



# The Beacon

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

**Celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

April

2013

## Club Meeting Set for Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 pm

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club will meet in the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville, VA on April 9 at 7:30 pm.

The president has called a board meeting for 7 pm. prior to the 7:30 General Membership Meeting. The program will be presented by Alan K9MBQ.

## Amateur Radio Club of the Year Award

The West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Group in West Palm Beach, Florida was named the 2013 Amateur Radio Club of the Year. The club was selected based on its contribution in mitigating the effects of disaster situations, support of public service events, Amateur Radio education and recruitment, youth programs, years of service and number of members. The selection committee noted the club's work with the South

Florida Science Museum, youth recruitment, ARISS participation in the ARISS program and training classes.

The 2013 Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for May 17-19 at Hara Arena in Trotwood, Ohio, located just outside Dayton.

## President's Remarks

By Bob Pattison – K4DU

### The Wouff-Hong and Other Amateur Lore.

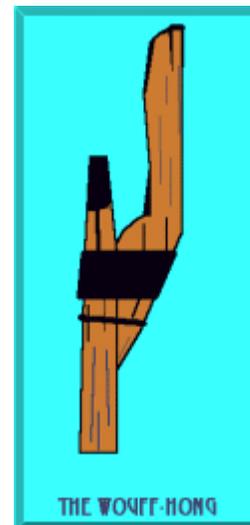
On of the things that I promised to do in this column is to pass along some of the amateur radio lore that I fear may be lost to many of the "new" hams in the group. Since I was first licensed in 1962 this would mean that any ham licensed since 1962 is a "new" ham.

Let me begin by saying that hams in the AARC hold to and honor the high standards set for the hobby by the League and its founders. You are all A-1 Operators in my book. But sadly not all who are licensed hold to these standards. One only has to listen briefly to some HF bands to notice "lid like behavior". These are people who QRM others. They fail to ID, and use

inappropriate language among other offences. This behavior is not new.

Long ago "The Old Man" wrote about "Rotten QRM". In 1917 word began to be heard about the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch. These were two devices of terrifying punishment that rumor has it was used on these perpetrators of liddish behavior and rotten QRM.

Apparently in 1919 Hiram Percy Maxim obtained a well preserved specimen of a Wouff-Hong and forwarded it to the league for safe keeping. You can see it on display at ARRL HQ. Legend has it that on more than one occasion it was brought out at meetings of the board of directors resulting in a visceral reaction by all who were present.



Now I would be less than candid if I did not tell you that there exists to this day a mystic society known as the "Royal Order of the

Wouff-Hong”.

They are rather secretive, but I know that there are at least two members of this shadowy group among our membership. If you are fortunate enough to attend an ARRL National Convention you can be initiated as a member of this group, but beware the ceremony is normally held at midnight. Yours truly was fortunate enough to witness Riley Hollingsworth's induction into this mystic society, but then perhaps I have divulged too much already.

The Wouff-Hong seems to come in and go out of attention in amateur circles as needed. It was prominently part of the Handbook for many years. I have even encountered one or two for sale in the flea market at Dayton (Yes, I really have!). I encourage you to learn more about the Wouff-Hong and other amateur radio lore.

*Source: The Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch: Lost Traditions? By L.B. Cebik, W4RNL*

## Science Fair winners announced



The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club's Science Fair award winners were:

Fred Gortler, Earlysville (Jacket and tie), and Jacob Sheffield, Chester Gap (Orange And white polo shirt) both pictured above.

The club voted to approve up to \$250 for awards to be presented to the winners. Each year the AARC furnishes a number of judges for the over-all Science Fair, as well as, judges to select the radio club's choice of winners from the senior and junior level of competition. In the past the winners were each presented with a \$100 award. This year it was decided to also present them with a book on Amateur Radio.



Alan K9MBQ sent this photo in of his Steppir beam @ 0730 on the Wednesday morning of the big snow storm. He said, "I hope it survives. Elements are fibreglass tubes and have retracted the copper-berrillium elements inside, so if any damage, it will be minimized."

## 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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## Preventing Station Electrical Shock

**By Ralph WD0EJA**

Is there a way to tell if we are headed for trouble before we start?

There is way to indicate the possibility as well as keeping the station safe from electrical shock.

Most of the equipment we use have a grounded chassis. Transceiver, matching tuner, swr meter, linear amp and coax switch as some of them. Also a metal desk, lamp, old typewriter or other items you may have on your desk or station bench needs to be measured.

All this equipment and furniture should have no voltage measuring between them. Use an AC volt meter to measure between each item. If you read a few volts between 2 items you

should neatly ground them to each other to bring the difference to 0.

You are also measuring to the ground side of your AC outlet. All equipment should be at 0 potential to each other and the ground terminal on your electrical outlet.

