



THE AARC BEACON

A monthly publication of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club

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

JUNE 2012 AARC MEETING; 6 WAYS TO BRING AMATEUR RADIO TO LOCAL SCHOOLS; KEN KS4ZR



Ken Reitz, KS4ZR, Features Editor of Monitoring Times, presented an outstanding talk to the AARC entitled "Six Ways to Bring Amateur Radio to Local Schools".

Ken advised us that "Twelve years ago the ARRL began a program originally called The Big Project, now known as the Education and Technology Program (ETP), that sought to introduce wireless technology literacy among American teachers and students. Here's what the program, which is entirely donor funded, does: It offers resources, including instruction and project kits, to schools at no cost. The program offers professional training to teachers in the ARRL Teacher's Institute on Wireless Technology that also qualifies for continuing education credits for certified teachers.

Each summer the ARRL offers several four-day, expense-paid, professional development seminars that introduce basic electronics, the science of radio, space technology and satellite communications, as well as weather science, programming microcontrollers and robotics. In addition, the League makes available amateur radio station equipment through ETP grants.

Today more than 500 schools, from elementary to high

school have amateur radio in the classroom. It's part of their daily lesson plan. According to the ARRL, there are only 17 such schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia."

What can the AARC do and what can the individuals in this club do to promote science and amateur radio in our local schools?

1. Adopt a School - Ken said "to my knowledge, none of the 4 high schools, 5 middle schools, 20 elementary schools, one Technical Center, and one Community College in the Charlottesville area have an active in-school amateur radio club or teach amateur radio in the classroom."
2. Adopt a Science Teacher and offer him/her the opportunity to attend the free Institute on Wireless Technology.
3. Give money...hundreds of thousands of dollars are made available by amateur radio groups all of the U.S. and given away to high school graduates in pursuit of a college degree in science.
4. Give equipment. Hams are notorious horders and I'm sure we can all find spare equipment to donate to a worthy school that is willing to setup an operational station.
5. Partner with local institutions to promote science. Does the NRAO have a youth mentoring program? Can AARC participate or help start one?
6. Donate to the ARRL's Foundation, a separate 501(c)3 organization that administers the funds that support the ARRL's educational programs.



The Tuesday, July 10, 2012 monthly AARC meeting will be held at 7:30 PM at the NRAO building, 520 Edgemont Rd, Charlottesville, VA. BOD meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

Dr. Michael Rein, KA4JJD, will be presenting lots of information about ticks and associated diseases.

FIELD DAY 2012



Jim Owen, K4CGY, and Don Eason, N4UVA are seen discussing equipment setup during the Field Day operations.



Bill Pond, N0WP, prepares to begin operations during Field Day 2012.



Bill, N0WP, and Daniel, KJ4YHE, are seen operating the Digital Station.

Jim K4JEC commented:

Our club really came through with an outstanding performance during Field Day 2012. Much of the credit has to go to Bill Pond N0WP and Jim Owen K4CGY for their dedi-

cated leadership.

Bill N0WP commented:

Congratulations to all of AARC! Field Day 2012 is now history, and we had a fantastic turnout. The weather was a bit on the warm side!! But it's Field day. I think there is a rule that states Field Day has to be hot. I can't find it in the rule book, but it surely must be there..... The food was great, the companionship couldn't be better, and we had what appeared to me to be a record number of visitors. I'm not sure if I'm correct on this point, but I think it may be the first year over the past 3 years that we kept at least one transmitter active all night

Thank you to all who helped, visited, or participated in any way. Field day to me is a fantastic opportunity to come together and enjoy as a group many possible aspects of our hobby, while gaining skills, and demonstrating these skills to some of our served agencies. We as a club, and every individual member should be proud of our efforts this year.

I'm working on gathering together the required information for our formal submission to the ARRL, but at this moment, it appears we have had a healthy increase in our overall score.

