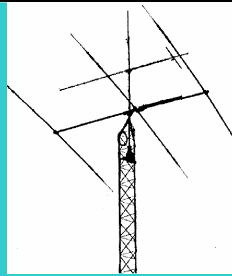


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2011, No. 8



August 2011

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

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The President's Letter

Jim, K4JEC

Our challenge at this time is to grow our youth membership and involvement. I urge each member to think of a youngster you can sponsor and encourage to work toward getting a ham ticket. We really need to take our hobby into the schools to spread the word about how great Ham Radio is as a lifelong hobby. If you take a look around the room during our meetings you will soon realize that we are a graying group and without young people coming into the hobby, it will die along with all of us. Another selfish factor has to include younger members to "lift that barge and tote that bail."

Thinking along this line, we need to identify and increase our corps of instructors because I would like to see us offer a consistent program of regularly scheduled licensing and upgrading courses. In recent years at past president Dave's (K4DND) insistence, we have offered a consistent program of licensing examinations with one scheduled for each quarter of the year. We need to continue that program while matching it with corresponding classes.

While it is true that a properly motivated person can successfully pass the entry level licensing examination entirely on their own through self-study, it is also true that the structured environment of a scheduled class and the fellowship developed by student participation with a group is much more successful with a greater number of candidates actually obtaining their licenses. Those who can accomplish the mission on their own through self-study are going to do it on their own and we need not worry about them. Unfortunately, they will always be small in numbers and real success in numbers is going to come from organized classes. Pursuing a program of regularly scheduled classes will certainly require a cadre of motivated instructors because Bill (AD6JV), our Education Director, certainly cannot even begin to consider this approach without them.

Here's the key: We need to identify members who are motivated to teach and who are willing to become instructors. We need those members to register with the ARRL as instructors and be eligible for all the assistance

Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday August 9, 6-8PM at Darden Towe Park.** This is our annual picnic and auction. Look for further information down the pages of this issue of the Beacon. Hope to see you there.

available through ARRL to make anyone a better qualified and prepared instructor. The ARRL offers "Instructor Guides" for all license classes at reduced prices, CD's with charts and PowerPoint programs professionally prepared, regularly published Instructor Newsletters with tips and hints to make you a better instructor and the list goes on. If you have the vaguest interest, go to the ARRL website and check out what's available to assist instructors and register as an official ARRL instructor. The reward earned by a qualified instructor is extremely gratifying and your students never forget you. I have taught hundreds of boating class students over the years and I can hardly go anywhere that someone doesn't walk up to me and say, "Hay, remember me."

The final step is to send Bill an email at billp1048@earthlink.net and register with him as an instructor or one who would like to become an instructor. He needs a roster of instructors to call upon in the execution of his responsibilities. All licensed amateurs can be instructors with the only limitation being you cannot teach above the level of your own license. So, go for it!

See you all at the picnic/auction in Darden Towe Park's pavilion!

Veep Peeps

Greg, N4PGS

It seems like we are hearing a lot about Emergency Services lately. We've even had a few instances where our Club is involved or could have been involved in participating in emergency services related activities. But then again, why are we surprised? Isn't a big part of the Amateur Radio world related to emergency services?

This is what we do, right? Aren't we just practicing our skills when we help with a bike race or a walkathon – skills that would be used to help folks in case of a real emergency? At least that's what we tell ourselves. Some of us even lever that bit of reasoning in the quest to convince our spouses to let me buy another radio – just one more, please?

What is an 'emergency'? Are we practicing for something that will never really happen, or will happen so rarely that many of us won't see one? I say this, not to downplay the efforts of those of us who have helped in the 'big ones', like the floods in Madison, or Franklin, or the Pentagon during 9/11. Ham radio has played an amazing role in these events. But are these the only emergencies we see?

There are some folks who deal with emergencies every day. At a Club meeting you rub shoulders with law enforcement officers, doctors, firefighters, EMTs and others who deal with events that certainly fall under the category of emergencies. Ask them about an 'emergency' and you'll get a broad spectrum of answers, but a common thread to all is that an emergency is something that someone didn't plan on, a surprise, an unexpected event.

