



The Beacon

A monthly newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club serving Central Virginia
Celebrating our 51st Year

January _____ 2015

Our January meeting is our Annual Meeting and is set for January 13 at 7 p.m. back at NRAO.

President's Corner

By Jim Owen – K4CGY



The year has come to an end and we have a lot to be thankful for and some disappointments. I will try to give my vision of a few things of which we should try to get the club interested.

The main one is operating events for all members. This should mainly be confined to the HF frequencies as the VHF frequencies are local only and though a great way for the club members to keep in touch misses much of what amateur radio is all about. Everyone can get on HF even the Tech's as it takes only the equipment and a few pieces of wire and a couple of insulators. Ten meters is really hopping and contacts can easily be made all over the world with just a dipole and 100 watts or even less. Ten meters is perfect for Tech's and is a great starter band for contesting or general operating. If anyone is interested in getting on HF but doesn't know where to start ask a club member and we will help and show you how to proceed. There are many contests during the year that are a lot of real fun and will give great operating experience. The ARRL and CQ DX contest are fast moving but lots of fun and will build your DX count fast. In fact you

should be able to earn your DXCC award in one or two contests. The CQ prefix contest is one of my favorite and you can watch your score and country count build fast. The 10 meter contest in December is another of my favorites but you will now have to wait a year. All of you should strive to work at least one HF contest in 2015 -- just do it.

The next thing everyone should strive to do is upgrade your license to the next class. Those of you who are Extra are not off the hook. You should strive to learn a new facet, digital, TV or other things that interest you, plus you should help those upgrading where you can.

Your club is what you make of it so get active and add excitement to the club and amateur radio.

73 Jim.
K4CGY

Club Officers Needed

By Jim Crosby – K4JEC

Our president has asked me to serve as chair of the Nominating Committee along with Jim Wilson, K4BAV and Bob Pattison, K4DU. The committee has been contacting club members over the last few months to determine who might be a candidate for elected office.

The slate as it now stands:

President = Ed Berkowitz – N3US

Vice President = Larry Eicher – K4JZQ

Secretary = Patsy Crosby – K4PMC

Treasurer = Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA

Estate Director = Jim Owen – K4CGY

Technical Director = Bill Pond – N0WP

Public Service Director = Dave Damon (?) (Reports he is 60 percent decided at this time.)

This is the slate as it stands at press time. This is not to say, the club would not welcome additional candidates for any office to leave the final selection elected to the membership at the January Annual Meeting.

A club is only as good as its leadership fully supported by an active and responsive membership. It is my sincere hope that our club can work together to restore its previous levels of membership and activities from just a few years ago when we were named the Club-of-the-Year by the Dayton Hamvention.

AARC PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL AWARDS

By Michael KA4JJD
Chair, AARC Awards Committee

In the midst of high collegiality and conviviality, the AARC Awards were presented at the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club Holiday Dinner on December 9, 2014 at the Blue Ridge Diner.

Committee members, Bob Pattison K4DU, Dave Damon K4DND, and Bill Philips AD6JV were thanked for their service and the awards were presented to thunderous applause.

Michael KA4JJD presented the following OPERATING AWARDS:

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club Central Virginia Repeater Century Award, for making 50 repeater contacts: to Larry K4JZQ.

Worked Lotsa States Award, for HF contacts made with 15 of the 50 United States, made from one's home station or mobile: to Larry K4JZQ.

Big 10 Award, for HF contacts with all 10 United States call areas, made from one's home station or mobile: to Larry K4JZQ.

All American Award, for HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with one station outside Virginia in the United States, one station in Canada, one station in Mexico, one station in Central America, and one station in South America: to Larry K4JZQ.

Worked All Border States Award, for HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with operators in each of the states bordering Canada, Mexico, the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the Gulf of Mexico: ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL MS, LA, TX, NM, AZ, CA, OR, WA, ID, MT, ND, MN: to Larry K4JZQ.

Worked All Suffixes Award, for HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with operators with suffixes beginning with each letter of the alphabet: to Larry K4JZQ.

Worked My Call Award, for HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with an operator with one's own suffix: to Larry K4JZQ.

Paper Chaser Award, for HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with operators of 20 special event stations: to Larry K4JZQ.

Worked Nearby States Award, for HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with operators in states bordering on Virginia: MD, DE, NC, TN, KY, WV: to Larry K4JZQ.

It was noted that Larry K4JZQ had completed a clean sweep of the AARC's current operating awards. The Club hopes that he has enough wall space for all of these documents. The AARC further hopes that other members, particularly new members, will obtain these awards in the future.