If you find a measurement that is 120 volts or higher, then you not only have an RFI possibility, but also to get a healthy shock. This needs to be corrected with caution. The equipment in question should be analyzed why its chassis is above ground at line voltage. Use your AC volt meter for this not a grounding wire. If you find this situation and are not comfortable diagnosing it, get help. I can not afford to loose anymore customers.

Keeping the ground side of your equipment at 0 volts to each other and the outlet you are using will reduce the possibility of RFI and electrical shock.

A second reason for RFI is an overload of RF energy from the antenna. This is not real common. However some do operate with the antenna in close proximity to the station, themselves or other devices. Under these circumstances it would be best to try and relocate the antenna farther away or reduce the transmit power.



**The raffle equipment required a big box at the last meeting. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)**



**Remember this from last month's newsletter?**

Ron K4RKA offers the following: The answer to last month's quiz, strictly speaking is "a tape loop" but "repeater controller" was the cute answer I was looking for (but not realistically expecting). I should have asked what it was used for or at least given a hint that it was part of the first Charlottesville repeater system. Anyhow, here is the story.



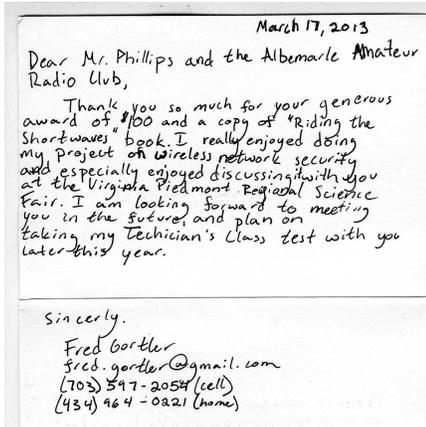
We needed an ON/OFF control for the repeater. I took an 850Hz shift teletype decoder I had built which originally detected tones at 2125 and 2975 Hertz and added the two larger

tantalum capacitors you can see on the left of the top circuit board side to lower the tones to about 1500 & 1800 Hz. which was in the range most of us could whistle.. Each tone would trigger one of the small black relays you see on the right side of the top circuit board. They in turn operated the mechanical latch relay you see mounted by itself. The latch relay contacts were in series with the PTT circuit for the transmitter, allowing it to function or not.

The idea was to start low and go up in frequency to turn the repeater "ON" and start high & go low to turn it "OFF". However we had on guy who just could not whistle, so we took an audio oscillator and adjusted it so one relay would energize, then recorded that tone on a small tape recorder. Then the other tone. Then I cut out enough tape to make a convenient loop that you can see mounted on the tape recorder.

To control the repeater, the operator would start the recorder & get the sequence of beeeep, boooooop in his head, then key his control transmitter at the right time to transmit the correct tone coming from the recorder speaker. This worked quite well and even those of us who could do whistle up whistle down often used the tape loop instead - I know I did and since my wife was "encouraged" to get a ham license so she could be the daytime repeater monitor (you had to have one listening all the time in those days, or record continuously & save the tapes, what a pain - we never even considered it), that was the method she would have used had

it been necessary to turn the repeater off during her tour of duty. So that's my little nostalgia article. Maybe KJ4XZ will write one about the first repeater identifier sometime.. k4rka 30



Bill AD6JV received this card from one of our Science Fair winners.



Jim K4CGY and Mark AK4OL offered some good information for soldering coax connections. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)



Don N4UVA and Teri KT4UO, our Treasurer and Secretary catch up on AARC business. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)



Paul McKee AK4OH shows off the Fox transmitter he has put together for the club. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)

## Albemarle Radio Club Wins Virginia QSO Party!

By Bob Pattison K4DU

"We've never seen participation by a club at a level like this", one official at the Sterling Park Radio club was quoted as saying. "The entire membership turned out and each work at least 100 contacts. Several members of the club earned the coveted Worked All Virginia Counties Award", she continued.

Both PVRC and the Central Virginia Contest Club were rumored to be sending representatives to Charlottesville to recruit new members. The Frankford Radio Club and others were concerned about the impact the AARC might have to their standings in future contests.

Sounds like fun doesn't it? It is a quick way to pick up states if you are working on your Worked All States (WAS) award. It is also a very quick way to work counties if you are going after USA-CA.

The Virginia QSO Party takes place on the third full

weekend in March each year. That means this year it was on the weekend of March 16-17. For details go to: [http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA\\_QSO\\_Party/2013\\_VQP/2013\\_VQP\\_Main.html](http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2013_VQP/2013_VQP_Main.html)

It would be really neat to have a significant AARC presence in this contest. We could and should compete in the Club Competition. Make it so! Lay your plans for next year.