We all love surprises, right? When an unexpected event becomes an emergency - surprise! A lot of the fun disappears...

One way to combat these surprises is to plan ahead, but you can't plan for every contingency. Training is great and it gives us the tools to better deal with changing events, but it still gets trumped by our friend (and reason for being hams) - COMMUNICATIONS.

Yes, we are communicators and so are the emergency services folks we deal with. An essential part of emergency services is the communications element. After all, Albemarle County set up a whole building for it, called the ECC, Emergency Communications Center. And we hams are a part of that effort.

Recently I had the opportunity to help out at an event in western Virginia where UVA sponsored a clinic to provide medical services to a large rural area. One of the first things we did to set up for this was to put together a radio system, complete with portable repeater and a bunch of VHF handhelds. Using these radios, doctors, dentists, pharmacists, technicians and many others coordinated their efforts via radio helping make the event a success. Many times there weren't plans made ahead of time, but instead of confusion, they fired up the radios and solved their problems on the air – just like we hams do.

So the next time our Activities Chairman passes around the clipboard asking for your help at event, or to help out at Field Day, think about what you are really doing if you sign up. You'll be sharpening your skills for those pesky emergencies, some big ones, some little ones but whatever the size, ones where communicators make a difference.

Club Business

Patsy, K4PMC

Board Meeting

Call to Order – Meeting called to order by President Jim, K4JEC at 7:03 p.m. The following members were present: K4JEC, N4PGS, K4PMC, K4DND, N4UVA, K15LLB, KA4JJD and K4CGY.

Secretary's Board Report

Patsy, K4PMC, reported the minutes of the June May Meeting were published in the Beacon. K4PMC asked for corrections or amendments, Since nothing was heard, the minutes stand as printed.

Treasurer's Report- N4UVA stated that he was prepared to give the figures at the general membership meeting. NK4UVA stated that everything was looking good. Current balance \$5,770.59.

August 2011

Vice President's Report – Greg, N4PGS stated that he had several programs lined up for the future.

President's Report – K4JEC stated that it is time to consider setting the date for our 2012 cruise in. He stated that he had canvassed the club and the most favorable date is April 28, the last Saturday in April of 2012. He placed that date on the table for board approval. KI5LLB was the first while N4UVA offered the second. This passed unanimously. K4JEC then stated that he had charged the PR Committee to produce a job description for the newsletter editor, a mission statement for the newsletter and promulgate such in search of a newsletter editor to relieve Dave, K4DND who has been serving as an interim editor for over a year now and wants to move on to other things. K4JEC asked Jim W, K4BAV to convene his committee to determine if any member of the club would be willing to take over this very important job. He stated that the newsletter was a public record of our history. K4JEC then asked the board for approval of up to \$200. to purchase food for the August picnic/auction. The motion was made by Michael, KA4JJD to purchase these items. K4UVA seconded the motion.

Committee Reports

Public Service Committee-Dave, K4DND –stated nothing at this time.

Technical Committee – Jim –reported that the 925 was down, currently in his basement, awaiting his attention. Jim, CGY, also announced that he had 2 repeaters to be taken and set up at the new MJH location.

Fundraising Committee- Michael (absent) – Michael-KA4JJD announced that he has a Johnson matchbox for tonight's raffle.

Estate Committee – Linda reported that she still had the Red Cross radios which she intended to bring to the August auction.

Public Relations - K4BAV not present.

Old Business -- Nothing

New Business -- W2HD asked if the club would consider adding birthdates, only month and day of members to the newsletter.

K4DND made the motion and noted that he thought W2HD would be a good person to head the project.. N4UVA made the second. The motion was approved and K4JEC asked Harry to run with the newsletter birthday project.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

General Membership Meeting

Call to Order -- The meeting was called to order by President, K4JEC at 7:35 p.m. K4JEC welcomed everyone and all were invited to state their name and call. There were

32 members present and 3 guests. The sign-in sheet is to be attached to file copy in minutes book.

