



THE AARC BEACON

A monthly publication of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club

VOLUME 2012, No 6

JUNE 2012

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

MAY 2012 AARC MEETING



We were honored to have Travis Koshko, KK4EDW, present many interesting facts about today's technology for predicting weather formations and potential severe weather. Travis is Charlottesville's TV-19 Chief Meteorologist and we are fortunate to have Travis as an active member of AARC.



Several AARC Members asked Travis some very interesting questions about weather patterns, ability to predict severe weather, and how Amateurs and the National Weather Service and local TV Stations can work together to help protect the public by providing advance notice of upcoming weather.

12 New/Upgraded Amateur Licenses:

Mark, WA1A, reported that we had 9 new Technician licenses and 3 upgraded licenses at the Saturday, June 2nd VE Session. Congratulations to the following Amateurs for their hard work and study:

John Noble	-	Amateur Extra
Michael Garin	-	General Class
Mark Gaurilovic	-	General Class
Alexander Miller	-	New Technician License
Teresa May	-	New Technician License
Benjamin Van Denbury	-	New Technician License
John Shavis	-	New Technician License
Brian Duvall	-	New Technician License
Albert Catlett, Jr.	-	New Technician License
Carlos Mandry	-	New Technician License
Helen Flamini	-	New Technician License
Frederick Repich	-	New Technician License

Again, congratulations to everyone...we all remember the thrill and feelings of satisfaction to get our first license and subsequent upgrades...Cudo's to all !!!

VE Examiners:

Present at the Saturday, June 2nd VE Session, were the following 9 VE Volunteers who donated their time and energy to assisting present and future hams to obtain/upgrade their licenses.

Mark Gorlinsky	-	WA1A
David Damon	-	K4DND
Donald Eason,	-	N4UVA
James Owen	-	K4CGY
William Arnold	-	K4IB
Robert Pattison	-	K4DH
Harry Dannals	-	W2HD
Peter Thorsen	-	W4PRT
Dorsey Thacker	-	WD4LT



Be sure to attend the June 12th meeting....Ken, KS4ZR, will be doing a presentation on "The Future of Amateur Radio: The Crucial Role of the Club and the Individual"

AARC MAY 2012 BOARD/GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

BOARD MEETING

Call to order – President Jim (K4JEC) called the board meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The following members were present: K4JEC, WD4AYS, K4PMC, N4UVA, K4DND, KA4JJD, K4BAV, AD6JV and K4CGY.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked for approval of the board meeting minutes from the April Board Meeting that appeared in the May Issue of *The Beacon*. Minutes were approved as published. We have purged the roles as best we can which now stands at 138.

Treasurer's Report – Don (N4UVA) filed this report.

	Current Mo.	Previous
Balance	\$6,575.67	\$6,561.56
Debits	\$30.29	\$454.87
Credits	\$400.00	\$468.98
Balance	\$6936.43	\$6,575.67

Don reported we have several bills coming up in the next month so we need approval to pay the following:

Liability Insurance Premium of \$200.00; same as last year. Approved unanimously.

Post Office Box Rent of \$66.00; no notice of an increase. Approved unanimously.

State Corporation Commission Charter Fee of \$25.00; Approved unanimously.

Vice President's Report – Carter (WD4AYS) – Reported we have a couple of interesting speakers coming up with Travis Kosho this evening speaking on Severe Weather and for June, we will be having Ken Reitz, Features Editor, at Monitoring Times,

a monthly publication about all things radio. He'll be talking about the Future of Amateur Radio.

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY)— Nothing new, everything is working at the present.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJD) Nothing at this time.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV)— The tech class is finished and we have a license exam coming up on June 2.

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) – We will be publicizing Field Day and contacting all the media as we did last year.

Public Service Committee – Dave (K4DND)— Nothing for the board.

