



THE AARC BEACON

A monthly publication of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club

VOLUME 2012, No 2

FEBRUARY 2012

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

AARC Elected Leadership for 2012



Newly elected Board of Directors for FY2012. Jim Crosby K4JEC, President; Carter Elliott WD4AYS, Vice President; Don Easton N4UVA, Treasurer; Bill Phillips AD6JV, Education Director; Michael Rein KA4JJD, Fundraising Director; Patsy Crosby K4PMC, Secretary; Dave Damon K4DND, Public Services Director; Jim Wilson K4BAV, Public Relations Director; Dayton Haugh AA4DH, Estate Services Director, and Jim Owen K4CGY, Technical Director.

Jim Crosby K4JEC commented; "In your wisdom, you came through with an election that will put great leadership at the helm for 2012. The 2012 Annual Meeting was well attended with some notable old-timers returning to the fold. Although the election got off to a rough start with two directors not standing for re-election, the end result proved work the trip down a bit of a rocky road. Contact information for both the Elected Leadership and Appointed Leadership for 2011-2012 is included later this this edition. We continue to be the greatest radio club in the world!"



FrostFest AARC Sales Table being cheerfully staffed

Richmond Frost Fest Feb 4, 2012



I counted 20 members and probably missed some showing their happy faces at Frostfest. If we had called a meeting, we could have had a quorum. It was a great outing for the AARC. We displayed our new club banner behind our club sales table. We displayed our old club banner at our Cruise-In promotion table where we displayed pictures of past Cruise-Ins and information urging our fellow hams to travel to Charlottesville to join us for a day in the park to talk about mobile ham stations. The traffic was consistent and we had a goodly number of our flyers taken away one at a time. We heard a lot of our visitors say, "We are coming to Charlottesville to see you on April 28."



The February AARC General Membership Meeting will be held on February 14, 2012 in the NRAO building on Edgemont Drive and will begin at 7:30 PM sharp.

Linda and Roland Beard are doing the February, 2012 AARC program. It will be on a solar powered emergency power supply and radio system that they are constructing. Linda and Roland are putting together a back yard mobile solar system which will run small appliances and small freezer. They have purchased a small trailer called a "Yuppie Wagon Hauler" and building a solar powered radio shack inside it. Their intent is to pull their "Yuppie Wagon" behind their jeep and attend events or camp and be able to go to a flood, earthquake, or storm and operate without grid power.

Please join us and see what Linda and Roland are doing and perhaps pickup some ideas of how you too can become mobile during disasters.

Elected Leadership 2012

Jim Crosby – K4JEC	President	jecrosby@comcast.net
Carter Elliott – WD4AYS	Vice President	celliott14@aol.com
Patsy Crosby – K4PMC	Secretary	patsycrosby@comcast.net
Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA	Treasurer	deason@comcast.net
Dave Damon – K4DND	Director – Public Services 1-YR	dnd@virginia.edu
Dayton Haugh – AA4DH	Director – Estate Services 1-YR	dayton@compuserve.com
Jim Owen – K4CGY	Director – Technical 1-YR	k4cgy@yahoo.com
Bill Phillips – AD6JV	Director – Education 2-YR	billp1048@earthlink.net
Michael Rein – KA4JJD	Director – Fundraising 2-YR	mfr6t@virginia.edu
Jim Wilson – K4BAV	Director – Public Relations 2-YR	jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net

Appointed Leadership 2011- 2012

Mark Gorlinsky – WA1A	Volunteer Exam Liaison	mgch@mac.com
Don Bush – KE4DDR	Sergeant-at-Arms	ke4ddr@hotmail.com
Dave Damon – K4DND	ARES/RACES Liaison	dnd@virginia.edu
Dave Damon – K4DND	Finance Committee Chair	dnd@virginia.edu
Harry Dannals – W2HD	Monday Info Net	w2hd@embarqmail.com
Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA	Finance Committee	deason@comcast.net
Joe Giovanelli – W2PVY	ARNewsline	joegio1@earthlink.net
Kenneth Kang – KJ4KIH	Club Webmaster	ksykang@gmail.com
Jim Owen – K4CGY	Club Stations Trustee	k4cgy@yahoo.com
Jim Owen – K4CGY	Finance Committee	k4cgy@yahoo.com
Ron Richey – K4RKA	Swap Fest Coordinator	k4rka@juno.com
Ron Richey – K4RKA	SERA Representative	k4rka@juno.com
Marty Wangberg – W4MBW	Photo Gallery Editor	marty_wangberg@yahoo.com
Marty Wangberg – W4MBW	The Beacon Editor	marty_wangberg@yahoo.com