Secretary's Report - Reported by K4PMC

General Meeting Minutes for May were printed in The Beacon. No amendments were offered so they stand as printed.

Treasurer's Report – Reported by N4UVA

Opening Balance	-\$ 6,569.08
Deposits	- 150.21
Expenses	- 948.70
Closing Balance	-\$ 5,770.59

President's Report – Jim, K4JEC, announced that the 2012 Cruise-In date had been determined to be April 28, 2012, the last Saturday in April.

Crosby stated, "I have charged the PR committee to produce a job description for the newsletter editor, a mission statement

for the newsletter and promulgate such in search of a newsletter editor to relieve Dave – K4DND who has been serving as an interim editor for over a year now and wants to move on to other things. Dave has done a very commendable job as usual and now it is time to identify and appoint a new newsletter editor to relieve him. This is a very important post for the club because the newsletter is a major means of communications with the membership and serves as the official record of club activities, events and business to preserve the history of the club. Crosby stated that Dave would be able to give his replacement some idea of how much time it take a month to produce the newsletter.

Vice President's Report – Greg, N4PGS reported that he had some interesting programs lined up for the club one of which is set for tonight.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim, K4CGY. –. Jim stated the 925 had been removed from Heard's Mountain and is currently in his basement for analysis. CGY stated that the current management team at Trump's Loop or the old Kluge Estate seemed to be unconcerned with our presence on the property. He stated that the club's 444.000 and Dave's repeater will be pulled from the old MJH to be moved to the new MJ Hospital site. There is lots of work to be done at Marshall Manor. Lots of brush, etc that needs to be cleaned from the area.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael, KE4JJD –announced that the raffle tonight would be for a Johnson Matchbox. This antenna tuner will handle about 750 watts. Harry and Jim, CGY, have checked it out and it is in very good condition.

Public Service Committee –Dave, K4DND – Dave that we still have a number of upcoming events and circulated his clipboard for sign-ups..

August 2011

Education Committee – Bill, AD6JV – Bill was not in and JEC, stood in for him. Tech class still being evaluated with an Extra class been planned for the fall.

Estate Committee- KI5LLB stated that she still had some donated Red Cross radios that she would place in the August auction.

Old Business- Crosby submitted a letter to the board last month recommending R. H. (Bob) Blodinger, W4NPX, and his wife, Sharon, be named Honorary Members. Bob is a ham and serves as our registered agent for the club to the corporation commission. He has served in this capacity at no charge for many years. They also prepared and submitted our application to the IRS for our Letter of Determination as a 501 (c) (3) charging us only for staff time and out-of-pocket costs instead of the \$3,000 to \$5,000 such paperwork normally costs. JEC asked for a nomination that the Budinger's be awarded Honorary Membership status be placed before the general membership for a vote. K4JEC read the letter of nomination to the membership and stated I would like to place this item on the table for adoption by the membership. BXG made the first while WA1A made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business – none

Wes Epperly K4WLE then presented a program on micro processors

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

For Sale and Wanted...

Ron, K4RKA

For Most recent listings – See
www.albemarleradio.org

DX Notes

Alan, K9MBQ

Dx Notes will return at the end of the summer.

Science Campers Visit K9MBQ

Jim, K4JEC

Co-teachers, Ann Mallek and Lisa Boyse, took their science camp class to Alan Swingers (K9MBQ) home to learn about amateur radio. The group was briefed on amateur radio in a general sense and Alan made some contacts across the country to demonstrate. He also demonstrated the digital modes with PSK-31 station's messages displayed on his computer.



Linda Beard (KI5LLB) explained CW and introduced the code to the campers using light and sound.



The campers act out the code with their hands to simulate the time length of a single dot to a dash.

Jim Crosby (K4JEC) used Alan's 2-meter radio to contact Dave Damon (K4DND) and Harry Dannals (W2HD). They both spoke to the group of youngsters and the youngsters said "Hello" in unison which Harry described as sounding like a chorus.



Alan K9MBQ is surrounded by campers.

The tour ended with Alan rotating his huge beam which totally fascinated the group.

