an individual or the club treasurer if listed as club property. Last year we asked that all items placed in the auction be ham related gear and that eliminated household goods and other unrelated pieces that showed up the first year that contributed to the auction running so long. That is a rule that has proven its worth and we will stick with it. So, now is the time to place a large box in your ham shack marked "For The Auction" and start filling it with items surplus to your needs that some one else might be able to put to good use. I am also reminded that with all the different contributions of food last year, the picnic turned out to be a real treat.

Here is a thought seeking your feedback. We have always had the traditional grilled burgers and dogs in addition to the delightful dishes and desserts brought by members. I would like to recommend a cool change this year and have the club provide cold cuts for sandwiches instead – things like deli sliced ham, roast beef, turkey, chicken and various cheese slices. What do you think? Send me an email with your thoughts to [jecrosby@comast.net](mailto:jecrosby@comast.net) and I will run a tally so the board can make a decision at the July meeting.

Another thought for the month is to point out that our public service activities offer members two important rewards. There is the fellowship enjoyed by all the participants and the public that is so rewarding to the individual as well as the club image. Beyond that, there is the development of communication's skills that always come from our public service activities – learning how to effectively use our radios and good protocol in organized nets. This is where we learn how limited our battery life really is under heavy use and how to quickly respond to changing frequency needs on the

fly. You just can't beat the actual use experience and public service is the place to gain that confidence. When representing the club in a public activity, please wear your Green Public Safety Vest for your own safety and to represent the club's identity. It pays big dividends on both counts.

My challenge at this time is to grow our youth membership. We need each member to think of a youngster they can sponsor and encourage to work toward getting their ham ticket. School will be out very soon and you can bring them to our June and July meetings to introduce them to our fantastic hobby. Let's designate the July meeting as our "Honor the Youth" meeting and fill the room with new young blood. We can stage a panel discussion of our existing young members explaining how they got into the hobby and what they recommend for gaining new young members. Put your brain to work on this idea and offer some thoughts of your own.

## Club Business

Patsy, K4PMC

### AARC May 10, 2011 Meeting

#### Board Meeting

**Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by President Jim, K4JEC at 7 p.m. The following members were present: K4JEC, N4PGS, K4PMC, K4DND, N4UVA, AD6JV, KA4JJD, and K4CGY.

#### Secretary's Board Report

Patsy, K4PMC, reported the minutes of the May Board Meeting were published in the Beacon. K4PMC asked for corrections or amendments, hearing none, the minute's stand as published.

**Treasurer's Report**- K4UVA stated that he was prepared to give the figures at the general membership meeting.

**Vice President's Report** – Greg – No report.

**President's Report** – Cruise-In attendance was down but the quality of the vehicles presented for judging was excellent. We only had two classes – Cars and Trucks. N1LO-Bernhard W. Behling from Fredericksburg had the highest score in the car category and Mark Lowell of Gloucester had the highest score for a truck. We had 20 club members turnout for the event and everyone had a great time.

We have a quote from our present insurance carrier, Bankers Insurance, to renew our current liability policy for \$500. We have a quote from ARRL's new carrier, The Hanover Insurance Group for the same coverage for \$200. Usually it is very difficult to beat a group insurance rate over an

## June 2011

individual rate for the same coverage. This coverage is based on 130 members and the quote from Bankers is also based on 130 members. The current policy is paid through June 14 of this year so the decision is looming down upon us. Our current policy cost us \$488 last June through this June. Unless someone has some information I am unaware of, I recommend we place our insurance through ARRL as offering the best value for the club and save \$300 in the process. On a motion made by Dave-K4DND and seconded by Don-N4UVA, the club voted unanimously to place our liability insurance with Hayes Insurance Group through the ARRL.

### Committee Reports

**Finance Committee** – Chairman Dave-K4DND reported the Finance Committee met and found the books of the club to be in order. The committee discussed the needs of the Technical Committee and asked that \$1,000 be encumbered for anticipated repeater work forecast for this fiscal year. .

**Old Business** -- Nothing

**New Business** -- Nothing

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

### General Membership Meeting

**Call to Order** -- The meeting was called to order by President, K4JEC at 7:30 p.m. All were invited to state their name and call. There were 40 members present. Sign-in sheet attached to file copy in minutes book.

#### Secretary's Report - Reported by K4PMC

General Meeting Minutes for May were printed in The Beacon. No corrections were offered so they stood as published.

I have one new application at this time that I would like to submit for approval. We have an application from Dennis Crumpler. There was unanimous approval of the application.