Here's a comparison with last year, and how the total looks to come out based on what I'm aware of for bonus points:

CW contacts 281; 2011 CW contacts: 138
More than DOUBLE our 2011 CW contacts!!!!

Digital contacts 156; 2011 Digital contacts: 88 Almost double our 2011 Digital contacts!

Phone contacts 769; 2011 phone contacts: 705

QSO points: 3286 2011 QSO points: 2314

Bonus points: 1150 2011 Bonus point 1150

Estimated Total score 4436; 2011 Total Score 3684

Thanks again to everyone. 73 de Bill



Stan, K2SSB, is seen contributing to the contacts during Field Day contacts while other members and guests watch and listen.



Mike and Dennis explain FT to City Councilman and her grandchildren.



Stan logs for Dennis during active contacts logging more points.

AARC JUNE 2012 BOD AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Board Meeting

Call to order – President Jim (K4JEC) called the board meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

The following members were present: K4JEC, WD4AYS, K4PMC, AA4DH, KA4JJ, K4BAV, AD6JV and K4CGY.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked for approval of the board meeting minutes from the May Board Meeting that appeared in the June Issue of *The Beacon*. Minutes were approved as published.

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

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>
Balance	\$6,936.43	\$6,575.67
Debits	589.78	30.29
Credits	500.05	400.00
Balance	\$6,46.70	\$6,936.43

Vice President's Report – Carter (WD4AYS) – Nothing for the board.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY) — Absent.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJ) – Listed the items for the raffle.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV) — Nothing for the board.

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) – We need to replenish our supply of club brochures in preparation for Field Day and several public speaking appearances. A motion was made to approve the purchase of 100 copies the club brochure as specified in the Quote from Sir Speedy of \$89 plus tax by Dayton AA4DH, seconded by Michael KA4JJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Service Committee – Dave (K4DND) — Absent. The president reported that we had a great turnout for the repeater site clean up effort.

Estate Committee – Dayton (AA4DH) – Reported that one estate's items are on the website for sale and he is scheduled to take a look at another r soon.

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC) – I ask that the board approve up to \$125 for food and drink for the Field Day operations. The 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 7:30 p.m. and invited everyone to introduce themselves. He called on Michael KA4JJ to present the items to be raffled off this evening.

The Program - Carter (WD4AYS) introduced our speaker and program for the evening. Ken Reitz, Features Editor, at Monitoring Times, a monthly publication about all things radio. He talked about the Future of Amateur Radio.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked that the minutes of the May meeting as published in *The Beacon* be approved. They were approved as published. She advised that we have an application from Albert Catlett, Jr. of Charlottesville to be presented for a vote of acceptance. His membership was approved unanimously. With Catlett's approval, we now have 140 members on

BOD AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CONT:

the roster with a few still left to pay their dues for the current year.

Treasurer's Report – Don (N4UVA) filed this report in an email to the Secretary and President.

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Balance	\$6,936.43	\$6,575.67
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Balance	\$6,46.70	\$6,936.43

Vice President's Report – Carter (WD4AYS) – Advised that we have Dr. Michael Rein KA4JJD scheduled to offer a program on ticks.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY) – Absent. It was reported that the Trump Tower clean up project was successful with a good turnout by the members.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJD) Outlined the items available for the raffle.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV) – Nothing going on right now but we are planning a General License Class this fall if we have enough who want the class.

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) We have scheduled the electric sign at Rio Road to promote Field Day.

Public Service Committee – Dave (K4DND) – Absent.

Estate Committee – Dayton (AA4DH) – Report made by Ron K4RKA that we have the equipment from one estate listed in the website and the committee is set to visit another deceased ham to check his equipment.

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC) – 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.

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

In Jim's K4CGY absence, Bill N0WP gave a brief report on Field Day and invited everyone to come out and enjoy the activity. He said they would setting up from 2 pm Friday to be ready to begin work at 2 pm Saturday through 2 pm Sunday. The club picnic is scheduled for 6 pm Saturday and everyone is requested to bring a dish to share.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Adjournment – The Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

PRESIDENTS LETTER, JIM K4JEC

Field Day planning under the leadership of Jim-K4CGY and Bill-N0WP was a fantastic success. This year we were back at the Earlysville Fire Department where we have been for the past two or more years.

