



The Beacon

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

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

November _____ 2013

AARC Meeting will be back at the NRAO on November 12 at 7:30 pm

John Green KX4P will be giving the program. The topic will be "Restoration of some Old Collins Radio Classics." The program includes photos of his restoring a 75A1 receiver and a 32V3 transmitter. These are genuine "boat anchors!" Included in the program are some movie clips made by Matt (formerly KD4COA) and Jim (K4BAV) Wilson of the station operating CW and AM Phone. As an added incentive of interest, you can see the same units being displayed in "K2TQN's Mobile Museum" in the current October QST, page 99. The program should be of interest to old timers, collectors, those interested in restoring old treasures, and everyone interested in our great amateur radio heritage.



President's Remarks

By Bob Pattison – K4DU

What does it take to have a successful radio club? Having been part of the AARC for thirty years and a ham for more than fifty, I think I can speak with some authority as to why we have been successful:

Love of the hobby – Amateur Radio is something very special. It is dynamic and wide-ranging. If you had unlimited resources and unfettered time you could not do it all. In part this is because there is always something new. It is such a wonderland of potential. We love innovation and recognize that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and we have a responsibility to support those innovators who will come after us. We all see our responsibility is to move the community forward to new horizons.

Respect for each other – We honor one another. The achievement of a ham radio license is the entry point the tribe. We are all on an equal footing regardless of age, race, hair color or any other demographic factor one could dredge up. We step forward to help those who need guidance or assistance and we do so in the spirit that acknowledges that we too needed help once and will undoubtedly need some help in the future. We are paying it forward and priming the pump at the same time. Even when we disagree or make an error, our exchanges are polite and sincere. We honor that which unites us. We do not focus on the differences that may exist, they are not important.

A desire to learn – As a technology based hobby we recognize that we must push the envelope by pursuing new developments and new technology. This not only includes keeping our stations up to date but it includes mastering new modes and having at least a working knowledge in as many areas of the hobby as possible. This is not learning because you have to, it is learning because you want to. It is also learning because you may be called to help others understand.

A desire to share – If you really love something, you want to shout it from the rooftops. Your enthusiasm, if seen will draw others to you to know more about the thing that brings you so much joy. And while we are not all born sales people, we are capable of telling others at a basic level what it is about our hobby that brings us joy and keeps us coming back into the shack.

A desire to serve – Radio clubs become known in a community through the public and emergency service work that we perform. Service also comes in the form of being willing to stand for office, run a committee or volunteer to work as a member of one. We have room on committees and want to encourage new generations of leaders. Your assistance is always welcomed.

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club is a welcoming community of radio enthusiasts ready to provide assistance and service to our community, nation and the world. We are a place where new faces and voices are welcomed and new technologies are sought. The only requirement is an earnest desire to lend a shoulder in the work to move amateur radio and our club forward.

We have been successful during the first fifty years avoiding faction and quarrels that tend to tear other clubs apart or significantly limit their growth potential. The AARC has always been intended as the Radio Club for all of Central Virginia, not just Albemarle. May the AARC and amateur radio continue to grow and prosper in Central Virginia!

73 de K4DU

A Few Words about the Pledge

By Bob Pattison, K4DU

At the October Meeting of the AARC a motion was made that we begin each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. After a brief and somewhat uncomfortable discussion the motion passed. In the days following that decision I have had some second thoughts.

Let me begin by saying that this is not a matter of patriotism. I believe that all members of the AARC love their country. Many, if not most of us have served our nation in time of war and in peace. I have several concerns. But first, a little background.

The Pledge was written by a Baptist Minister and Christian Socialist Francis Bellamy in 1922. It has been modified several times and was not recognized officially by the US government until 1942. The words “under God” were added in 1952 during the Eisenhower administration. The pledge was intended to instill love for country and for the principles upon which it was established (values in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights) in the minds of youth. This was at a time when nationalist movements were rising all across the globe. For most of the history of our republic we did not have a pledge of allegiance.

The pledge is used in opening ceremonies in schools, government and some private organizations. The arguments made in our meeting supporting the recitation of the pledge were:

1. Other Radio Clubs start their meetings this way.
2. We are an organization that serves the public

The AARC has been recognized as one of the best radio clubs in the world by the Dayton Hamvention. We have been around for 50 years without using the Pledge of Allegiance to start our meetings. I believe that our recognition came in part because the club and its members exemplify the qualities articulated in Paul Segal’s “The Amateurs Code”. The sixth item in that code says “**The Amateur is Patriotic – His knowledge, and his station are always ready for the service of his country and his community.**”

The problem with oaths and creeds is that a person can repeat them so often that they lose the meaning of the words. If you want an example of this think about how well the officials of our Federal Government are doing on “defending and protecting the constitution”. From where I sit it seems that to some these are just nice words that one says in a ceremony before assuming office. Please believe me that I am not trying to be political. I am simply saying that actions are far more important than words and integrity only exists when there is a match between the two. I would rather that the club be known by its actions than any ceremony that it chooses to do or not to do.