## AARC Minutes of March 12, 2013

### Board meeting

Call to order @ 7:04 pm Bob Pattison, K4DU

Treasurer's Report: Don Eason, n4uva

Beginning Balance 1/31/2013:

\$8,549.92

Checks: -\$18.40

Credits: +\$425.10

Ending Balance 2/28/2013: \$8,956.62

K4DU called for comments or items from the Committees

Technical Committee: Bill Pond, N0WP reported that he made a visit to Bucks Elbow. Antenna is broken at the base. They do have a tri band antenna that can be used there, but will need manpower to do so. At the Heard Mt site machine has a repaired antenna, a temporary fix, it needs to be replaced with a dual band. We need a diplexer and antenna at an estimated cost of \$300. Also, we are experiencing noise on 76, working on the problem.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** -- K4DU distributed a proposed budget for 2013 and asked for comments. He went on to explain several new items on the proposed budget.

The folks at Trump have said it is okay for us to stay, but could we please pay the electric bill. Tim Miller, KG4HOT, has agreed to pay half the electric, since he has a repeater there. It was agreed

that we would like a written agreement with Trump.

Board Meeting Adjourns 7:25

### General Meeting 7:30 PM

Call to Order @7:36 Bob Pattison, K4DU

Introductions

Raffle Item previewed by Michael Rein, KA4JJD

- ~ rare oscilloscope
- ~ fabulous untested power supply
- ~ electronic echo box

Secretary's Report: Teri Henderson, KT4UO

Secretary asked for modifications or approval of the board meeting minutes as printed in the Beacon. Joe Giovanelli, w2pvy moved and Michael Rein, KA4JJD seconded. Minutes approved as amended

Treasurer's Report: Don Eason, n4uva  
Beginning Balance 2/01/2013:  
\$8,549.92

Checks: -\$18.40

Credits: +\$425.10

Ending Balance 2/28/2013: \$8,956.62

Vice Presidents Report

Carter Elliott

- ~ presentation tonight on soldering techniques
- ~ future presentations on antenna construction
- ~ input was solicited for future presentations

Committee Reports

Public Service: Joe Flaminni, W4BXG  
- April 7 Jefferson Cup Road Race event, participation solicited pending response from Ruth, the coordinator

Estate Committee: Dayton Haugh, AA4DH - We have some estate equipment from Don Firer that needs to be cataloged. An informal listing of some of the available equipment was announced. If anyone is interested, they should contact Dayton.

Technical Committee: Bill Pond, N0WP made a visit to Bucks Elbow. The antenna is broken at the base. They do have a tri band antenna that can be used there, but will need manpower to do so. The Heard Mountain machine has a repaired antenna, it is a temporary fix. It needs to be replaced with a dual band and a diplexer at an approximate cost of \$300

Dave Damon, k4dnd moved to authorize up to \$300 for these items. Joe Flaminni, W4BXG seconded. The motion carried

N0WP plans to visit sites to reprogram the controllers to link the 76 and 895 repeaters., and changes were made on 895 to enable weather radio

Education Committee: Bill Phillips, AD6JV  
Science fair is tomorrow 3/13. In recent Science Fairs we have had problems finding candidates whose projects fit the criteria for the AARC awards. Also, we need another judge for tomorrow. It was noted that Michael Rein, KA4JJD may be able to assist.

Fund-raising Committee: Michael Rein, KA4JJD

- ~ Raffle tonight
- ~ Always seeking donations

Public Relations: Jim Wilson, K4BAV  
~ He has contacted Sun Trust bank to use the electric sign to announce field day

Old Business – None

New Business

Discussion and approval of Budget for 2013

- ~ Introduced by Bob k4du, new items explained
- ~ Discussion followed on the details.
- ~ Trying to set up a provisional budget.
- ~ It was suggested it be divided into mandatory expenses and discretionary expenditures

It was moved that the top 5 items on the list be approved as fixed expenses. The balance would be discretionary and need to be approved as they come up

Michael Rein, KA4JJD amended the motion that we accept the budget as an informational item and continue to approve expenditures as they come up. This was seconded by Joe Giovanelli W2PVY. The motion passed.

K4DU the requested a series of motions for items that needed approval. Bill Phillips AD6JV moved that the club approve science fair \$250 for the science fair awards. Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY seconded and the motion passed.

Bill Pond, N0WP moved that the AARC take responsibility for the power bill at Marshall Manor. The motion was seconded by Joe Flaminni, W4BXG and was passed.

Fox Hunt - Paul has put together a fox. The unit was shown to the club. K4DU suggested that it be labeled and a photo graph of the unit be supplied to the local police with an explanation of the activity. Mike Gilmore K8RVR noted that the Saturday gathering has been working to plan the details of the fox hunt. The next gathering is Saturday 3/16/13 at 730am at Panera Bread. Also a DF antenna building workshop is being planned for a later date.