We set up a mess tent for the crews that operated throughout and kept everyone hydrated and nourished for the best performance yet. ARRL's Field Day is defined as about one half social, one half learning and one half contesting – all are rewarding club activities. The 2012 Edition of Field Day for our club was outstanding.

We not only improved our overall score over last year but set a new record for attendance. We had 54 members and guests sign in on our log. We had two Elected Officials -- one from Charlottesville City Council and one from the Albemarle Board of Supervisors. We had seven representatives from government agencies and the Charlottesville Newsplex in the person of Frankie Jupiter stopped by and did a television video report for the evening news.

WOW!!! What a great and successful adventure for our club and its members.

It is not too soon to be planning and

working toward our Summer Picnic/Auction. We will again offer a “silent” auction this year. 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 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.

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. Be-

yond 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.

Our 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 is out and you can bring them to our July meeting to introduce them to our fantastic hobby.

See you all at the NRAO on Tuesday, July 10, for another exciting session of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club. We have some exciting negotiations going on now and hopefully we will some great news to share with you at that time.

RENEW YOUR HAM RADIO LICENSE; BY HARRY W2HD

Well, Harry... now isn't that a strange way to begin this article? Nope, my friends... not at all. In fact, It may well be the most important reminder you will receive in the Amateur Radio field in coming months or years to come. OK, at least some of you will note this point in the records you keep of your Ham Radio activity and you will make an old guy happier (Me, of course!)

Now what ever prompted me to plan a discussion on an item so elementary in nature? It all began with a chat with

my oldest living friend of more than 70 years when he mentioned via our Skype connection that he really saw no reason to have his Ham ticket anymore. Yes, he still had the H/T he had bought a few years earlier and hadn't used in most of that time, but his many activities in retirement left him with little time for Hamming!

However, that comment didn't register any support from yours truly because my radio gear is in constant use here in the W2HD “shack!” Sure, there are other activities but a radio call usually

gets a response here. My persuasive approach was successful because my old pal is still licensed today and I'm a happy camper!

My persuasive words will not fit all persons with the many diversions in today's retirement world and the comments that there is little spare time in available retirement. This can be true but let's be a little realistic and know there can be some rocky roads ahead and a chat with some old friends would be a great pleasure. The opportunity to “visit” other parts of the world via

RENEW YOUR HAM RADIO LICENSE; CONT.

the radio waves instead of the ocean waves may be the only reasonable possibility in your future. And... just a little play time with Ham Radio can be great relaxation. At any rate, renewal is so easy that it makes little sense to give up something you worked hard to earn and then have to start again when learning might be a little more of a challenge. Renew... renew... renew when the date arrives for that small effort.

Incidentally, my file still contains the 1939 ARRL License Manual used during my studying in pre-teen licensing preparation. A few problems like school, Navy radioman time during WWII and a few other distractions permitted only late teen licensing in 1946. However, a section of the 1939 regulations bears some need for visibility in today's easier-to-live-in world. This part relates to License renewal in 1939 and states in part:

"... renewal upon proper application and showing that within three months of receipt of the application by the Commission the licensee has lawfully operated an amateur station licensed by the Commission and that he has communicated by radio with at least three other such stations."

That statement had to be signed as part of the formal application. Different than 2012? Yup!



Featured this month as "Members in their Shacks" is Bob Pattison, K4DU. Bob recently re-arranged his shack and wanted to show the other members his efforts. Nice job, Bob! FYI, Bob has been active in AARC for many years and was ARRC President from 1989-1993 and again in 2002. Thank you Bob for your tremendous contribution to the AARC and Ham Radio.

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.



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

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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AARC Elected Leadership 2013