Estate Committee – Dayton (AA4DH) – Absent

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC) – Pat and I have found the current Member Application lacking in a couple of areas. Aside from some art changes to put our logo on it along with the ARRL logo, we have added a place for the applicant to indicate whether this is a renewal or new application. This makes it easier to post the application to the roster if it is a renewal, or place it in the Secretary's Folder for a vote at the next club meeting for new applicants. The other addition is a request for the birth date of the youth applicants so their waiver of dues can be tracked. The last addition is a more specific wording of the appeal for Repeater Donations which includes our IRS determination that we are a 501 (c) (3) organization which makes donations fully tax deductible. These are minor adjustments and do not represent any major changes in the information requested of applicants. Harry pointed out that Life members did not have a block to check. President Jim said it would be added.

I have had some discussions with our Technical Director, Jim, and various members and would like to recommend that the board pass a motion authorizing the Technical Committee to proceed with

linking our three major 2-meter repeaters. This has been talked about for a long time and I sincerely believe that now is an excellent time to move this idea forward. I understand that this would not represent a major expense yet while our treasury is at a comfortable level it is appropriate to consider this move. Jim K4CGY and I were returning from the Virginia Fone Net Annual Meeting in Bedford last Saturday and we dialed up our .925. Much to our surprise, we got a full s-meter reading on the ID from that repeater while traveling east on Route 460 between Bedford and Lynchburg. Previously, I never realized that machine reached that far into the Lynchburg area. Also, while the .760 machine was down and we were using the .895 machine for our Monday and Thursday nets, we had check-ins that we were not getting previously. When we returned to the .760 machine, we lost those check-ins again. A linking system between our three 2-meter repeaters would give us coverage in areas that each individually have a weak coverage in at present. It just seems to me to be the right time to make this move.

A motion to request the Technical Committee to move ahead with the project not to exceed \$1,200 was made by Don N4UVA and seconded by Bill AD6JV. After a discussion it was amended to direct the committee to study and ascertain prices to come back to the board for approval of any expenditure. That motion was approved unanimously.

New Business – None

Old Business – None

Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Call to Order -- President Jim (K4JEC) called General Membership Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

AARC MEETING CONT:

and invited everyone to introduce themselves. He called on Michael KA4JJD to present the items to be raffled off this evening.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked that the minutes of the April meeting as published in *The Beacon* be approved. They were approved as published. She advised that we have 138 members on the roster at this time because we have purged some members who have not renewed and moved out of the area.

Treasurer's Report – Don (N4UVA) filed this report

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Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY) – Advised that the board had passed a motion to proceed toward linking the club repeaters. All repeaters are up and working.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJD) announced that he had a 50 watt 2-meter radio as a raffle prize for this evening and invited everyone to purchase their tickets at the break.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV) stated the tech class has completed and a license exam is set for June 2.

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) Field day will be the last full weekend in June. It was discussed ask-

ing the Governor of Virginia for a proclamation. The consensus was that we should go for it and try to arrange such.

Public Service Committee – Dave (K4DND) – Dave reported that last Saturday the club supported the Devil's Backbone run and we had a nice turnout of seven members. Everything went well and we used the Lynchburg .440 machine and Lexington Club repeater .330. He said he had an email stating that the organizers were sending a \$400 donation to the club. Dave made a motion for our club to donate \$100 to the Lynchburg Club and \$50 to the Lexington Club. It was seconded by Joe W2PVY. After much discussion an amendment was made to send the donations after receiving the \$400. The amendment died and the original motion passed unanimously.

Estate Committee – Dayton (AA4DH) – Absent

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC) – Skip Thacker mentioned at last Month's meeting that next year will be the 50th Anniversary of the club. This is a milestone in any organization and we should plan a year of celebration culminating with our 50th Annual Awards Dinner in December of 2013. We need to start the planning for our 50th year right now. Who among you would be willing to serve on a 50th Anniversary Planning Committee? I am going to circulate a clipboard with various committee sign-up sheets on it. Take a look at the various committees listed on it and sign up to assist with one or more. This is your club and you need to help plan activities that you are interested in like the August Picnic/Auction, 2012 Field Day, Annual Awards Dinner Committee, as well as the 50th Anniversary Committee for the year 2013. If there are any others you can think of, please let me know.

