



The Beacon

A monthly newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club serving Central Virginia

Remembered as the 2011 "Club-of-the-Year" at the Dayton Hamvention

October

2012

Internet Domain Name .radio proposed

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has expressed public support for a top-level domain name .radio. The proposal, as put forth by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), registration will be available via the EBU to all eligible radio representative organizations and broadcasters, Internet radios, radio amateurs, radio professionals and their respective representative organizations, as well as companies providing radio-specific products and services in order to create a worldwide radio community.

The proposal must be approved by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers; this organization is responsible for the coordination of the global Internet's systems of unique identifiers and, in particular, ensuring its stable and secure operation. Much of its work has concerned the Domain Name Space (DNS) policy development for internationalization of the DNS system and introduction of new generic top-level domains (TLDs), such as .com, .edu, .org, .net and the new .aero, .xxx and .travel.



Photo by Bill N0WP

The club will meet on October 9 at 7:30 pm at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville. Kirby Felts will be our speaker for the October meeting. She is the 911 Center's coordinator for Emergency Operations.

Public Service update

By Dave Damon K4DND

Many thanks to the following AARC members for a great job at the last Public Service Event, the Boys and Girls Club Cycling Challenge: John KU4KAE, Patsy K4PMC, Bill N0WP, Elmer KF4UCI, Don KE4DDR, Jon KJ4RPW, Jim K4BAV, Jim K4JEC, Greg N4PGS, and Paul AK4OH. You all did a

fantastic job, and the event organizers were extremely pleased with the job we did. So thanks again for your time, your effort and your expertise.



The director of the Boys & Girls Club, James Pierce, thanked the radio club for their assistance

It was fun to have Paul AK4OH riding the event as bike mobile, I hope we will see Paul as bike mobile on future cycling events.



Greg Faust N4PGS checks with Jonathon Scott KJ4RPW during the Boys & Girls Bicycle Event.



The AARC crew at the Devil's Backbone event.

The last PS event of the 2012 season is coming Saturday, September 29. This will be the last opportunity for you to add to your PS event score for the year, so please make an effort to participate in this last event.



The Boys & Girls Club Bicycle team rolls by.

Let's have a foxhunt!

By Jim Crosby K4JEC

Fox hunting or transmitter hunting presents a great

challenge to amateurs who like to get outdoors and tour the country side trying to track down a hidden transmitter. The hunt is usually conducted seeking a transmitter operating continuously or intermittently on 146.565 MHz.

Transmitters can be operated from any spot within a defined area of usually 25 to 50 square miles. Some clubs hide the transmitter in a place where the trackers can gather for a social – like a park, café, country store or even a parking lot. Most trackers like to gather after the hunt to share the details of their efforts, missteps and adventures. Some organizers plan a luncheon or dinner to end the hunt.

Some compete to be the first to find the transmitter and work hard not to be the last. Others compete to see who can find the transmitter putting the least amount of mileage on their odometer. The possibilities are limited only by the imagination of the organizers.

A typical hunt announcement might go like this:
AARC Radio Club Transmitter Hunt. Hunters will gather in the southern end parking lot at Fashion Square Mall on Route 29 North in Charlottesville to sign-in and register their odometer reading, participant's calls and vehicle make and model. This will be a team hunt consisting of a driver and radio operator. Registration will begin at 0700 hours. Passengers are allowed. The transmitter goes on the air at 0800 hours on 146.565 MHz simplex. Your mission will be to find the single transmitter driving the least number of miles

in the shortest amount of time.. The transmission will be continuous or intermittent and be from within these boundaries: (A set if boundaries would be established such as north of I-65 but south of Route 33, as well as east of the Skyline Drive and west of Route 15.

A successful participant will need some type of directional antenna coupled to a 2-meter radio preferably with a signal strength meter. Some one must place the transmitter and activate it at the appropriate time. Some clubs have an automatic transmitter that sends a signal at specified intervals. Some just park a vehicle with a transmitter aboard and the operator stays with the transmitter to transmit at specified intervals.

