



The Beacon

A monthly newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club serving Central Virginia
Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

February _____ 2013



The election at the Annual Meeting in January produced a new slate of leadership for 2013. Following the election, Jim Crosby – K4JEC, the out-going president passed the gavel to Bob Pattison – K4DU our new president for 2013. Names, duties and contact information appear on Page 6.

Club Meeting Set for Tuesday, February 12

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club will meet in the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville, VA on February 12 at 7:30 pm.

The program will feature a presentation by Bill Pond – N0WP on D-Star. The board will meet at 7 pm.

2013 Frostfest

By Bob Pattison, K4DU

Saturday February 2nd is the Richmond (RATS) Frostfest. The event is now held at the Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 East Laburnum Avenue. The doors open at 7:30 for “Early Birds” (Defined as those who purchased their tickets in advance) and at 8:30 for the General admission folks. Parking is just outside the hall and there is usually a talk-in on the 146.88 repeater.

If you have never been to a hamfest this is a good one to attend. It is a medium size event and a good chance to meet and greet people you may have spoken to on the air. It is also a great opportunity to pick up that new piece of equipment that somehow did not make it under the tree or get a real deal on an item in the flea market. You may even win a door prize. (One

year I did win a dual band VHF/UHF transceiver at this show!) I am going with a list of items I am looking to get for some spring antenna projects. (Don't you dare ask me what a “spring antenna” is?)

The club has table c-0130 and c-0131. The easiest way to describe our location is after placing your ticket stub in the prize drum, make a “left face” and walk to the end of the aisle. Ours are the last two tables on the inside of the aisle.

You can bring items to the Frostfest to sell at the AARC table. The rules are as follows:

The club gets a 10% commission on up to \$200 on the sale price of items sold.

1. Club members who work 2 hours at the table will have the commission waived.
2. If you leave the Frostfest prior to the close of the show you must take your sale items with you.

3. Neither I, nor the AARC will be responsible for bringing unsold items back from the show.
4. Unsold items not belonging to the club or myself will be discarded.

I do not plan to spend my entire day at the AARC booth, so we will need people to come and help out. If you would like to schedule a shift in advance send me an email rep4@aol.com or call me at 434-960-3344. Also I plan to monitor 146.46 simplex while at the booth so if you need directions once inside you can contact me on that frequency.

I enjoy hamfests, I bet you will too.

President's Remarks

By Bob Pattison – K4DU

The year 2013 is upon us! It is time to reflect, take measure and set goals for the New Year. I recommend this on both a personal and organizational level. A wise man once said "If you don't know where you are going that's exactly where you will end up!" As human beings we have an amazing capacity to accomplish and achieve, but it all starts by deciding what is worthy of the most valuable asset we have, our time.

Are there changes you want to make to your station? Are there bands or modes that you want to explore or master? Have you tried the digital modes? Are there awards you want to win – 5 Band WAS, DXCC, VUCC, WAC, and WAZ or US-CA 500? Would you like to get into contesting? How are the antennas at your location? Do you want to make some changes there or the rats' nest of cables behind the operating table, do you want to clean that up?

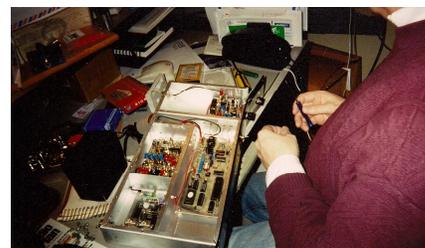
Have you been to a hamfest? There are plenty of opportunities within a days drive throughout the year? Have you been to the Dayton Hamvention? Talk about sensory overload!

Do you want to upgrade from Technician to General or from General to Extra? How about becoming a Volunteer Examiner? Would you like to get involved with public service events, traffic handling or help with work to be done at our repeater sites? Would you like to try kit building or fox hunting?

If I know anything after 50 years as an amateur radio operator, I know that this hobby is rich with a lifetime of opportunities to learn and try new things. I also know that there are many members in this club ready to help you along the way.

So I encourage you to take a look around. Create a potential "to do" or "goal list" for ham radio for 2013. Make it a combination of personal and club related activities. Then reach out to your fellow members of the club for guidance or to volunteer to help out in the area that interests you most. If you don't know who to ask, ask one of the club officers or members of the board. Don't be shy; don't hesitate because you don't have the knowledge needed. None of us was born with the knowledge that we have, and none of us is finished learning. We learn by study, we learn by doing and we learn by making mistakes.