Club Calls

WA4TFZ

W4DO

AARC BOD and Membership Meeting on January 10, 2012

Board Meeting

Call to order – President Jim (K4JEC) called the board meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

The following members were present: K4JEC, N4PGS, K4PMC, K4DND, KI5LLB, KA4JJD, AD6JV and K4CGY.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked for approval of the board meeting minutes from the November Board Meeting that appeared in the December Issue of *The Beacon*. She circulated a copy of the club's roster for the board members to review. She advised she had one new application to be voted on this evening at the General Membership Meeting. His name is Paul McKee (AK4OH) and he lives on Proffit Road in northern Albemarle County. He is an Extra.

Treasurer's Report – Don (N4UVA) reviewed the club's accounts and circulated a copy of the accounts spreadsheet showing income and expenses along with a copy of the year-end bank statement.

2011 ending balance was \$4893.19. N4UVA advised that we ended the year balanced to the penny.

Vice President's Report – Greg (N4PGS) Happy to be here-no report.

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY)—No report for the board.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJD) Good year, we do need to purchase a new roll of raffle tickets. K4JEC advised he would approve expense.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV)—No report-Good year.

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) Good year. Please go to web and review.

Public Service Committee – Dave (K4DND)—No report for board.

Estate Committee – Linda (KI5LLB) No report, we have been blessed not to have any deaths.

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC)

Richmond Frostfest—JEC asked that we discuss Frostfest. DND indicated that the table should come first. DND suggested that we discuss at general membership meeting.

Calendar for 2012 –held over for general membership.

BOD Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

General Membership Meeting

Dr. Mike (KA4JJD), before the meeting started advised all present of the raffle offerings for the night.

Call to Order -- President Jim (K4JEC) called The Annual Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. He welcomed everyone and all members were invited to state their name and call and introduce their guests if they have one.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) circulated the club's roster and asked each member present to check the information listed there for accuracy. She advised that we have 137 members on the roster with 66 already renewed or excused for 2012. She then offered Paul McKee's (AK4OH) application for vote

He was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Don (N4UVA) circulated a copy of the 2011 AARC Accounts Spreadsheet and closing Bank Statement for 2011. We opened 2012 with a balance of \$5,079.44. We ended the year with a balance of \$4,803.19. He reported that the repeater fund ended the year in the negative, but was slowly coming back.

Vice President's Report – Greg (N4PGS) Thanks to all who stepped up last year to make our year a success.

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY) The 925 had problems, bad fan while we purchased a new repeater for Buck's Elbow. K4CGY announced that his entire report was on the web and all were welcome to read there.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJD) \$1,052.00 raised last year.

Thanks to all for participating by buying tickets and to all who donated items to the raffles. Very successful year.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV) reported that we ran 2 courses, tech and extra. He also announced that he would work individually with students prior to upcoming test sessions.

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) Good Year.

Public Service Committee – Dave (K4DND) K4DND reported that we had 12 successful public service events.

Estate Committee – Linda (KI5LLB) Good Year in that we had no deaths reported. We did have Red Cross radios donated and we were able to turn over \$325 back to the Red Cross.

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC)

Jim asked for input on the club calendar because we have to seek reservations for meeting here

at the NARO. He said he would e-mail a copy to everyone for consideration.

Jim opened a discussion of our participation in the Frostfest on February 4 in Richmond.

The general consensus was that the club should rent a table. Crosby stated that we needed someone to step forward and chair the event. After a long pause, Bob Pattison, K4DU, volunteered to take charge.

Presentations were made, in addition to Meritorious Service Awards that included the current elected officers and directors of the club, in addition to the appointed leadership of the club to members who were not present at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Dave Damon (K4DND) presented awards citing the participation of club members in the Northern Piedmont Emergency Nets during the year, as well as certificates recognizing club member's participation in the Public Service activities for the past year to those who were not present at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Jim stated that during the Annual Awards Banquet Marty Wangberg

AARC Annual Meeting Cont:

(W4MBW) was recognized as the club's "Ham-of-the-Year" and Elmer Scott (KF4UCI) was presented the Hein Hvatum Public Service Award in recognition of his unique contributions to the club's public service activities during 2011. They received a round of applause.

The remaining certificates were turned over to K4PMC to be mailed.

Dave (K4DND) noted that registrations for ARES/RACES are suddenly not available to him as the

District 3 EC. He asked that anyone willing to work in ARES/RACES should register individually with him. He distributed forms for that purpose.