#### Treasurer's Report – Reported by N4UVA

Opening Balance	-\$__6272.65
Deposits	- __665.34
Expenses	- __100.00
Closing Balance	-\$__6837.85

#### President's Report – Reported by Jim, K4JEC

I want to thank all those members who joined Dave-K4DND at the Jefferson Cup Races. Those members who sacrificed their Mother's Day to support the club are certainly to be commended. I will leave a report of the details to Dave who can give us a full accounting during his Public Service Report

The Cruise-In was certainly a success from a quality point of view if not a quantity point of view. Attendance was down from last year and while there seems to be many explanations no one knows for sure why. We only had six show up who had pre-registered and that amounted to one quarter of the registrations. We had 20 club members check-in and that was most gratifying. Even though the participation was down, the club support was superb. For those who came and participated, everyone had a great time and praised the event once again. Only one judge out of three who had committed to be there actually showed up so we enlisted the services of our Technical Director, Jim-K4CGY who did a great job filling in. We only had competition in two categories and that was for cars and trucks as compared to five categories last year in that we had cars, trucks, trailers, RV's and Motorcycles. The most innovative car status was awarded to Bernhard W. Behling-N1LO of Fredericksburg who scored 92 points out of a possible 100. The truck award went to Mark Lowell=KJ4VOV from Gloucester, VA who scored 95 points out of 100. The judging was tough because in most cases there was only one or two points difference between vehicles judged.

Jim-K4CGY and Bill-N0WP have agreed once again to co-chair the AARC Field Day project, which this year falls on Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26. We will return to Earlsville Fire Department's back lot where we have been hosted for the past several years. We had excellent member participation last year and our score went up an appreciable amount. Your club leadership works hard to make this a great club event and every member is urged to drop by for as much time as you can spare to work the bands, do some logging, or assist with other logistics such as helping consume some of the great food made available throughout. This is a great time for good fellowship and you won't want to miss out. Bill and Jim will offer the details during their report.

Jim announced that Don-N4UVA and Jim-K4CGY would officially represent the club at the Dayton Hamvention and bring home the Club-of-the-Year Award. He advised that he and Patsy had to cancel their plans to attend and that they had rooms reserved that could be made available to anyone needing accommodations in Dayton for the Hamvention. He said he would not cancel the reservations until later in the week so if anyone needed them to let him know ASP.

**Vice President's Report** – Greg, N4PGS – Nothing

### Committee Reports

**Technical Committee** – Jim, K4CGY. -. Details are being worked out for Field Day. We plan to use our club call, W4DO, as the call for Field Day because it is more efficient to say. I plan to send in an order to ARRL for Field Day paraphernalia so anyone wanting T-Shirts, Caps, Pins, etc. please let me know early next week.

**Fund Raising Committee** – Michael, KE4JJD – No raffle tonight.

**Public Service Committee** – Dave, K4DND – Dave said the offer of help for the Jefferson Cup Bike Race originally was 15 members. That shrunk to five members when the date was postponed to Mother's Day. However due to the loyal support of those members who did show up all posts were fulfilled and the event proceeded without a hitch. Dave passed around a clipboard for those members who could commit to upcoming public service events to sign-up.

**Education Committee** – Bill, AD6JV – Bill stated that he had one tech license seeker being mentored for the upcoming exam and was planning an Extra Class study group. He asked anyone interested to sign-up with him.

**Old Business**– K4JEC announced that the 2011 Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws were approved on a final reading during the April meeting. This means that we will have to make some changes in our club calendar and practices for the rest of this year. For example: We will celebrate our Winter Dinner and Awards Banquet on the Second Tuesday in December. Our Annual Meeting and Election of officer and directors will be held on the second Tuesday in January. At the annual meeting in January, we will have to nominate all of the usual officers such as president, vice president, secretary and treasure but here is where the big change occurs: We will have to nominate three directors for two-year terms and three directors for one-year terms. This means that the following years thereafter, we will only have to nominate three new directors each year. This staggering of director terms of office means that the club will always have some leadership continuity from year to year aside from the officers who might be nominated for re-election from time-to-time. So, I urge you to consider these changes and plan to be with us at these two very important meetings in the life of the club.

**New Business** – Harry-W2HD stated that the club had made a \$50 contribution to the Amateur Radio News Line in the past and he requested the club again make that contribution. He moved the request and it was unanimously approved.

**Break** - President announced that the 2011 Handbook and Member Directory was available up front and asked everyone to take a five-minute stretch break and pick up their copy.

**Program** – Dave-K4DND introduced Gabe Elias, the senior systems engineer at our Emergency Communications Center to discuss and explain their radio trunking system.