The Skywarn Class taught by personnel from the NWS in Sterling was a great success and resulted in many new Skywarn Weather Spotters signed up. How

many of you either are expecting to be assigned a Spotter ID or already have a spotter ID? The show of hands was a large percentage of the group.

Registrations for the Third Annual Cruise-In on April 28 topped out at 38 and even with the unforeseen weather anomalies everyone seemed to enjoy the event. We need to establish a committee to evaluate this event and determine its future. If it is to be repeated, we should certainly consider moving it a little further into spring for a better weather outlook.

Jim circulated a clipboard for members to sign up for the various committees.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

The Program - Carter (WD4AYS) introduced our speaker and program for the evening. Travis could not get the PowerPoint to work so he presented his story off the cuff and with great enthusiasm, animation and facts that dazzled the audience.

Adjournment – The Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.



Jim, K4BAV, submitted the photo he took recently of John Green, KX4P, and Harry Dannals, W2HD, during an informal meeting at John's "Shack" following the Wood Grill luncheon gathering in "mid May, 2012". **Note; The Beacon Editor encourages more photo's of members in their "Shacks"**

PRESIDENTS LETTER:

June means Field Day for most amateur radio clubs and operators and our club is no exception. Field Day this year falls on June 26 & 27 – that is Saturday at 2 pm till Sunday at 2 pm. – 24 hours of continuous operation. We will be back behind the Earlysville Fire Department again and are facing a real challenge this year. The challenge is to improve our score over last year which was an improvement over the previous year. The problem with a goal like that is sooner or later we will reach our peak if we don't put forth a huge effort each year.

Jim K4CGY and Bill W0WP will be working together with Dennis KR4I, Bill AD6JV and K4BAV who signed up to serve on the committee along with other faithful members who have always showed up to pitch-in. We are again planning on having a 6 pm potluck dinner Saturday evening and everyone is invited to bring a dish and join in the fun for an old fashioned family style picnic. Our first efforts will begin on Friday afternoon when we set up the shelters, and associated equipment for the kick-off at 2 pm on Saturday. Many hands make for light work so everyone who is available is invited to join the fun of setup on Friday and Saturday morning. We are always on the lookout for operators. We need SSB Voice, CW and Digital operators around the clock so come on out and operate.

I am very proud of our membership's response to the call for duty with our Public Service Activities this year. We have met the challenges and Dave reports that all is going well so far. When the clipboard goes around, please sign-up as often as possible to support the club's efforts in public service because they are a big part of what our club stands for. As a result of our last effort on the Devil's Backbone race up the mountain near Wintergreen, organizers sent us a donation of \$400. We elected to share that donation with a donation of ours to the Lynchburg and Lexington Radio Clubs for the use of their repeaters

during the event.

In the rush of summer and the many outdoor opportunities it offers; please remember to place the August Picnic/Auction on your calendar for the Second Tuesday at 6 pm. We wonder outdoors for our August meeting to picnic in the Darden Towe Park. Now is the time to place a box in your shack into which you can start placing equipment you want to dispose of to make more room for the new stuff you want to add. You know the inquisitive mind of the amateur must always seek new methods, equipment and ideas to utilize in the exploration of our hobby. Well, here you go – sell something so you can buy something else.

In a recent email addressed to the board, I stated, "I am not sure how many others might share this dream but my dream is to have all of our 2-meter club repeaters linked fulltime at some point in the future so that which ever one you come up on will be transmitted by the other two for full area coverage. No longer would you have to guess which club repeater a particular member might be monitoring to make a contact -- with one being as good as the other based only on which one you can obtain the best access and return signal. I understand that for some special occasional use, one or more links might be dropped for more efficient use and that ability must be built-in while the norm would be "always linked." I can imagine being able to check into a net from any one of our repeaters with a handheld radio, or being able to utilize IRLP, Echolink or whatever the future may provide from any one of our club's 2-meter repeaters. At the present time, our club repeaters set too many hours in silence where linking will give them a new life of service to our users. In my opinion this would be a giant step into whatever the future may bring. I sincerely hope that you or the club can maintain your present IRLP link while exploring the idea of adding Echolink. I sincerely

hope that our club can always look to the horizon with the expectation of being ready to welcome something new and exciting to explore. I sincerely hope that we can all be blessed with an insatiable curiosity that will feed our need to be open and ready for the next innovation to be offered our unbelievable hobby.