Election of Officers and Director – Mark (WA1A) Chair of the Nominating Committee offered the following nominations: President-Jim Crosby (K4JEC) Vice-President, Carter Elliott (WD4AYS)

Secretary Patsy Crosby (K4PMC), Treasurer Don Eason (N4UVA).

Directors: KI5LLB, Linda Beard,

AD6JV, Bill Phillips

K4BAV, Jim Wilson

K4CGY, Jim Owen

KA4JJD, Mike Rein

Linda Beard declined the nomination due to having to be out of the county for

an extended period of time during 2012.

Dave, (K4DND) volunteered to take a one-year term as a director. Dayton Haugh (AA4DH) volunteered to take a one-year term as a director, Don Bush (KE4DDR) moved that we approve the slate while Andy Lefko (KD4PVP) made the second.

Mark (WA1A) moved that the secretary cast one unanimous ballot for the slate. Bill Steo (K4FZE) seconded the motion; which passed unanimously.

Any New Business –Allan (K9MBQ) announced that DXers were needed for HKONA -- a great opportunity.

DX NOTES - FEBRUARY 2012

Jan and Feb are usually good months for DX, and are Prime Time for the Low Bands – 30, 40, 80 & 160M. The best times for DX on these bands is in the hours of darkness, so focus on Sunset to Sunrise. If interested in 80 and 160 in particular, you may have to change your sleep habits – plan on getting up around 0430 local!! There is a regular VK/ZL net on M, W & F on 7130 SSB that runs from 0430-0600 our time. US Hams are welcome and there are both VK and US net controllers. How you hear them is also a good check on other Asia openings . . . which can also be via Long Path; I have worked both Singapore and Thailand on 40 LP recently. Of course the higher bands are also going well for DX. Have fun!

Here is some DX station info that may be of use:

VK0TH – Macquerie Island (Down under): Trevor is there for many months to come. He is generally on the air 0700-1200UTC, and operates SSB

and CW. He frequents the VK/ZL 7130 net and the WB2REM group on 7163 in our 0500-Sunrise window. QSL info via QRZ.com.

ZF2GQ and ZF2GT – Grand Cayman: Paul, W3GQ, and Paul, W3HGT, will be active 4-11 Feb. No other details yet, but QSL to home call or via LoTW. Also, AD8J, John, will be there Mar 1-10 signing as ZF2AG/ZF8. QSL to home call or Via LoTW.

KC4 – Antarctica: Its summer there!!, so many stations are on now. Alex, UA1PAW, is there now and should be operating as RI1ANR by the time you receive this. RI1ANF will start in Feb/Mar and be on through Dec from Bellingshausen Station . . . and there are others there now and/or heading there. See QRZ.com for details, but 15, 17, 20 & 40M are good bets to work these stations in the late afternoon.

See you in the Pileups!
73 – Alan K9MBQ

More pictures from Frost Fest



PRESIDENTS LETTER - JIM CROSBY K4JEC

Thank you for your vote of confidence. It is truly a pleasure and an honor to serve you in this capacity. I am very pleased to welcome Carter Elliott (WD4AYS) to the board as our Vice President and Dayton Haugh (AA4DH) as a new face among the Directors. It was very courageous for Linda Beard (KI5LLB) to withdraw from board nomination based on the fact that she is forecasting being out of the country for an extended period during the coming year.

I am very pleased that Dave Damon (K4DND) relented in his request not to be nominated for re-election. Dave has so much experience in so many areas it would have been a great loss to the club for him not to return as a Director..

There comes a time when we all must move on and the best service we can render an organization is to share our knowledge and experience with another who can take up the slack we leave behind when we decide to move on.

I am looking forward to 2012 with the opening activity of Richmond Frostfest followed shortly by our Third Annual Cruise-In. Speaking of the Cruise-In we have an opportunity to polish the apple by taking a look at everything we are doing and have done in the past with an eye toward improvement. This could very well be the make or break it year for the Cruise-In. If we promote it well and have a good participation, we can count on its future. If participation drops over last year, we are going to

have to re-evaluate.

We have been granted a "Free Exhibition Table" at Frostfest from which to promote the Cruise-In and distribute our flyers. While you are there, stop by and check it out. We are next door to the Quarter Century Wireless Association and two tables away from the Morse Telegraph Club which was obtained by Jim Wilson (K4BAV) for a demonstration of Morse Telegraph systems. We will be in the front of Henrico Hall along with the ARRL and RATS Tables. If you take a left down the aisle of the food stand, we will be at the end of that row. Hope to see you there!