The purpose of this article is to explore the interest among our membership in staging a T-Hunt. If you have any interest in this activity, send me an email at: jecrosby@comcast.net

President's Remarks

By Jim Crosby K4JEC

As your president for the past two years, I have sacrificed my own ham radio participation, and my home and family duties to the point that I really need to unload the burden of club leadership to get my personal life back on an even keel. I feel that I have accomplished all of the goals I had set for myself upon taking office and that this is the year to step back and let someone else pick up the load. Pat has expressed her delight in my decision not to run for a third term and is already planning all the things she wants me to do

with the new found time to turn to family and home responsibilities.

It has been a great thrill ride to have served as your vice president for two terms in 2009 & 2010, and two terms as president in 2011 & 2012.

While I have tried my very best to serve all you, the members, and all your interests; I am certain I have left someone and some things out somewhere along the line and for that I apologize profoundly.

I plan to continue my membership and to play whatever role the club defines for me as a sincere and dedicated amateur who believes in the hobby and its public service role to the world – just not as president.

Thank you for your support in the many activities of the club because it has always stood the club in a good light when compared to other clubs of similar size – a club we can all be proud to claim as our own.

The Beacon

The Beacon is the official newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc. It 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. 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 meetings, as well as, become a recorded history of the club by the archival of all past issues.

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A Tugboat Captain Inspires a Ham Club

This is the story of how John LoCicero, K4TUG a tugboat captain saves a foundering club from the deep six as reported on the ARRL website. John lost the use of his right arm in an injury suffered on the job and had to give up his maritime career.

Following his long recovery, he discovered amateur radio. Once his license was obtained he decided he needed help in getting a station up and running and thought joining a local club would be just the answer. His first encounter was very disappointing and “a big letdown.” He found the folks in the club polite, but were way out of his league. He said, “They were speaking a language I had never encountered. After all that studying from many books I was still just as lost as the day I started. Another thing I noticed was that there were only 12 people at the meeting. On the way home I told my friend, Carolyn, I wanted to join the club and see if these folks could help me with this new hobby.” Carolyn’s response was, ““Why?” He stated, “The way it looked to her, all they do is argue over silly stuff and besides, she pointed out ‘you have not learned anything that you hoped to learn from this endeavor.’”

He attended as many meetings as possible through the first year. Then election of club officers came up. He told Carolyn he wanted to be an

officer in the club. He explained, “Instead of being part of the problem, why not help solve some of them?” So he put his name in the hat for secretary. As luck would have it, he won!

According to his story, the first thing the new club president wanted was more attendance at meetings. He said they placed informational labels on old QST magazines that asked the question, “Are you interested in Amateur Radio?” The labels gave contact information for readers to follow up on. They placed the magazines in doctors’ offices, hospitals, libraries, attorney’s offices, high schools, colleges and anywhere else they thought they could get some attention. They contacted schools and offered to become after-school volunteers to teach amateur radio to the kids.

He said, “This, by the way, was not an easy sell. It was a fight for every inch to get into our first school. Then we learned that we could not just teach amateur radio, we had to actually *wow* these kids with robots and kits from which they could build radios and circuits to run some kind of toy or gadget. We introduced them to multiple facets of Amateur Radio — especially computer related activities. Our Schoolhouse Project is now functioning in four area schools.”

Their next task was to hold amateur radio classes throughout the year. Not just a class to teach the test, but a hands-on class where their students could learn what those knobs on the radio do, as well as how to hold the microphone and actually talk into it. They developed an

antenna team and other Elmers ready to help set up the ham shack to full functionality. They developed a 30-member VE team available to go to the homes of those who cannot attend their regular testing sessions. Of course during this process, he reports that attendance was picking up.

Their next project was to take amateur radio out into the community. They started setting up a radio in a public park area every Wednesday. They would throw an antenna in a tree and used a battery for power. Before long more and more hams and visitors were showing up to play or learn about ham radio.