Praise be to the Technical Committee because they are the true enablers of one of our club's biggest adventures!!!

Field Day 2012

Field Day '2012 is creeping up on us! The weekend of June 23 and 24 are the dates of this very popular operating event this year. The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club is again going to be operating from our home for the past few years at the Earlysville Fire station. This is a fantastic location and one that we've had good success at. Jim Owens, K4CGY, and I are in the process of finalizing and arranging for many details surrounding our effort. In the past, we've had lots of club members that wanted to help with operating duties, so we haven't made any operating "rosters" or schedules. However, it would be great if we could get an idea of folks that would like to operate a bit into the evening on Saturday night. (or even into the early hours if conditions warrant!!) If someone has a specific timeframe during which they would like to come out and operate, please let me know, and we'll make out a roster and reserve that time for you.

As usual, we plan to have a dinner Saturday evening, and light breakfast Sunday morning for any club members wanting to come out and be part of the fun, whether it's by operating, or just being part of the social gathering. We would ask that if you come for the meal, that you bring a covered dish of some sort to share.

Field Day 2012; Cont;

The club will be furnishing burgers, dogs, paper plates, soft drinks, etc., similar to what was done last year.

As Jim Owens mentioned at the club meeting last month, we're asking for anyone who performed some task or function last year, to just do the same this year. We may be able to use another HF rig, and laptop computer for logging. Jim will be bringing his Ten-Tec Jupiter for one of the HF stations, and I'll be bringing mine to light up the Digital station. We have typically operated two HF stations to keep two bands active on SSB and/or CW along with

the digital rig, for class 3A. If someone could bring an "extra" rig to use we would certainly appreciate it. The logging laptop could be any Windows PC that hopefully has a display that won't totally wash out in the sunlight. If necessary, I could dig out my old Windows desktop machine but if someone has a laptop to use it would make the logistics easier.

We will begin setup on Friday afternoon 6/22 after 2:00 PM. We can always use the help of anyone that's able to assist with that work. Actual Field Day operations begin at 1800 UTC on

Saturday afternoon (2:00 PM local time). It's really exciting to hear the bands come alive right at 2:00 PM, and I hope that we can have lots of folks on hand to lend a hand and participate in the fun!

I expect that Jim and I will both will be unhand at the club meeting this coming Tuesday evening to answer any questions that may arise. I'm really looking forward to the event, and I hope to see many of you there!

73, de Bill, n)WP

While emptying grass clippings in the woods behind my house I noticed what appeared to be a rope from my antenna hanging on the trunk of a tree. Looking more carefully, I noticed that it was moving - and climbing up the tree! Impressive Then, looking more carefully still, I found it was a string of about fifty caterpillars all playing "follow the leader." I watched for a few minutes as they inched their way along, always in file and never trying to pass each other.

Checking this out on Google (what else would I do) I learned these were "Tent worms" and their intent was to make a picnic out of the leaves of my tree. That was bad news. They could even kill the tree !!

I could possibly do with one less tree. However, unfortunately for them, this particular tree supports my 131 foot "inverted V" antenna. The antenna is phenomenal. I had just worked foreign amateur radio stations 7O6T (Yemen) and 6O0CW (Somalia) on my ham radio (pretty rare for me to hear them - much less to actually work them), I was not yet prepared to loose this antenna to a few creepy caterpillars.

Now I have exercised a daily watch of my property! John KX4P



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 newslines 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.



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.

Hams Helping Hams

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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 Elected Leadership 2013