73 Jim K4JEC

VICE PRESIDENTS LETTER - CARTER ELLIOTT WD4AYS

I am looking forward to serving as Vice President of the AARC for 2012. One of my responsibilities will be to arrange for an interesting series of programs for our club meetings. For the February meeting, Linda and Roland Beard will be making a presentation on their construction of a mobile solar power supply for emergency communications. This topic is especially relevant given the potential for extreme weather con-

ditions and recent seismic events in our area.

We have several other topics for future meetings including ARES/RACES, Field Day and the Club's role in public service events. However, we still need additional topics and presenters for our meetings. So, I would ask that those of you who would like to make a presentation to please contact me or

Jim Crosby. As you know, our presentations typically are 15-20 minutes long, low-stress, informative and have a conversational air about them. During the past year, we've had some outstanding presentations and I'd appreciate your giving consideration to this request for the upcoming year.

73 Carter Elliott WD4AYS

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012 AARC VIRGINIA HAM RADIO CRUISE-IN

Please put Saturday, April 28, on your calendar to help us greet our visitors for the Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In.

We must be set up and ready by 10 am. I have heard many suggestions over the past year as to how we might improve our Cruise-In. Now is the time to think through those suggestions and start the forum for improvement. Here and now, let's begin a forum for improving the Cruise-In by sending me your thoughts and suggestions, push them forward at an upcoming meeting or share them in any way you deem appropriate. We now

have an opportunity to polish the apple and make the event even more meaningful to the participants and the hobby overall. This is a perfect opportunity to practice the axiom "No one of us is as smart as all of us working together toward a common goal." In this case, the goal is: Stage the best possible showcase of Amateur Radio Mobile Stations we can produce. Our role is two-fold to be a host first but also be a participant by bringing our own mobile stations for show and tell. We have played it low key with the media for the first two sessions. I now think it is time to take the next step

and push an all out public media promotion to gain attention to the fact that Amateur Radio Licensees stand ready to serve the public good when natural or man-made disasters occur where our mobile communications systems can be employed to great advantage for public safety. We need to remind them that we are here and ready to serve whatever and whenever the need for emergency communications arises.

Have a good day and let's talk!

Jim Crosby—K4JEC

Proposed 2012 Calendar of Scheduled Activities Albemarle Amateur Radio Club

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
FEB	14*	1900	NRAO	Board Meeting
	14	1930	NRAO	Regular Club Meeting
MAR	10*	0900	NRAO	License Examination
	13*	1900	NRAO	Board Meeting
	13	1930	NRAO	Regular Club Meeting
APR	10*	1900	NRAO	Board Meeting
	10	1930	NRAO	Regular Club Meeting
	28	0900	Towe Park	Cruise-In
MAY	8*	1900	NRAO	Board Meeting
	8	1930	NRAO	Regular Club Meeting
	18			Dayton Hamvention 18,19,20
JUN	9*	0900	NRAO	License Examination
1	2*	1900	NRAO	Board Meeting
	23	Noon	TBA	2012 Field Day
JUL	10*	1900	NRAO	Board Meeting
	10	1930	NRAO	Regular Club Meeting
AUG	14	1800	Towe Park	Member Picnic/Auction
SEP	8*	0900	NRAO	License Examination
	11*	1900	NRAO	Board Meeting
	11	1930	NRAO	Regular Club Meeting
OCT	9*	1900	NRAO	Board Meeting
	9	1930	NRAO	Regular Club Meeting.
NOV	10*	0900	NRAO	License Examination
	13*	1900	NRAO	Board Meeting
	13	1930	NRAO	Regular Club Meeting.
DEC	11	1800	TBA	Annual Awards Dinner

*National Radio Astronomy Observatory Auditorium

520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville, VA

TBA – Yet to be determined

PART I - YOUR HAM RADIO STATION - HARRY DANNALS, W2HD

What are the essential factors to consider in your plans for “your” Ham Radio Station? Let’s start off with a list of what your writer considers to be very important and also list them in a priority order and that is my opinion and may not be considered the same in your thinking. The list starts with YOU, the FCC Licensed Control operator and the list is: Operator, Receiver, Transmitter, Antenna and Location and that makes five items which will be brought forth in comments.

The first is one you can’t disagree with because without you there is no station at all. However, let’s see what this truly means. It simply means that your training and experience enters into every corner of the equipment utilized and the planning for that use. Many Hams have had experience in operating radio stations as military or other pursuits such as radio broadcasting, public service (police, fire and support activities) and job related avenues. BUT, and that’s a very big but, none of those other activities carry with them the degree of responsibility which you now have as THE operator.