The next new project took into account those would like to participate in amateur radio but did not have the financial means to do so. They developed their lend/lease approach. When someone gives or leaves their equipment to the club, they have a committee that considers who might be a candidate for the lend/lease program. After making sure the equipment is fully operational, a team converges on the recipient's home to set up dipole and J-pole antennas, and an antenna tuner along with a rig that matches their license privileges. They call this their "Hams Helping Hams Team."

The final new project was to identify hams in their club who were housebound. It was discovered they have a feeling of loss of contact. They cooperated with their local ARES to set up a program where hams who cannot volunteer at shelters or other official sites could work from their homes and be just as

valuable as those who could deploy. These hams were given an official membership card for ARES and play just as important a part as those who are able to attend meetings.

During these growing and successful projects they quickly discovered that club members have to be friendly to all who attend and give people a sense of sharing. He said, "We as hams need to teach the young and the old alike, giving them a sense of belonging and friendship. For many hams this is their only way of reaching out and touching someone."

Their newest cosponsored program is called Neighborhood HamWatch. This is a program where they attend Neighborhood Watch meetings to offer information regarding the help available from local hams in times of disaster.

For those who might be interested in following up on John's leadership in his Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Club, he can be reached via email at: k4tug@usa.net. His full story appears on the ARRL website under News & Features.

Ticks Love Ham(s) And What You Can Do About It

**By Michael F. Rein, MD,
KA4JJD**

We Virginia hams share our state and sometimes our blood with 15 species of ticks. Fortunately only three of these commonly bite humans, but all three can spread diseases, and, indeed, the reported rates of several tick-borne diseases in Virginia have increased rather

dramatically over the last 5 years. We are expecting a greater number of ticks this year and probably next year as well. Ticks are second only to mosquitoes as vectors of human disease. They should not be confused with chiggers, which are larval mites, and although chiggers are annoying, they do not spread disease. The three ticks about which we are concerned are the Lone Star, the black leg, and the American dog (figure 1).

The lone star tick is the most common, but only the female sports the white dot. This tick can spread ehrlichiosis and perhaps some Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF). Some recent data suggest that people bitten by this tick subsequently develop allergy to beef and pork. RMSF is most commonly spread by the dog tick, but only the adult female bites us. The black leg tick, also known as the deer tick, is the only tick that spreads Lyme disease. All stages have black legs.

The best way to avoid these summertime illnesses is to stay out of tick-infested areas. This is hard to do, because ticks are relatively common in suburban as well as rural areas. Areas with tall grass (think Marshall Manor) are especially problematic, although ticks do not live atop tall grass waiting to leap on unwary passers-by. They actually live in the leaf litter right on the ground. Their first point of attack is the foot, and thereafter they climb to a place where they can reach human skin. One should tuck pants into socks or boots and keep shirts buttoned, so the ticks will have further to crawl. Spraying

clothes with permethrin further deters the ticks. The permethrin actually lasts through several launderings and does not smell so bad that it also deters human company. One should apply a repellent containing DEET to exposed skin, avoiding the eyes. Ticks have no objection to light-colored clothing, but it does make them easier to spot. Clothing should be removed and examined promptly after returning from the field (you can wait until you get home), and clothing should be laundered.

The key preventive measure is the post-exposure tick check. The entire body should be checked, and this is obviously easier (and perhaps more fun) if one is doing it with someone else. Remember to check the scalp. The groin is a favorite point of attachment for ticks.

Embedded ticks must be carefully removed without crushing them. Tweezers actually work well (figure 2). Gentle pulling allows one to remove the head along with the body of the tick. Numerous gadgets for tick removal have not been shown superior to tweezers. Do not put Vaseline on the tick. Do not put ether or lighter fluid on the tick. Do not touch the tick with a lighted cigarette or with the business end of a transmitting antenna. Definitely do not put ether or lighter fluid on a tick and then touch it with a cigarette. You should not be smoking anyway.

Important point1: the appropriate tick must be attached for 4 to 5 hours in order to transmit RMSF or ehrlichiosis. Animal experiments and human

experience suggest that the black leg tick must be attached for 36 hours in order to transmit Lyme. Thus prompt attention and removal of ticks provides excellent protection.