Dive in, the water is fine!
73 de K4DU



Here is a photo of the 224.76 repeater sent to us by Bob – K4DU. Bob said, "I thought the gang might appreciate a photo that shows the guts of a repeater. This picture was taken in the 1990's. Please note the damage to the front panel. 146.76 and 224.76 and our packet nodes CHO and MACHO used to be located on Carters Mountain in a building near the fire tower that was owned by the Service Authority. We had a nasty storm one February that ended with freezing rain and caused an old tree to fall on the building essentially destroying it. The 220 machine was the only piece of our equipment that was damaged. Can you name the mystery technician "working" on the unit?"

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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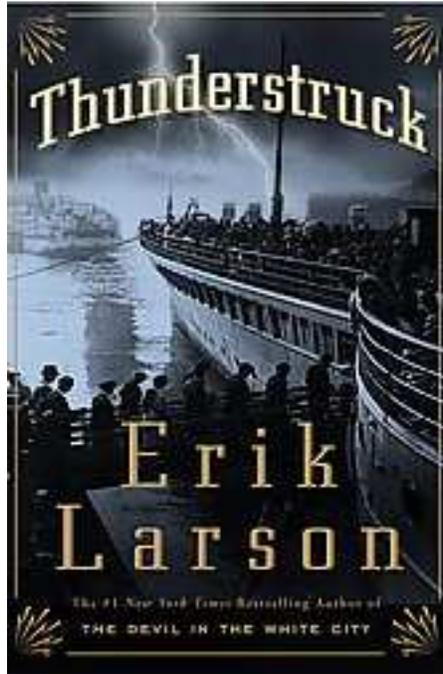
ARRL VEC Program Statistics

The ARRL VEC program is by far the largest of the 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) groups in the country. The VEC program at ARRL has coordinated approximately 70 percent of all Amateur Radio exams. The number of radio amateurs in the US reached an all-time high of almost 710,000. VEC exam sessions in 2012 were up by 8 percent.

The number of Technicians, Generals and Amateur Extras peaked in December at 345,369, 163,370 and 130,736, respectively. By December 31, 2012, the number of licensees reached an all-time high of 709,575; year-end totals were 702,056 for 2011 and 696,041 for 2010. The number of licensees increased at an average rate of 21 per day, while the number of US licensees has increased by 7 percent since 2008!" More than 3000 new licenses were issued in 2012 than in 2011, while upgraded license activity remained steady in 2012.

According to the ARRL a total of 6831 exam sessions were administered in 2012, compared to 6352 in 2011. Exam elements were slightly up from 41,096 last year, to 42,473 this year. The total number of accredited ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) has reached an all-time high of 36,682. The ARRL VEC has been busy meeting the needs of the Amateur Radio

community by helping people become radio amateurs or upgrade their existing licenses.



Thunderstruck, by Erik Larson.

A book Review

By Dayton Haugh – AA4DH

A friend who knows I am a 'ham radio' person gave me *Thunderstruck* as a gift. It was my second book by Larson. I had recently finished *The Devil in the White City*, a story about the Chicago "World's Fair: Columbian Exposition" of 1893 on the one hand, and a serial killer on the other. The way the author weaved the two unconnected stories into one work of non-fiction was a pleasure to read, and I usually have no interest in anything about Chicago.

I have always admired my grandfather. He died in 1988 at the age of 97. I realized he saw the beginning of widespread telephone and electrical service, the development of radio,

television, automobiles, airplanes, and computers, and saw an American set foot on the moon before he died. What a life - no 24 hour news channels! Election results might take weeks to spread through the country.

The railroads and telegraph started spreading news faster and faster. Imagine the day you could find out the unsinkable *Titanic* had --- well, sunk, the previous night, all through the miracle of wireless communication, because the 'Marconi' men tapped out the distress signal as the ship's band played, both to the very end. (Oh, and do you think that was S-O-S?)

Thunderstruck is a well researched story about the invention of wireless communications, with a little murder thrown in for good measure. Was Marconi really the father of wireless communications? Or, did he steal the idea? Who helped? Which of his "friends" tried to stop him? How on earth did the Germans get involved? What about snake oil salesmen? Vaudeville acts? And - murder?

The book contains a fairly detailed description of the technical difficulties involved in bringing theory into reality. Marconi, himself, was an interesting and complex person, who had quite the personal life outside of wireless. To quote his daughter, Degna: "All he asked of life was the best of everything." And, I haven't even mentioned murder, have I?

Larson meticulously studies the topics of his books. The small, even trivial, details make his books a true pleasure to read.

Not just entertaining, but educational and intriguing as well. Even if you aren't a big history buff, you can't go wrong with these books. You can find *Thunderstruck* on that internet thing, at www.abebooks.com for around \$1.00.

Our club thespian surfaces once again

By Jim Crosby – K4JEC

Jim Wilson – K4BAV and his son Matt worked on the Steven Spielberg film *Lincoln* and their efforts were reported in a full-page spread in a recent Sunday edition of The Daily Progress.