AARC Annual Picnic and Auction

Jim, K4JEC

The club's Annual August Picnic/Auction is just around the corner and now is the time to screen your ham gear and decide if there is something you would like to place in the auction.

The picnic is a great event for fellowship and visiting with your fellow members, as well as getting rid of your surplus gear while picking up something new. Members are asked to bring a dish to share representing a salad, dessert, or vegetable. The club will furnish the burgers and hot dogs.

To have an accurate count for food planning, please make your reservation including the number in your party and what you plan to bring in an email to deason@comcast.net.

The auction is to include only ham gear and be of the Silent Auction type where you place your bid on the item's bid sheet in sequence until the cut-off time of 7:30 p.m.

At that time the highest bidder has the right to claim the item and settle directly with the seller. All negotiations are between the seller and the buyer. We must be out of the park by sunset. See you there!

Local Repeater Update

Dave, K4DND

The AARC UHF repeater on 444.250 MHz has been removed from the old Martha Jefferson Hospital site for its eventual location at the new hospital site on Pantops Mt. Look for this repeater to be back on the air in coming weeks.

The K4DND 145.450 MHz repeater has also been removed from its location at the Martha Jefferson Hospital to be relocated along with the WA4TFZ 444.250 at the new hospital site. The IRLP node 4703 is temporarily attached to the WA4TFZ 146.760 repeater.

The AARC VHF repeater on 146.925 MHz has been taken down from its Heard's Mt site for maintenance and can be heard on the air from the QTH of K4CGY.

New AARC Honorary Members

Jim, K4JEC

Bob (W4NPX) and Sharon Blodinger were elected as Honorary Members by a unanimous vote of the membership during the July meeting.

The honor was conveyed upon them in recognition of their special efforts on behalf of the club in obtaining our public charity status with the Internal Revenue Service under the US Code 501 (c) (3) making donations to the club tax exempt.

As an attorney, Bob has served as our registered agent with the Virginia Corporation Commission for many years. Bob is a very active CW operator and has nearly 6,000 lookups on QRZ. He holds an Extra Class license and was originally licensed as W1ASV.

Honorary Membership is conferred upon a person, not a regular member, who has performed a meritorious service on behalf of the club or amateur radio. The person must be nominated and received an affirmative vote of a majority of the membership present. An Honorary Member is not entitled to vote, be a member of the board or make motions.

Next AARC VE Session

Jim, K4JEC

The AARC volunteer examiner team will offer an license examination session on Saturday, September 10, starting at 9 a.m. at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road in Charlottesville.

Examination will be offered for all class licenses. Questions should be directed to the new AARC VE Liaison Mark Gorlinksy (WA1A) at mgch@mac.com. No reservations required; walk-ins welcome.

Third AARC Cruise-In Set

Jim, K4JEC

AARC's Third Annual Ham Radio Cruise-In date has been set for the last Saturday in April of 2012 on the 28th. A survey of the membership was conducted and much input was offered making the April 28 date the most appropriate.

With Easter occurring much earlier in 2012, April 28 puts our event a good distance from that and Mother's Day in May which should lead to a much better participation. The plan is to have the event at the pavilion in Darden Towe Park as in the past starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

Mark your calendars early to avoid any potential conflicts.

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

Date: Saturday Sept 10 Location: 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!!
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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) 989-2362
Treasurer	Don Eason Jr.	N4UVA	deason@comcast.net (434) 973-9119
Director	Jim Wilson	K4BAV	jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net (434) 245-7041
Director	Linda Beard	KI5LLB	lindaskyone@embarqmail.com (434) 823-2107
Director	Dave Damon	K4DND	k4dnd@arrl.net (434) 973-5866
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net (434) 872-0686
Director	Mike Rein	KA4JJD	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!

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



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August, 2011



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month

Contact Information
Marty Wangberg W4MBW
2330 Finch Ct
Charlottesville, VA 22911
434-547-9642
marty_wangberg (at) yahoo.com

Next Club Meeting : August 9 - 6 PM Darden Towe Park

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