Program – “Soldering Movie and a workshop”: Jim Crosby, K4JEC  
Due to the extended business meeting time was not available for the full presentation planned. Jim Owen assisted with a short session on soldering PL-259 connectors. Time was not available for the planned video. Jim will send a link to the video via email.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56

## Classified Item Listing

To place an item in the Classified Listings just send an email to  
[k4rka@juno.com](mailto:k4rka@juno.com)

NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of 3/21/2013

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WANTED: 6m (only) all mode, Yeasu FT 680R II or similar. contact glanter639@gmail.com

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FOR SALE

posted 3/20/2013  
HP 7035 X-Y plotter.  
I am asking \$25.00 for it.

Thanks Tom W4RAE  
(434) 978 2003  
ctrae@hotmail.com

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ICOM IC-211 For Sale

posted 3/4/2013  
2M all mode (fm, ssb, cw) AC or DC power. IC-RM2 computerized remote controller included. I have seen one on e-bay at \$150, this one is being offered for \$100. Contact Lewis at 979-7077 or wd4pks@embarqmail.com.

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UPDATED 3/21/2013

I have a list of equipment owned by Dan, W4DLJ. As you may know, Dan passed away last month and the family has asked me to dispose of his radio equipment. All prices are negotiable and no reasonable offer will be refused. However, the radio equipment will only be sold to those with a valid amateur radio license.

1. Ten Tec Model 961 20 amp power supply with speaker – \$85.00
2. Ten Tec Omni VII Model 588AT 160-6 Meter Transceiver in excellent condition. Has 300 and 500 hz Collins filters: \$1,800.00
3. Ten Tec 307 external speaker in good condition: \$45.00
4. Ten Tec 708 desk microphone in very good condition. It has 8 pins and works with the Omni VII. \$55.00
5. Ten Tec Eagle Model 599AT 160-6 Meter Transceiver in excellent condition: \$1,200.00
6. Ten Tec Model 941 25 amp switching power supply in excellent condition: \$85.00
7. Cushcraft R-6000 20-6 meter vertical: \$250.00

8. Ten Tec Centurion Model Linear 160-10 Meters. 1 KW out on all bands. Works great. \$1,895.00
9. Kenwood PS-53 DC Power Supply 13.8 V 20.5 A. \$175.00 each. Work just fine.
10. Ameritron ATR-15 1.5 KW Tuner. Works great from 160 to 10 Meters. \$225.00
11. Icom IC-7000 hf/vhf/uhf transceiver. Really a great mobile or home rig. Like an Icom Pro, only smaller: \$950.00

Following items have been sold TS-2000, Kenwood SP-23 speaker and Kenwood PS-53 power supply, MX270 and MX2B Mag mount and ant. You may contact me via e-mail regarding the items. All have their original boxes and manuals. All money goes to the wife of Dan James.

73, Greg W4GRC grcljc@comcast.net or w4grc@yahoo.com

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FOR SALE

posted 3/12/2013

1. Realistic Pro-30 Scanner --- \$30  
Picture available.
2. A Homebrew To-Go portable dipole antenna set up for \$120 including the following;
  - A. Ham sticks (2 for each band) for 6,10,20,40 meters.
  - B. Support poles (3) 48 inches each.
  - C. Cable 34 ft. Mini-8/U type #3060 by JS Wire Co.
  - D. Four footed pole support stand with wooden mounting blocks.
  - E. Four ground support guy wire 18 inch spikes.
  - F. Dipole bracket mounted to support pole.
  - G. Top Hat guy wire ring.
  - H. Mid pole guy wire support ring.
  - I. Rubberized Duffle bag for storage.
3. MFJ SSB 6m --- \$45 Picture available.
4. Alinco DR-MO6 --- \$75 Picture available.

Contact Bill, K4FZE at Redshift219@gmail.com", pictures upon request



The lunch bunch group of hams and friends at the Woodgrill Buffet meets each Wednesday at 11 am.



High level conference between Michael KA4JJD and Harry W2HD took place at the March meeting. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)



Past officers moved to the back row after two years up on the firing line. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)



Joe W2PVY contemplates his raffle tickets. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)

## 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

## Please Note

Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Please consider what you would like to share with your fellow club members. It could be unique knowledge or approach to solving an amateur radio problem. It could be a piece of history you discovered related to the club and/or its members. It could be a photograph of some club activity or individual member activity – all ideas are welcome. In all cases electronic submissions are appreciated because my keyboarding can introduce gross errors. Submit your input and/or ideas to:

[jecrosby@comcast.net](mailto:jecrosby@comcast.net)

434-823-2277