Matt actually appeared in the film while his father got left on the cutting room floor. Jim was given credit for his consulting role on early telegraph operations during the Lincoln presidency.

Classified Item Listing

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

NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of 1/17/2013
WANTED

posted 1/17/2013
2" x 2" x 4" aluminum utility boxes, or something equivalent. I need only one.
73,
Stan k2ssb@arrl.net 434-963-9090

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The Waynesboro Repeater Assn of VA has the following equipment surplus to its needs:

posted 1/15/2013

1. Repeater (147.075/147.675 xtal controlled) consisting of a Kenwood receiver/transmitter (1 watt to amp) with an RC-85 Controller and a GE MASTR power amplifier (50 watts). The controller is arranged for a phone patch connection to the phone line. All equipment operates from 12 VDC. This was used for many years on Bear Den mtn just North of Waynesboro, VA.

2. Sat Az-El dual axis rotor system for satellite tracking.

Brand New never used outdoors. Set up complete with controller, PC computer, monitor and keyboard, and tracking software.

Contact Gordon Batey
WA4FJC,
GPBATEY@wildblue.net

Quote of the week:

“Well-run clubs are delightful, but in my personal experience most ham clubs fall short of that goal. I recall plainly how I attended a meeting of a local ham club where we discussed the method for electing the president for the entire meeting. I never returned to that club. They were caught up in the machinery of the club rather than promoting and emphasizing its purpose,” stated David Gauger, W9CJS, in a recent news article appearing on the ARRL website entitled “**Un-Club.**” It makes for good

reading. Where do you think our club falls in the good club - bad club description?

Quiz for the month:

By Ron Richey – K4RKA

- 1) Can anyone guess what this item is and,
- 2) what it was used for? (n0wp is not eligible for this quiz)



MMSN Celebrates 45 Years of Service

Thursday, January 3, 2013, marked the 45th anniversary of the Maritime Mobile Service Network. Monitoring and checking into this net on 14.300 between noon and 9 PM Eastern Standard Time is a lot of fun and provides positive information on your ability to contact and receive stations scattered across the western hemisphere. Some very exciting traffic has been monitored on this frequency providing some real life drama.

During periods of no emergency traffic, the net control operators take check-ins from

any amateur station that can be heard.



The network has been formally recognized for its work in handling emergency traffic by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the United States Coast Guard and the National Weather Service.

The Maritime Mobile Service Network has grown in hours of operation from a five-hour net operating seven days a week to the nine-hour format today.

Many mariners in the Caribbean Islands, Central and South America and the Gulf of Mexico view the network as a resource for weather information as well as a safety valve and trusted contact point for essential communications.

The Maritime Mobile Service Network has a legacy of service that will continue due to the selfless volunteer Amateur Radio operators donating their time to train and be ready to help each and every day.

“In honor of celebrating our 45th anniversary, the [Maritime Mobile Service Network](#) unveiled a new website design as well as announced our presence on FaceBook. We welcome everyone to visit our new-look

website as well as signing our new "Guest Book" and liking us on FaceBook,” stated Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, Brandon, Mississippi.

An Intercepted Letter on the Origins of CERT

I read your column in the January 2013 issue of *QST* regarding ARES and CERT. I'd like to provide a little historical perspective indicating that an ARES/CERT affiliation existed long before FEMA adopted the concept which, in fact, was created by local government. In the early 1980's the Coronado (California) Police Department, where I served as Police Chief, had a very large and active ARES program and as we were responsible for emergency preparedness in the city our department also had an active citizen emergency preparedness program.

The nearby city of San Diego, through its fire department, developed the CERT concept. Indeed I believe they were the originator of it. My department's Emergency Preparedness coordinator, Sergeant Dick Stolpe, suggested that we "marry" our ARES program into a CERT approach and we did exactly that. Sergeant Stolpe's suggestion was soon copied by multiple other cities in Southern California, which saw the advantages of a citizen's emergency response team having the reliable communications services that only Amateur Radio could provide. - Jerry Boyd, N7WR, former Chief of Police, Coronado, California

Extracts of interest from the ARRL ARES E-Letter

The ARES E-Letter is published on the third Wednesday of each month. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/>.

Our February Program

Bill Pond N0WP, our new technical director, will present the program for the February club meeting featuring D-Star communications. He promises a short background and intro to modulation type vocoder used on D-Star and an overview of where it's used plus possible uses beyond voice communications.

He will talk about registration on the D-Star system and the four key fields necessary to make a successful D-Star call. He will talk about how key fields are used for simplex, local repeater calls, linked repeater calls, etc.

He plans to explain how to link remote repeaters and interrogate their status, a short bit about information available from key online resources and a discussion of DV-Dongles and DV-AP-Dongles.