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

## For Sale and Wanted...

*Ron, K4RKA*

**For Most recent listings – See**  
[www.albemarleradio.org](http://www.albemarleradio.org)

## DX Notes

*Alan, K9MBQ*

For those of you who may be new to Ham Radio and do not have much experience working on the HF Bands and/or working DX, let's review some hints and resources to help get you going.

- Although you can tune the bands to find DX, and you will find a lot of it, a more efficient way is to check what are known as "DX Clusters" on the internet. These clusters show what stations are on, who they are talking to at a point in time and frequency. Two that are FREE are:
  - o HAM Radio Deluxe – web site is <http://dxcluster.ham-radio.ch/>
  - o F5LEN – site is <http://cluster.f5len.org/>
- For planning info, which is where I get the info I report here, go to the ARRL DX Bulletin if you are a ARRL member, and see the DX columns in QST and CQ magazine to name a few; there are many other subscription sites as well.
- For operating, a user friendly method to get started is to check-in to a DX net. Two that are a good place to start are the Southern Cross DX net on 14238.5KHZ at around 0700 our time daily, and the 247 DX net on 14247 KHZ daily in the mid-afternoon local time. Both are SSB nets and the net controllers are very helpful.

Upcoming DX of interest includes the following:

- Timor-Leste (East Timor), 4W6A – Scheduled for 16-26 Sep with activity on 10-160M on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL Manager is MOURX; web site is [www.4w6a.com](http://www.4w6a.com)
- St, Pierre and Miquelon, FP/KV1J – Sked for 25 Oct- 1 Nov. Activity on 6-160M on all modes, including PSK 31 and satellite. This should be an easy one for anyone since the island is SE of Nova Scotia and East of Maine – a DX chip shot!
- MIDWAY Is, KH4 – Joe, will operate as W5FJG/KH4 on 6-40M starting about 1 June. Midway should be fairly easy to work on the higher bands, but is rare since it is only active when a DXpedition gets permission to operate.

That's it for this issue. Good DXing!!  
73, alan K9MBQ

# Cruise-In

*Jim, K4JEC*

April 30 was a beautiful Saturday in Darden Towe Park for our Second Annual Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In. Club members began showing up around 8:30 a.m. and because of last year's experiences, we were ready for our guests in short order.

The guest count was down this year over last but the quality of the vehicles competing was certainly up making a tough job for the judges. We only had competition in two categories of trucks and cars. We did not have any motorcycles, camper/RVs, or trailers.

The car category was won by Mark D. Lowell-N1LO and the truck category was won by Bernhard W. Behling-KJ4VOV. Only one of three judges actually showed-up. We had to recruit Jim-K4CGY, the director of our Technical Committee, to stand in as a back up judge. He very graciously accepted the assignment and did a superb job along with Anthony – KG4YXP, from Richmond.

Twenty club members showed up to offer their support and worked to make the event a great success. I send the following email message to our winners:

"I want to congratulate you gentlemen for presenting the "Most Innovative" vehicles (car and truck) in our 2nd Annual Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In last April 30. I went immediately from that project to my son's wedding so I am running a little behind in my chores. Your certificates will be arriving in the mail very shortly. Even though the number of entries were down this year, the competition was keen which speaks well of your vehicles.

We certainly enjoyed having you with us and look forward to seeing you again in the future."

This email was responded to with:

"Thank you, Jim!

Every one we met from your club was so friendly and welcoming. We enjoyed the event, but got a little sunburned!

Warmest Regards, Mark

**This is a great testament to you our members.**



The winning truck entry of KJ4VOV of Gloucester, Va.



N1LO had an impressive mobile station in his car.



The winning car entry of N1LO of Fredericksburg, Va.



Relish Casual Catering provided great food throughout.



Jim-K4CGY and Jim-K4JEC put up the club banner.



Prepared to spend the day with good food, fun & fellowship.

## Goochland County, Virginia ARES® Activates for Outage

*Printed by permission from ARRL's ARES E-Letter*

April 26 seemed to just be another day and, as usual, I had already begun the Central Virginia Six Meter Net early to list check-ins. There were two stations from North Carolina near Raleigh already waiting their turns for comments.

The phone rang, and the voice on the other end I knew well: it was Bill Mackay, County Fire and Rescue Chief. ARES® was needed as the agency was suffering communications problems. "The dispatch frequency is not working to our fire/rescue stations and we need emergency backup communications at all fire rescue stations

and the EOC." My response was simply "OK, Bill."

