



The Beacon

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

Celebrating our 51st Year

July _____ 2014

Our next AARC meeting is set for July 8 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will convene at the NRAO and feature a full discussion of DXing.

President's Corner

By Jim Owen – K4CGY



Where is the time going? It seems that just a few weeks ago we were looking forward to the Dayton Hamvention and now it's almost the Fourth of July. In the interim we had a very successful MS-150 tour and I thank all that participated in any way, but especially those that served in planning and executing the plans. I won't try to mention everyone as there will be someone I'll miss but thanks to all.

Now we are gearing up for Field Day next weekend. Of course you're reading this after the fact so bear with me and take this for advice for next year. Things are coming together; we have an excellent promotion by the Public Relations Committee (Jim Wilson K4BAV Chairman) and excellent planning by the field Day Chairman (Larry Eicher K4JZQ and his team members). If all the public service folks who have been invited attend we will have more of them than us! Planning and setting up for FD requires lots and lots of work and while we have quite a few that plan to be there more are always needed. There has been a lack of interest in signing up for both operating slots and supplying equipment and antennas. We have to drag most anyone to the website to sign up. Why are most not signing up? The spread sheets to do this are easy to use and it only takes five minutes or less to

do so. Next year please sign up early so we know we have enough operators. At the minimum we should have five operators at any one time to man the three main stations, the free VHF station and the GOTA station. We also need someone to man the public information booth as well as other duties which mean six to eight people are needed 24 hours every hour to do this properly. Well maybe we could drop the information booth and GOTA station after 8 p.m. Saturday and start up again around 10 a.m. Sunday. Still we don't have the personnel signed up to even keep three stations on the air for the 24 hours. Why? Is there really not enough interest in FD except for the core group of FD operators? Do family duties prevent you from operating? Do you feel you're not proficient or trained to do a contest type operation? Does a medical condition prevent you from coming out to the site? If you're just not interested then maybe we can't help, if not proficient we can have classes and promote smaller contest during the year to get you up to snuff. If family intervenes maybe we can put a bug in their ear or maybe not! If you have health issues we can try to have a doctor on site. You get the idea, let us know why you can't attend or chose not to attend and we will try to help you out for next year.

The operation of Amateur Radio is what it's all about, if you don't get on the air when you can then why go to all the work to get licensed. If you feel you don't have the knowledge to set up a station then let us know and we will get a team together to build your station, get antennas up and in general advise you. In fact if you feel that there is a need for this type of instruction at a future meeting, let us know so we can plan. If looking at the ads in QST and the price of equipment turns you off, we can help in advising on good, much lower cost equipment though it may be used. Used does not mean worn out. I haven't bought a new radio in over 35 years except for VHF/UHF.

Our July meeting is coming up very soon after FD so please put it on your calendar NOW! If not you might, like me, forget about it. Do it now!

Over, under and through – go on!!

VP REPORT

By Joe Giovannelli, W2PVY

Here I am again with another of my random appearances in *The Beacon*.

You will see from the program schedule, there are both changes and an addition. You won't want to miss a single club meeting!!

Programs to be presented as of June 6, 2014:

July: Ed Berkowitz, N3US: Everything about DXING.

August: Marty Wangberg, W4MBW: will talk about amazing "skyhooks," magnetic loop antennas.

October: Mike McPherson, KQ9P, will tell us about something known as Mesh Link.

November: Ron Richey, K4RKA, will give us a fascinating talk about the history of our club. He will be joined by Bob VanFossen, K4DJG.

In the early 1960's, Bob VanFossen, K4DJG, and such luminaries as Dick Florence, formally W4OFR, now K4VY, Gene Bosseix, W4IWW, Carter Feild, formally K4GPK, now W4FZV, and others who are no longer in the area or are no longer, decided that Charlottesville needed an Amateur Radio Club. An organizational meeting and election of officers was held on November 6, 1962. Bob was elected the first President and will be here in November, 2014 to share some other tidbits of information from that period. He presently lives in New Market and is active in the MARA club. He has attended some AARC events in the recent past, including the Cruise-In and Picnic.