AARC Annual Meeting, January 8, 2013

Board Meeting

(Cancelled by email notice to board members from the president with no objections)

General Membership Meeting Agenda

Call to Order -- President Jim (K4JEC) called the General Membership Annual Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and invited everyone to introduce themselves. The president declared the meeting had a quorum.

Raffle

Michael outlined the items for tonight's raffle and encouraged the purchase of tickets.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked that the minutes of the November meeting as published in the December Issue of *The Beacon* be approved. I have two new Applicants to be approved here this evening. I would like to present for a vote the applications of:

Christopher C Allen, W9CCA – Membership approved unanimously

8048 Oak Park Rd

Locust Dale, VA 22948-4898

Thomas Loach, KK4NIJ – Membership approved unanimously

1255 Bayberry Ct

Crozet, VA 22932

Patsy circulated a club roster for corrections, additions or deletions. She reported we have 83 members in good standing on the roster at this time with a total of 136. We only have 53 left who we expect to renew over the next couple of weeks.

Treasurer's Report – Don (N4UVA) filed this report for December and circulated his Annual Report Accounting Spreadsheet for 2012.

Current Month

Bal	\$ 7,779.18
Debits	1,478.55
Credits	1,654.33
Balance	\$7,954.96

Vice President's Report – Carter (WD4AYS) – Offered a summary of his annual report as attached in the minutes book.

(continued in next column)

Committee Reports

Public Service Committee – Dave (K4DND) – Absent but filed a written copy of his annual report which was summarized by the president.

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY) – Offered a summary of his annual report as attached.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJD) - Offered a summary of his annual report as attached.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV) – Offered a verbal report of activities during the past year.

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) – Stan (K2SSB) on behalf of Jim offered a summary of his annual report as attached.

Estate Committee – Dayton (AA4DH) -- Absent but filed a written copy of his annual report.

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC) – I offered my annual report during the Annual Awards Banquet and it will be attached to the minutes of this meeting. In summary, he offered, "We have had a very productive and rewarding year as a club due to the diligence of the officers and directors I have had the privilege with whom to serve. I am proud to turn the club over to the new leadership you elect here tonight with a healthy record of accomplishments during this past year and especially a very healthy bank account with which to begin the celebrations of our 50th year Anniversary as a club.

Old Business – Bob K4DU offered a motion that the dues remain the same for 2013 as last year. The motion was seconded by Joe W2PVY and carried unanimously.

New Business – Allen reported that Denny (W3DRY) is a local QSL card checker and is doing a good job. He also discussed the failure of the Logbook of the World which required a fix by ARRL to get it back up to speed. He reported they are working on catching up the backlog.

Annual Election

President Jim called for a report of the Nominating Committee which was presented by Chairman Harry – W2HD

Nominated were:

President = Bob Pattison – K4DU, Vice President = Carter Elliott – WD4AYS, Secretary = Teri Henderson – KT4UO, Treasurer = Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA.

1st Director = Dayton Haugh – AA4DH, 2nd Director = Bill Pond – N0WP, 3rd Director = Joe Flamini – W4BXG.

President Jim called for nominations from the floor three times with no response and declared nominations be closed. He directed the secretary to cast one unanimous ballot for the nominees. This was approved by the membership unanimously.

Installation of new leadership – The newly elected officers and directors were called to the front to be installed and have their picture taken for the record. The newly elected president outlined his plans for the coming year and thanked the membership for their support.

Adjournment – The Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Elected Leadership 2013

Bob Pattison – K4DU	President	rep4@aol.com
Carter Elliott – WD4AYS	Vice President	celliott14@aol.com
Teri Henderson – KT4UO	Secretary	kt4uo@earthlink.net
Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA	Treasurer	deason@comcast.net
Joe Flamini – W4BXG	2-year Director of Public Services	joeflamini@gmail.com
Dayton Haugh – AA4DH	2-year Director of Estate Services	dayton@compuserve.com
Bill Pond – N0WP	2-year Director – Technical	wdpond@mac.com
Bill Phillips – AD6JV	1-year Director – Education	billp1048@earthlink.net
Michael Rein – KA4JJD	1-year Director – Fundraising	mfr6t@virginia.edu
Jim Wilson – K4BAV	1-year Director – Public Relations	jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net

Appointed Leadership 2013

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
Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA	Finance Committee	deason@comcast.net
Kenneth Kang – KJ4KIH	Club Webmaster	ksykang@gmail.com
Jim Owen – K4CGY	Club Stations Trustee	k4cgy@yahoo.com
Ron Richey – K4RKA	Swap Fest Coordinator	k4rka@juno.com
Marty Wangberg – W4MBW	Photo Gallery Editor	marty_wangberg@yahoo.com
Jim Crosby – K4JEC	The Beacon Editor	jecrosby@comcast.net

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