Some people have religious restraints against swearing pledges and oaths. I fear we live in times where people fail to understand the power of words to bind and words to damage. We should take much greater care in our choice of words. If someone failed to say the oath at the beginning of a meeting would he or she be criticized or feel out of place? Also the AARC has members who are citizens of other nations; what do they do or say when the pledge is performed?

We are a radio club, focused on improving our knowledge and skill in the radio art, promoting amateur radio and using our stations and skills for our enjoyment and the benefit of others. My personal feeling is that the pledge of allegiance is as appropriate for the AARC as it is at Aunt Mary’s Bridge Club. But the more important question is what do you think? Perhaps a motion to reconsider the vote at the next meeting would be one approach?

The Pledge of Allegiance Controversy

By Jim Wilson K4BAV

During the October 2013 meeting of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, member John Underwood, K4EBS, made a motion to add the Pledge of Allegiance to the beginning routine of each club meeting. John’s motion stated, “I move we (the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club) open each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.”

While on the surface, John’s motion sounded like a motherhood and apple pie issue, John’s motion ignited a firestorm of controversy! Some members were strongly in favor, some strongly opposed, and many were neutral. At least one member threatened to leave the club if this motion passed. Clearly, this issue needed further examination.

John’s stated his motives and rationale for making his motion, that he belongs to other organizations where meetings are always begun with a Pledge of Allegiance. Thus, he thought it to be only natural that the AARC do the same. (John served for seven years as a U.S. Navy submarine officer and has been a licensed ham since 1955. His web site is www.k4ebs.com.)

A majority attending voted in favor of the motion, but a vocal minority opposed the motion. However, only about 30 members were present at this meeting to vote on this unexpected motion. AARC currently has 157 total

members. So this important motion was passed by only about 20% of our total membership.

Those opposing the motion described the pledge as a political and a religious statement. They expressed a view that the AARC ought to remain a place free from politics and religion. They expressed an opinion favoring their First Amendment freedom of speech rights, which includes the right NOT to be required in public to make a political and religious pledge.

So, what are the practical implications of requiring the Pledge of allegiance to be used at the opening of each meeting?

First, there would be a practical mechanical problem, that the AARC purchase a flag and flag pole and that someone be responsible to bring the flag and its pole to each meeting, then lugging it back home. This could quickly become a burden. And there was no follow up motion to provide money from our treasury for the purchase of a flag and flag pole.

On the pro side, adding this new ritual at the beginning of each club meeting might bring a sense of patriotism and unity to each meeting.

But, continuing the con side, some members viewed this proposal as adding one more government intrusion into our already over regulated lives.

Just what does the pledge say and what was its intended purpose?

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister and Christian Socialist. The Pledge was first published in a children's magazine as part of a national celebration of Columbus Day. Wikipedia states that the pledge was part of a marketing campaign to sell flags to schools and to instill national loyalty in young minds.

The Pledge of Allegiance was adopted by Congress in 1942 to promote nationalism during WWII and has been modified four times since its composition. Currently the Pledge of Allegiance reads: **"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."**

Leading the opposition to John's motion was Dennis K4THE. (Dennis served as an U.S. Army Signal Corps officer during the U.S War in Vietnam.) Dennis viewed the motion as a loss of freedom by AARC members. Dennis stated that he felt the club ought to remain a place free from politics and religion.

To be opposed to a public reciting the Pledge of Allegiance should not make that person suspect as unpatriotic or as Un-American. Some members prefer privacy for their political views.

Since this proposal turned out to be such a sensitive issue, perhaps the entire club membership ought to vote on this significant change in meeting procedures.

What's your opinion? Be bold, be brave; state your opinion and submit it for discussion at the next meeting.

New Amateur Radio Club Forms in Greene County



The Blue Ridge Wireless Radio Amateurs of Greene County held their first official meeting the evening of October 2cd at the Blue Ridge Café, Ruckersville. Left to right in the photograph are John, K4EBS, Secretary; Bill, K4000, Treasurer; Jack, KE4LWT, President; Bill, K4FZE and Sid, WA4MBS, Public Relations Committee; Jeanne, N4ZGI, Vice President; and Bill, NØWP, Trustee. Not pictured is our Interference Committee; Suzette, KD5YBF and Vic, N3DFS. This team will be working closely with Melissa McDaniel, Greene County Emergency Services Manager under the auspices of ARES® Amateur Radio Emergency Service®.

Blue Ridge Wireless is open to all licensed radio amateurs and to all ages interested in becoming "hams." Our club motto is, "Having fun while doing serious business." We have a website www.k4brw.com. For further information, contact Sid Anderson WA4MBS, 434-260-2933 or Bill Sterling, 434-985-1753.