If a tick has been attached for an unknown period of time, or if there is already a red area around the tick bite, one should mark the area with a ballpoint pen and continue to follow the progress of the site for several days. Some initial redness or itching that resolves is most likely of no consequence. Many people with tick-borne illness do not remember a tick bite, and, of course, after doing its dastardly deed, the tick drops off.

Available space will permit a discussion of only the early manifestations of these illnesses. Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne illness encountered in Virginia. In about 85% of cases, one will initially see a red rash expanding around the tick bite and typically clearing in the center (figure 3). This rash is called erythema migrans (EM) and strongly suggests Lyme. If untreated, the patient may develop multiple EM lesions. RMSF begins with a fever and headache. Some days later a rash consisting of red spots may occur near the hands and feet and spread inward. Later, some blood oozes into these spots. Ehrlichiosis, often referred to as Rocky Mountain spotless fever, usually presents only with fever, but sometimes it includes a rash that can have multiple appearances.

Early on, these conditions may be difficult to diagnose. The usual approach, therefore, is to treat summertime fevers as if

they might be one of these 3 diseases. Fortunately, the treatment of adults at early stages is the same for all: doxycycline taken twice daily for approximately 2 weeks. Doxycycline is not a completely benign drug, however. It is a photosensitizer, meaning that people being treated with it are particularly prone to sunburn and should take appropriate precautions. Doxycycline should be taken with food, otherwise it can inflame the esophagus. It should not be taken with antacids containing calcium or magnesium (e.g. Tums, Maalox) but it may be taken in the presence of the pills that control stomach acid.

Important point 2: people developing a fever and possibly a rash in the summertime in Virginia should consult a physician. Early, presumptive treatment with doxycycline may be indicated and is highly effective.

Babesiosis is rarely seen in Virginia and also presents with fever. It is diagnosed on the basis of a blood smear showing the organism inside red blood cells. It can be confused with malaria.

Although tularemia is traditionally acquired through butchering rabbits, it can also be spread by ticks. Tender swollen glands in the groin may indicate the most common form of tick-borne tularemia. Both of these rarer diseases are effectively treated once the diagnosis is made.

Tick-borne illness is not a good excuse for skipping a public service event or Field Day.

AARC September 11 Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting

Call to order – President Jim (K4JEC) called the board meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

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

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked for approval of the board meeting minutes from the July Board Meeting that appeared in the August Issue of *The Beacon*. We did not have a board meeting in August. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Don (N4UVA) filed this report for July and August:

	Current Months	Previous Month
Bal	\$6,482.09	\$6,846.70
Debits	237.92	410.99
Credits	342.49	64.31
Balance	\$6,377.52	\$6,500.02

Debits included a \$200 donation to EVFC and the picnic supplies.

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

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY)— Requested approval of up to \$300 for the antennas, cable and connectors necessary to complete the linking project. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV)— Absent

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) – Nothing for the board.

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

Estate Committee – Dayton (AA4DH) – Absent.

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC) – Nothing for the board.

New Business – None

Old Business – None

Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

General Membership Meeting

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

He acknowledged that today is Patriot Day and is used to remember those nearly 3,000 people who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. The attacks were made in New York, Washington DC and Shanksville, PA He asked that the membership stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance with him.

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 July & August meetings as published in *The Beacon* be approved. Remind everyone to sign-in. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

	Current Months	Previous Month
Bal	\$6,482.09	\$6,846.70
Debits	237.92	410.99
Credits	342.49	64.31
Balance	\$6,377.52	\$6,500.02

Debits included a \$200 donation to EVFC and the picnic supplies.

Vice President's Report – Carter (WD4AYS) – Asked for ideas for future programs from members. (Continued on next page)

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY) – Stated that it would probably be October before work could be done on linking the repeaters. Advised that the board had approved up to \$300 for the remaining pieces needed to complete the linking such as antennas, cable and coupling.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJD) Listed the items for the raffle and encouraged members to buy their tickets.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV) – Bill asked in his absence, that the president announce that he has arranged to offer a General License Course from 7 pm till 9 pm starting on September 24 and to run through November 5 in seven sessions. The course will be offered in the facilities of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad through the courtesy of Dayton Haugh AA4DH who is the captain of the squad.

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) advised that he had a number of suggestions for a club bumper sticker and one that his son Matt had designed.

Public Service Committee – Dave (K4DND) Acknowledged the members who participated in the last public service event and solicited participation for the September 29th event at Wintergreen.

Estate Committee – Dayton (AA4DH) Absent.

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC) – He advised that he had presented our AARC Story to the Albemarle Rotary Club last month at the Boar's Head Inn and it was well received with lots of questions. He asked for members who had connections with different civic organizations to spread the word to any organizations where you might have an opportunity to seek such a presentation. As some of you know Marge Thomas has retired as the 911 Center's Emergency Management Coordinator and Kirby Felts has taken her position. Kirby will be our guest speaker next month to talk about her role at the 911 Center.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Program – Dennis K4THE discussed NVIS -- Near Vertical Incidence Skywave a radio-wave propagation method that provides usable signals within the skip zone and has advantages for emergency communications.

Adjournment – The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Classified Listings

NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of 9/25/2012

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For Sale: Ten-Tec Argonaut-V Model 516 HF transceiver package. posted 9/25/2012

\$600 + shipping & insurance. Serial # 03C10433, produced 2006, firmware Ver 1.07. It has factory TCXO and 60m modification with KE-650A cooling fan. Includes original

factory manual with addenda, LDG Z11 automatic antenna tuner (with manual) with custom coax & power cable, Ten-Tec hand mike 701 and desk mike 706, auxiliary cable for digital work, power cable w/ powerpoles. Excellent condition from smoke-free home; never mobile. See my Argo photos at <http://www.qrz.com/db/k4the> For details, reviews & test reports, see <http://www.tentecwiki.org/doku.php?id=516> The ARRL review links therein is broken, so after you login: scroll down to TenTec here

<http://www.arrl.org/reviews-listed-by-manufacturer>
eHam Reviews
<http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/2353>
and also see
<http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/1115>
and
<http://www.ldgelectronics.com/c/252/products/7/30/1>
Contact:
Dennis Mennerich K4THE 434-973-5407 k4the (at) arrl.net

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(Continued on next page)

Hello all. I have 4 items for sale:
posted 8/11/12

1. Cushcraft 13B2 2 meter 13 element beam, 15 feet long, never been used but is assembled. Sells new for \$250, my price \$200.00 firm.
2. Drake WV-4 Wattmeter: 20-200 MHz, measures Forward-1000, 100, and Reverse- 1000, 100. Very good condition, has dent in top but fully functional. N connectors. \$75.00 firm.
3. Bird 43 wattmeter: no elements, has N connectors but I can change to UHF if you need them instead. \$180.00 firm.
4. Coaxial Dynamics Element: # 82055, 100-250 MHz, 2500 watts, fits both Coaxial Dynamics and Bird 43 wattmeters. Only used twice. Bought new at \$129.00, sell for \$90.00 firm.

Thanks,
David Tanks AD4TJ
Verona, Virginia (near Staunton)
Email is: ad4tj@yahoo.com,
my cell is 540-255-1567.

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WA4IUN estate sale - posted
6/17/2012, updated 9/24/2012
Heathkit SB200 (less tubes).
Pick up in Charlottesville.
Contact K4CGY

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The Western Albemarle Rescue Squad was on duty during the Boys & Girls Club Bike Tour. (Most photos by Jim K4BAV)



Corner volunteers cheer on the Boys & Girls Club bike riders on as they pass by during the club event September 16.



Club secretary, Pat Crosby K4PMC, found a spot to rest while staffing the start/finish area during the Boys & Girls Club bike tour. The young one said, "How is that!"



Dennis K4THE wowed the club with his NVIS research.