So, where is the difference? In many cases your experiences may have involved a need for full knowledge of the equipment, but in many cases may have involved only pressing a switch and the radio gear did the rest. Now the situation is very different. You will have equipment which you have selected with features which must be on your personal list of options and usually, if the gear is

of a late model, the latest in performance and convenience. Remember you are the number one person on my list.

Let’s skip the Receiver and Transmitter and Antenna for the moment and go to the final listed item - Location. In many cases, depending upon the point in your life when you decided to enter the Ham Radio world, this may be something over which you have... or had... little chance to consider. You may have dreamed about a house high upon a mountain top with room for any type of antenna array. You may have dreamed about acres and acres of space for elaborate tower arrays or dedicated wire antennas covering the world about you and then reality comes into play!

Nope... you didn’t have any of those dreams come true. In fact, you barely have space in your living area for a single piece of Ham gear and forget about the antenna. There is little or no access to the world beyond the walls! Are you going to give up on the whole world which you dreamed of enjoying? I, for one, would state without reservation that there are always ways to beat the barriers and move forward. No, you won’t have the loudest signal on the air and you will have some difficulty filling a logbook with contacts, BUT (and there’s that word again) you can still enjoy your chosen world of radio.

Let’s take a look at what personal experience has proven to your writer with experience spanning nearly seven decades. I’ve made HF contacts with antennas sitting

on table tops, wires draped over the window sill and even HF ground planes in motel rooms. When we later enter into the subject of Antennas, you will see the variety of practical possibilities which exist. And... let’s not forget the subject of advancements in digital communications which have become very well known in recent years and have enhanced low power signals.

Next month’s column will cover the specifics of Receiver and Transmitter, or Transceivers as they are today plus further commentary on different Antenna possibilities. BCNU then. 73 /s/ Harry, W2HD

Editors Notes: Harry has kindly agreed to submit interesting articles for publication. Please consider submitting articles to the Editor for publication in future Beacon publications to help make the Beacon interesting reading for all.

AARC Club Nets

Monday-Night Information Net:

The Information net is held every Monday night at 7:00 PM local time on the 146.760 repeater. Your regular net control, W2HD, brings you news from the ARRL Bulletin and W2PVY provides the Amateur Radio newsline in real audio format.

Northern-Piedmont Emergency Net:

The Northern-Piedmont Emergency Net meets every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM on the 146.76 repeater. The NPEN is a directed net with rotating net-control intended to assist local amateurs with building emergency operating capabilities.

AMATEUR CREATIVITY AT ITS BEST



Club member Jim Wilson, K4BAV, has devised a unique method for installing his 40 meter dipole antenna. You see, Jim and his wife Becky and son Matt live in a relatively new development south of Charlottesville. Because this North Garden community was recently a cow pasture, it suffers from lack of mature trees. This subdivision of

32 real estate lots also has significant antenna restrictions.

So after giving thought for several years as to how to support an invisible antenna, Jim devised a birdhouse antenna. As you can see in the photographs, a tall birdhouse pole supports one end of his dipole, while a bird feeder supports the opposite end. These two bird friendly items were conveniently located according

to the dipole length required.

The only time this antenna is noticeable is when a rare ice storm coats the wire, as it did in this late January 2012 weather event. The other problem with this birdhouse antenna it sometimes receives a reported chirp on Jim's CW signal! ~ Jim /K4BAV



More from Frost Fest 2012

Jim Wilson, K4BAV, and Hubert Jewell, aged 87 !!, man the Morse Telegraph Club Booth at Frost Fest 2012.

PS...don't forget that Tuesday, February 14 is St. Valentines Day. Yes, that's our regular club meeting date and rather than miss the meeting why not bring your XYL/XYM to the meeting after dinner out?





The Beacon Mission

The official newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will strive to communicate with, enlighten, and entertain the members of the club in strict compliance with the official word of the club as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as administered by the officers and directors who constitute the Board of Directors. The newsletter shall be published monthly on or before the 1st day of the month of issue. The deadline for submissions shall be the 25th of the month preceding the month of publication. The primary role of the publication shall be to promote upcoming activities, report past activities and accomplishments of the club and its members, carry the minutes of the preceding month's Board Meeting and General Membership Meeting, include an official club calendar of the month, as well as, become a recorded history of the club by the archival of all past issues as paper copies contained within a single notebook for each year of publication.

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Hams Helping Hams

AARC Club Repeaters

146.760 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone

146.925 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone

146.895 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone

224.760 (-) No Tone

444.000 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone

444.250 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone

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AARC 2012 Elected Leadership