Our personal thanks to Dave Damon K4DND and Bill Pond NØWP for their enthusiastic guidance and support in making our Greene County club a reality.

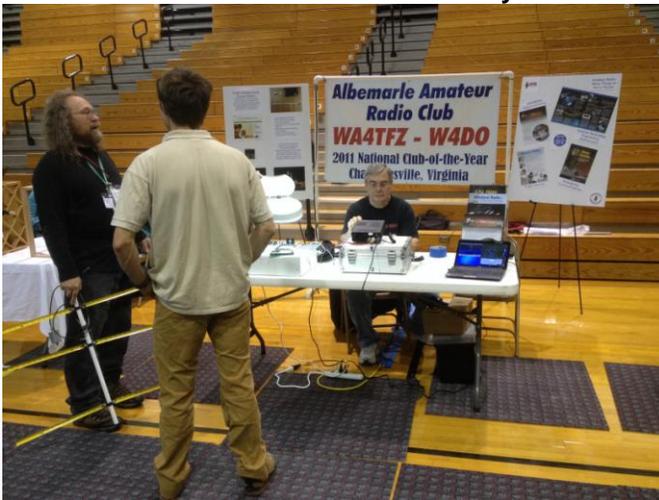
73, Bill Sterling K4000



The AARC participation at the Apple Harvest Camporee of the Boy Scouts was deemed a great success. Bob K4DU said, "Here are some photo's from Apple Harvest. One is of N7DC who has a group of scouts enthralled. Danny has been a regular at these for more than 20 years. I remember working with him when my kids went to Apple Harvest 20 years ago. Look up N7DC on QRZ to learn more.



Bill Phillips AD6JV organized our participation which drew a lot of interest from the Boy Scouts.



A quick report on the AARC presence at the first (hopefully annual) Cville Maker Faire (<http://makerfairecville.com/>). We had a nice-looking booth (see the attached picture) and a great response! We neglected to actually count the number of people we talked to (whoops), but I would estimate that we talked to around a hundred people over the course of the six hours of the Faire. I think the longest that any of us got to sit and take a breath between visitors was a minute or two. We talked with folks of all age groups, both male and female, all sorts of technical levels and variety of interest. Mark AK4OL brought some surface mount microcontroller boards that he designed and built, which created a lot of interest with the Maker crowd. Marty W4MBW brought his homebrew go-kit and got us on the air on 20m, although the building was pretty much a Faraday cage! I talked about the satellite ground station project. We handed out a bunch of literature and encouraged people to study up for their licenses.

Many, many thanks to Mark and Marty for all their efforts to make this event a great outreach success for the club and for ham radio!

73, Mike KQ9P

A Note from the Netherlands

By Chris van Gorp PA7RHM

Hi Jim, another update for next issue : I wrote the new version of the article Webmail and Paclink on The Active Ham website (<http://www.activeham.com/>)

See page

<http://www.activeham.com/pmwiki.php?n=Main.WebMailAndPaclink>

The previous version of this article was written by Lee Inman, K0QED, but new versions of software required an update.

The article is about how a webmail server can be used together with Paclink, a part of the Winlink 2000 system.

Enjoy.

73 Chris

73, Joe W4BXG

Minutes of AARC Board of Directors Meeting – October 15, 2013

Meeting was called to order by K4DU at 1904 hours.

Dr. Michael raised the question, “Do we buy a raffle item for the Awards Banquet?” A discussion followed citing a \$250 limit which was finally reduced to a \$150 limit. Dr. Michael made the motion and it was seconded by Joe W2PVY. The motion carried.

Bill N0WP showed off the spectrum analyzer.

Ron K4RKA reported he had been contacted by Jeffrey Seay N4LFJ, a former member, who asked for assistance in liquidating the state of an SK. He asked for help in this project. He agreed to pick up and inventory the items and Don Eason agreed to store them. Dayton Haugh AA4DH praised the efforts of his committee on Estates of Ron K4RKA, Carter WD4AYS and Jim K4CGY. They were cited as making a great contribution in testing and selling a lot of the SK equipment. Ron stated, “Jim Owen, who had the unenviable task of putting a bunch of Heathkit stuff together and getting rid of it. He did more actual work on equipment than either Carter or I. We just sold stuff !! I think he should be recognized for the amount of effort he put in.

Minutes of August Board Meeting were approved as distributed. There was no Board Meeting in September due to the picnic.

The meeting was adjourned at 1929 hours.

Minutes of the July AARC Meeting – October 15, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 1936 hours by K4DU. Introductions of all those in attendance came next. K4DU asked each person to introduce themselves stating their name, call, year they were first licensed and their primary interest in the hobby.

K4DU acknowledged that the meeting space for this evening's meeting was obtained by Joe W2PVY. The group offered him a round of applause for his efforts.

K4DU thanks all who participated in the Boy Scout Camporee. He announced that John Green KX4P could not make this meeting so the program had to be cancelled. He expressed the hope that John would be able to present the program at another time.

K4DU asked for member input on ideas for future programs. The invitation struck home and he filled two pages of suggested ideas for programs covering almost 45 minutes.

Minutes of August Board Meeting were approved as distributed. There was no Board Meeting in September due to the picnic.

Temporary Secretary Pat K4PMC reported she has eight names to present for a membership vote this evening. They were:

Ken Anderson KD4VPE of Grottos, VA,
Henry Bishop KK4UBB of Charlottesville
Michael McMahon KK4UBE of Keswick
Robert (Bob) Parker KF4BPK and
Grace Parker KF4IRU of Troy, Virginia
Jeff Bogden KK4SHN of Keswick, son of Al Bogden
K44AGT

Christopher Wildman KK4SYQ of Charlottesville
Kathy Jung AJ4R (was K3KMJ when she applied) of
Scottsville

No vote required (returning member): Brian C. O'Rourke
K4UL, online application

Motion was made to handle them as a group. Motion was passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the above listed member candidates was made and passed unanimously.

Treasurer Don Eason reported the following covering the months of August and September:

Beginning Balance	\$8,183.18
Debits	3,313.74
Deposits	2,309.37
Ending Balance	\$7,268.81

Don N4UVA presented a discussion concerning the Awards Banquet in December. The date was confirmed as Tuesday, December 10. He announced that this would be a waiter/waitress served dinner (No Buffet) and it was approved that the per person ticket price be \$25 and that the club would cover guests, taxes and gratuity.

The details were approved on a motion by Dennis K4THE that was seconded by AJ KE4AJM. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by John K4EBS with the statement, "I move we (the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club) open each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States." The motion was seconded by Joe W2PVY and following a short discussion, the motion passed by a majority vote with 30 members present. There were approximately 5 members voting no.

The meeting adjourned at 2104 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy Crosby K4PMC

Temporary Secretary

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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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 9/21/2013

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ESTATE SALE - Pick up, cash only - Items in good condition & work fine. Listed 9/20/2013

Viewstar VS300A (aka B&W) antenna tuner. \$50

MFJ 864 SWR/wattmeter. \$50

Following items in not as good condition. As-Is - Caveat emptor. if you don't like the price asked, make an offer for consideration.

Alinco VHF DJ-C1 "credit card" VHF transceiver with charger pack, but needs wall wart to operate charger pack. Works when plugged in but battery apparently shot. I can demo on air upon request. With manual. \$15

MFJ TNC-2 model 1270. Looks OK, I can't test it. no wall wart, no manual \$10

1997 ARRL Handbook, good condition. \$5

send email to ron at wb4rbw@embarqmail.com Contact Ron, K4RKA, on air or at 973-3640 with questions.

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FOR SALE posted
9/21/2013

Icom micro 2AT transceiver w/tone, box, charger, 2 DEAD battery packs, 12 VDC power module. works well on 12VDC supply. 2 meters only. \$25 contact ron, k4rka at WB4RBW@EMBARQMAIL.COM

Swap Meet listings are always available on the Club Website: www.albemarleadio.org I am helping to dispose of a silent key's estate.

These 3 items were removed from his operating station of W4PNT. All proceeds go to his widow.

One of the items is a real nice Collins 75 A4 receiver. The power supply caps have been replaced in the past and it has been recently aligned. It has the original 3 kc ssb filter and a Dave Curry 2.5 kc filter. Looks and sounds great. Asking \$800 or make offer.

ICOM 756 transceiver with Astron 30 amp meterest power supply. Real clean and sounds and looks very good. Asking \$800 or make offer.

Collins KWS-1 restored by Howard Mills. Asking \$2500 or make offer.

All items are Pick up in central Virginia.

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I have the following items for sale which are located just North of Staunton.

Three sections of Rohn 25 tower. Good condition just painted. \$45 each.

One PAIR of Cushcraft 215WB 2 meter beam antennas with spacing boom and factory phasing harness. Looks great. Antennas are still assembled. Asking \$300 or make offer.

One PAIR of Cushcraft 11 element 2 meter beams (vertical) with spacing boom and factory phasing harness. Weathered but works great. All still assembled. Asking \$200 or make offer.

Contact Gordon Batey at GPBATEY (at) Wildblue dot net for further info.

73 Gordon WA4FJC

Elected Leadership 2013

Bob Pattison – K4DU	President	rep4@aol.com
Carter Elliott – WD4AYS	Vice President	celllott14@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	oeflamini@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

Submit your input and/or ideas for the newsletter to:

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