We are looking forward to his co-hosting the November Club History program with Ron, K4RKA.

Field Day 2014

Field Day 2014 was a great adventure for about two dozen of AARC members, friends and families. We had a great team show up early Friday morning to set up tents and string wire.

Saturday morning found another group of members ready to finish the set up and prepare for the kick-off at 2 p.m.



What a great setup for our FD operations.



Ms. Kirby Felts, emergency services coordinator from the 911 Center, spent a good amount of time with our FD group.



The box of Cheez-it's keep things rolling along and the troops well salted for the heat of the day. Anita, in the foreground obtained her license at the morning session.



Four of our great operators, K4CGY, K4DND, WR4I, AK4OL caught here working away to rack up club points. We logged over 900 contacts this year. Not a record but a good showing.



Getting wired has a whole new meaning with FD operations. It would be very difficult to count the total number of feet involved in antennas, power cables, audio cables, data cables and video cable.

Buy + Sale + Swap

NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of 6/14/2014 == for older items, go to ALBEMARLERADIO.ORG/SWAPFEST

FOR SALE posted 6/11/2014

Yaesu FT-2900R with 2 year warranty. \$200.00

Yaesu FP-1023A \$140.00

ADMS-2900 \$30.00

NIFTY-FT2900 \$15.00

Will consider Best (serious) offer

Mike Richardson

KJ4MFN

richam60@hotmail.com

FOR Sale: posted 5/22/2014

New never used OCFdipole.com model OCF1 off center fed dipole, covers 80-6 meters, is similar to the Array Solutions antenna, antenna is rated for 3 KW. New price is \$275 but will sell for \$150. Tnx. Ed, N3US

WANTED: posted 5/16/14

Stranded copper antenna wire 12-14G preferred; need app 135 feet for multiband doublet.

Carter, WD4AYS, celliott14@aol.com, 566 8767.

FOR SALE - posted 3/31/2014

Hammarlund SP-600 receiver

- National NC 109 receiver

- Hickok 800A tube tester

- Knight R-100A receiver

- Old QST magazines- free

Carter, WD4AYS, celliott14@aol.com, 434 566-8767

FOR SALE revised 5/3/2014

Sell: New 200 feet solid braided polyester rope, 3/16 diameter 800 pound strength, perfect for wire antennas. \$30. Maco 10 meter Ground Plane antenna. Works quite well on ten meters and also on 17 and 15 meters with a tuner.

Assembles in five minutes. \$65.

Ed, N3US, Earlysville. new club member

email is eberkowitz@sbcglobal.net;

tel 434 975 9001

FOR SALE - AARC benefit updated 5/16/2014

contact Jim Owen, K4CGY at k4cgy@yahoo.com

HP 5326B counter, good to 93Mhz. works ok. \$50

HP 5245L w/5253 50-500 MHz freq converter. prescaller may be bad.

basic unit works ok to 55MHz \$25

KLM 70CM satellite transceiver that works but needs some TLC \$20

Fluke DMM 8600A (doesn't work - make offer. may just be a shorted battery)

FOR SALE - AARC benefit updated 6/14/2014

contact Ron Richey, K4RKA at wb4rbw@embarqmail.com

Clough-Brengle 282A sweep audio generator \$30

Heathkit HD-1416B Code Oscillator \$10

Yaesu FT-227 "Memorizer" 2m FM transceiver \$20

RCA transistorized TVM model WV-500A \$20

FOR SALE posted 9/21/2013

Icom micro 2AT 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

Greetings Hamsters, revised 4/9/14

Last Call

Ten Tec 253 Automatic Antenna Coupler.

All money goes to the wife of Dan James, who is at King Daughters Nursing Home in Staunton.

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

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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Jim Crosby K4JEC – Editor

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The End