My heart began to race as I began to make several calls. The first was to Ray Clemons, WB4IKL, and within a few minutes he was in route to station Co#6. The next two calls were to Mat Long, N4MI, and Ned Creasy, AE4ID. Just as quickly, they were headed to cover Co#2 and Co #5. I called Rick Cook, AB4U, EC for Hanover County. He only asked "Where do you need me?" He was soon headed to cover Co#3.

As I headed to the EOC, Dennis Pinner, N4DEN, came up on the Goochland call-up repeater. After explaining the situation, he responded to Co#1. Within an hour we had five stations and the EOC up and running. I called and advised Chief Mackay that we had coverage in place for all stations except, Co#4. I asked if he wanted the coverage for any stations shifted. He said that the coverage was fine and that he would advise if any changes were needed. We later had "Medic 50" sign up with Beau Bouharoun, N4SIR, an Advanced Cardiac Life Supporter.

All stations were able to respond to the EOC when connected as we had all sites already pre-equipped with radios, power supplies, antennas, and manuals with several log and message handling forms. Chief Mackay came into the EOC and asked me to pass along his thanks to all of the radio amateurs. He also expressed his surprise that we were able to respond to the request as quickly as we did.

In accordance with protocols, I called to advise the District Six EC of the situation: Anthony Harbour, KG4YXP, is a very good person to have close by in any given situation. He is a great radio operator and computer guru as well as an Advanced Cardiac Life Supporter and Registered Nurse. This call resulted in several other amateur operators ready as stand-bys.

Thankfully, business was slow. We handled communication from a call to co#3. There had been an accident and this info was relayed to the EOC. Shortly after noon, with all equipment back in service, a stand down was declared. The call-up

## June 2011

had lasted from 0800 to 1230. We were again thanked by Chief Bill Mackay for our support and the confidence he gained in our abilities and willingness to respond.

**Editor's Note:** *Are we ready for such a call?*

## AARC Public Service Schedule

Saturday March 26	Bel Monte Endurance Run
Sunday March 27	Jefferson Cup Bike Races
Saturday May 1	Lake Monticello Triathlon
Sunday May 8	Rescheduled Jefferson Cup BR
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

<b>Date:</b> Saturday Sept 10 <b>Location:</b> NRAO Rm 230 (ARRL VEC)	Remember the new Technician Question Pool is effective as of July 1, 2010, and the General Question pool changes effective July 1, 2011. DON'T study the old questions!!
---	--

## AARC Club Officers

President	Jim Crosby	K4JEC	<a href="mailto:jecrosby@comcast.net">jecrosby@comcast.net</a> (434) 987-2006
Vice President	Greg Faust	N4PGS	<a href="mailto:n4pgs@arrl.net">n4pgs@arrl.net</a> (434) 978-1962
Secretary	Patsy Crosby	K4PMC	<a href="mailto:patsycrosby@comcast.net">patsycrosby@comcast.net</a> (434) 989-2362
Treasurer	Don Eason Jr.	N4UVA	<a href="mailto:deason@comcast.net">deason@comcast.net</a> (434) 973-9119
Director	Jim Wilson	K4BAV	<a href="mailto:jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net">jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net</a> (434) 245-7041
Director	Linda Beard	KI5LLB	<a href="mailto:lindaskyone@embarqmail.com">lindaskyone@embarqmail.com</a> (434) 823-2107
Director	Dave Damon	K4DND	<a href="mailto:k4dnd@arrl.net">k4dnd@arrl.net</a> (434) 973-5866
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	<a href="mailto:billp1048@earthlink.net">billp1048@earthlink.net</a> (434) 872-0686
Director	Mike Rein	KA4JJD	<a href="mailto:mfr6t@virginia.edu">mfr6t@virginia.edu</a> (434) 9774281
Director	Jim Owen	K4CGY	<a href="mailto:k4cgy@yahoo.com">k4cgy@yahoo.com</a> 434-296-3044

## Contest Calendars

<a href="#">ARRL Contests</a>	ARRL sponsored contests
<a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2011</a>	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
<a href="#">Contesting Online</a>	Just about everything contests!

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 6833  
Charlottesville, VA 22906  
<http://www.albemarleradio.org/>



**THE AARC BEACON**  
Vol 2011 No. 6  
June, 2011



© Copyright Albemarle Amateur Radio Club 2000-2009. Content in this newsletter may be used if proper credit is given to the AARC Beacon.

ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month

Contact Information  
Dave Damon K4DND  
4521 Burnley Station Rd  
Barboursville, VA 22923  
434-973-5866  
[k4dnd@arrl.net](mailto:k4dnd@arrl.net)

**Next Club Meeting : June 14 - 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](http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf)