



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
Our 50th Year

January _____ 2013



Our special guests at the Annual Awards Dinner on December 11 included Col. Steve Sellers – KD4ZPF, our Albemarle County Chief of Police and Tom Hanson, director of the 911 Emergency Communications Center. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)

Club Annual Meeting Set for January 8

The Annual Meeting of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club will be held at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville, VA on January 8, 2013 at 7:30 pm. Annual Reports will be presented by the Officers and Directors and the Nominating Committee for 2013.

The club will elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, as well as three directors. Those elected will be installed immediately upon their election to lead the club during its 50th Year. This is an important meeting and one you won't want to miss.

This is also a reminder that dues for 2013 are due by the end of this month. They remain the same as in the past few years. Full Membership is \$20; Family Membership is \$25 which

includes those who hold a valid license residing in the same household. Members 21 years of age and under are free but must file a new application to renew to update information and re-qualify. The Annual Meeting is an ideal place to renew your membership. Applications can be found and downloaded from our club website, as well as, membership can be renewed online through Pay Pal. A link to our club website is: www.albemarleradio.org

Frostfest 2013 set

The Frostfest 2013 is approaching! It will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at the Richmond Raceway Complex, from 8:30AM until 3:30PM. They are looking forward to a great hamfest with manu-facturers' representatives, new radio dealers, accessory dealers, and many, many tables filled with amateur radio equipment of all descriptions. There will be VE Testing, forums and meetings, and much, much more.

They are offering something new this year: A special Early Bird Drawing for \$250 in Frostfest Buck\$, just for Early Bird ticket holders! They will also have the Grand Prize of \$1000 in Frostfest Buck\$. Also, Early Bird ticket holders will be able to enter at 7:30AM, one full hour before General Admission starts!

All the details can be found at <http://www.frostfest.com>. Tickets and tables can be purchased online as well. Frostfest is sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society.

Our club has always had a two-table set up in the past with the exception of last year when only one table was reserved. From the load placed on the single table, it is evident that we really need two tables. What are your thoughts?

President's Remarks

By Jim Crosby K4JEC

To wind things up for my second term as your president, I would like to thank you for the honor of the role you have given me as your vice president and president for the past four years.

Two years ago, I stated that I couldn't be successful without a lot of help. Well, I am here to tell you that a lot of help is what I got. Each and everyone of you stepped up to provide your talents and knowledge to further the goals of this club – to make

it one of the outstanding clubs among the over 2,000 identified within the United States.

You hear stories about clubs you have visited or read about across this country and they range from those who exist in name only to ones who are sitting the pace for the future of Amateur Radio. I have visited clubs where friendship existed only in name; where I attended a meeting and absolutely no one spoke directly to me. On the other hand, I have visited clubs that made me feel like a long lost friend – who were warm and welcoming. I am proud to say that our club is one of those where no stranger ever arrives at our door who is not welcomed and greeted as a member of our friendly ham radio family. That is one of the biggest reasons our club has grown and thrived in recent years. I challenge you to never forget that and always be there to welcome new hams and new members into our amateur radio family.

I am pleased to report that over the past four years, we have gained our status as a tax exempt organization under the rules of the IRS as a 501, (C) (3). – the most desirable tax status available to any organization in America.

We have addressed changes in our Bylaws that have smoothed our operation of the club and brought them in full compliance with the Code of Virginia.

We have set records in our public service activities by serving a record number of events and gaining the full enthusiasm of those whom we have served. Thanks go to Dave Damon and his loyal cadre of public service committed members.

We have been recognized by the Dayton Hamvention Awards Committee as the club of the year for 2011. For this we have to thank all the members who make our club what it is and the past leadership that shaped the outstanding club it has become.

We moved our club finances into a new bank that now offers us interest on our checking account balance, as well as, a completely fee free account. What a deal that is in today's world of banking. Thanks go to our Treasurer Don Eason who presided over this move.

And that brings up the fact that our bank account has grown to an all time high balance due to the support of the membership and a tightwad treasurer who treats the clubs funds as if they were his own.

We moved our liability insurance to a group policy sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and cut the cost to the club in half for twice the liability limit of \$2 million per incident.

You, the members of this club, have accomplished so many outstanding activities and achievements that I am bursting with pride just to be a member among you. There is no stronger proof of your commitment to this club and its purposes than the number of awards presented at our Annual Awards Dinner during our 49th Year as a club. Congratulations to all. I applaud your support.

Here is a thought to ponder for 2013:”

Inspiration is the seed of new ideas.

Motivation is the fuel for progress

Enthusiasm is the prelude to success.

Effective performance is a balancing of all three.

While this came out of my head, I am not sure it is original but I have no idea to whom to attribute it so I am accepting it as my own to share.

My parting thought to leave with you is this: I am proud to have served you as a vice president and president over the past four years. It is time now to recognize a new leader among you to take the reins and move the club onward and upward from here.

The January meeting is our annual meeting where we will elect a new set of officers and three new directors. The only question now is who among you will step up and accept a nomination for one of those offices?

Please remember I am only leaving the office of president and I am not going any where. I will always be available to serve this club in any capacity the club so desires in the future as long as I have my health and vitality. May God Bless you, one and all!

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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Annual Awards Dinner 2012

The Annual Awards Dinner during our 49th year as a club was a great success. The food was described as the best yet and the attendance was excellent.



Carter Elliott and Don Eason, Jr. staffed the check-in table at the Annual Awards Dinner. Vice President Carter WD4AYS was in charge of the dinner and Don N4UVA collected the cash. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)

Among the many awards presented for “Outstanding Achievement,” participation in the 2012 Public Service Activities and participation in the weekly Northern

Piedmont Emergency Nets there were two special awards:

The “Ham-of-the-Year” award for 2012 was presented to Don Eason, Jr N4UVA for long standing service to the club as its treasurer. This club officer has the continuing responsibility for the club’s funds and requires a lot of behind the scenes work that goes unnoticed. Don is an active ham who has a ham shack here in our community as well as one down at the river where in has a waterfront second home on the Chesapeake Bay.

The Hein Hvatum – N4FWA Public Service Award is conferred upon a member who has performed a meritorious service on behalf of the Club and Amateur Radio as a member who has served diligently during many public service missions living up to the high standards of Hein Hvatum – N4FWA who served the club for many years as coordinator of its public service program. This member is to be held in high esteem for this unselfish act of service to our club and its membership.

This award was presented to Greg Faust – N4PGS (absent) by Dave Damon K4DND, director of the club’s public service program. Greg has served the club in many elected roles such as a president and most recently vice president He has been one of the club’s most faithful members of the group that supports our public service program. Greg is a state certified Emergency Medical Technician and a member of the Western Albemarle Rescue Squad. His special training and talents have always been made available to our public service activities.



Jim –K4JEC, Dayton –AA4DH and Don – N4UVA get ready for dinner. (Photo by Jim Owen K4CGY).



Dave – K4DND and Marty – W4MBW visit during the dinner. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)



Harry-W3HD shows off his certificate with Bob-K4DU and Teri- KT4UO. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV).



Jim-K4CGY and Mary were caught just before sitting down to dinner. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV).



AJ-KE4AJM and Chuck-KS4NW visit while getting ready for dinner. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)



Dennis-K4THE and Joe-W2PVY wait for the call to dinner. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)



Michael-KA4JJD leads the charge to promote ticket sales for our raffle items during the dinner. The raffle was won by Elmer-KF4UCI which included a dual-band beam and attenuator ready for Fox Hunting. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)



A family affair with Matt, Becky and Jim-K4BAV caught together at the dinner. Matt and Jim are our two very famous people visiting at our annual dinner. They played a significant role in the production of the film "Lincoln" which is playing in local theatres. They were featured in a very large spread news story appearing in The Daily Progress on the Sunday before Christmas. If you haven't seen it, check it out!



Jim - K4CGY has earned an award from the ARRL as shown below.



John-KX4P, Stan-K2SSB and Mark-AK4OL visit during the dinner. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)



Jim won First Place in the Virginia Section 10 meter contest as a single operator. We always knew he was good but now we know he is tenacious as well.

Classified Item Listing

To place an item in the Classified Listings just send an email to k4rka@juno.com

FOR SALE posted 12/6/2012
Here is an extended list of the things that I am trying to sell.
2 ea 4CX250B's, with sockets and chimneys \$50.00
2 ea 4-400A's \$150.00
Collins 51J4 receiver with manual, \$350.00
HP 5326B counter, timer, DVM with manual \$125.00
Bencher iambic key, BY-2 chrome base and components \$50.00
Vibroplex standard, 110 \$60.00
Astatic D-104 with UGB stand \$25.00
B&w Antenna switch 110vac \$25.00
Bird Termaline Wattmeter mod. 611, 30 to 1000 mhz dual range 15W and 60W. \$60.00
MFJ Delux Electronic Keyer II, model MFJ-408 \$10.00

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NWR Stations serve a secondary purpose

By Ron Richey – K4RKA

Have you just put up a new antenna, gotten a new transceiver, want to test your fox hunt beam, need a steady signal source of varying power and direction to tune up your new preamp? Well, the National Weather Service is happy to oblige with 11 transmitters in Virginia all of which can be heard at various times and locations in our immediate area. The chart below lists the frequencies and locations. Most of the stations run 1000 watts and you can even pick up some possibly valuable weather information while turning your beam. They have even conveniently located stations on the same frequency at approximately right angles from each other in the Charlottesville area except for two on 162.450 and you'll never be able to block out Coveseville anyhow, so just give up on Roanoke. With an omni directional antenna, I can hear two different stations on two of the frequencies which would be good test frequencies for a beam. Most days early in the morning I can hear at least some signal on the six frequencies as could Jim in Crozet. By evening, I'm lucky to be able to hear 3 or 4. I can usually hear enough to understand more than half of the stations, so if I ever get my beam up, I will be able to convince myself that it is either doing some good or that a good omni antenna is just as good. Maybe you can make use of these "beacon" stations in your operation. The exercise, if you chose to do it, is to identify a station on 162.500 and tell me where it is.

I hope it is NEEDLESS TO SAY that if your transceiver will also transmit on these frequencies, DON'T DO IT!!

73, Ron

NWR Station Listing for Virginia

Click on a column heading to sort.

Site Name	Transmitter Name	Call Sign	Frequency	Power	WFO
Manassas	Independent Hill	KHB36	162.550	1000	Sterling, VA
Norfolk	Driver	KHB37	162.550	1000	Wakefield, VA
South Boston	South Boston	KJY86	162.525	1000	Blacksburg, VA
Accomack	Onley (AG)	KJY99	162.525	1000	Wakefield, VA
Coveseville	Mt. Oliver	KZZ28	162.450	1000	Sterling, VA
Richmond	Sandston	WXK65	162.475	1000	Wakefield, VA
Roanoke	Poor Mtn.	WXL60	162.475	1000	Blacksburg, VA
Lynchburg	Madison Heights	WXL92	162.550	1000	Blacksburg, VA
Heathsville	Heathsville	WXM57	162.400	1000	Wakefield, VA
Sand Mtn	Wythe County	WZ2500	162.450	300	Blacksburg, VA
Fredericksburg	Fredericksburg	WZ2527	162.425	300	Sterling, VA

Number of Stations in Virginia = 11