Andrew Wiley KK4SHO, Chair of Public Service Activities presented the following AARC PUBLIC SERVICE

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES:

To Michael R. McPherson KQ9P, recognizing exceptional contributions to the efficacy and efficiency of AARC public service events

To Anita M. Webb KM4CWN, recognizing combined contributions, two for the price of one, to AARC public service events

To Mark R. Whitis AK4OL, recognizing combined contributions, two for the price of one, to AARC public service events

The SAG Award, to Elmer F. Scott, Jr. KF4UCI, recognizing exceptional contributions to AARC public service events

The Hein Hvatum N4FWA Outstanding Public Service Award, honors former AARC member Hein Hvatum, a wonderful friend and colleague and a staunch organizer and supporter of public service, recognizing outstanding contributions to AARC public service activities. This special award was presented to Martin B. Wangberg W4MBW, who received a standing ovation.

Mike KA4JJD presented the following SPECIAL SERVICE AWARDS:

Elmering Award, recognizing contributions to the education, nurturing, and motivation of new amateur operators, was presented to Ronald K. Richey K4RKA, who was nominated by Larry K4JZQ

AARC Special Service Award, recognizing exceptional contributions to AARC repeaters, ARES, W4UVA, and digital communication, was presented to Michael R. McPherson KQ9P

AARC Special Service Award, recognizing exceptional contributions to AARC for repeater upgrades, was presented to William D. Pond N0WP

AARC Special Service Award, recognizing exceptional contributions to AARC for running Field Day, was presented to Lawrence R. Eicher K4JZQ

AARC Special Service Award, recognizing exceptional contributions to AARC for running AARC's participation in the Virginia Piedmont Regional Science Fair, was presented to William Philips AD6JV

AARC Special Service Award, recognizing exceptional contributions to AARC for running AARC's participation in public service events, was presented to Andrew D. Wiley KK4SHO

And a couple of UNIQUE AWARDS:

AARC Extraordinary Enthusiasm Award, recognizing exceptional participation in many AARC programs: for bringing it on, making it his, encouraging other Club members, was presented (to no one's surprise) to Lawrence R. Eicher K4JZQ

AARC XYL of the Year, recognizing exceptional support and patience, as manifested in attendance at meetings of the AARC, was presented to Connie Pond "K4XYL"

Jim Owen K4CGY, AARC President, presented the Club's most honorific awards:

The President's Award, honoring exceptional contributions and value to the President of the AARC, was presented to James E. Crosby K4JEC, who received a standing ovation.

The AARC Ham of the Year Award, honors a member

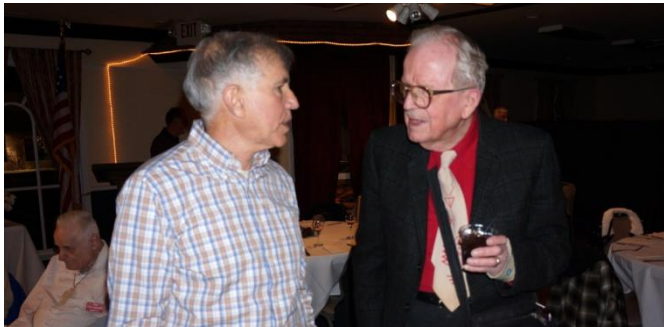
of the AARC who, through dedication and hard work, exemplifies the best of what an amateur radio operator should be. This award was presented to William D. Pond N0WP, who received a standing ovation.

Our Photo Album

By Jim Wilson K4BAV

The following photos were taken during the club's Annual Awards Dinner and shared by Jim K4BAV.









Another Award?

By Larry K4JZQ

For those of you who weren't able to attend the AARC holiday banquet, you missed a great evening. As one example, you'd have seen me squirm as Dr. Mike Rein KA4JJD, head of the AARC awards committee kept calling out the names of each award and then adding "And the winner is Larry Eicher, K4JZQ". Thunderous applause but then increasing chuckles as the number rose!

I was fortunate throughout the year to respond to every type of award Dr. Mike and his committee could come up with. Eleven pieces of paper now are proudly displayed in my ham shack. Soon I won't need to re-insulate if this keeps up!

What surprised me was the fact that I was the only winner of these awards. Come on ladies and gents, it isn't all that hard. When the announcement first came out I also thought "oh brother, another job at record keeping", but in fact I had many of the awards already in my logbook. It also helped focus me on more challenging states where they might be missing.

One award did call for some extra effort -- "The Worked My Call" award. That was the hardest for me and I didn't achieve it until the day of the actual AARC banquet, thanks to the help of my counterpart in The Netherlands! What I had done was do a search on QRZ.com to find all the JZQ suffixes listed there, totally about 30 calls believe it or

not. I sent each one an email asking them to join in the exchange but only got a reply from Hans-Willem Geitz, PE1JZQ in Hilversum, The Netherlands. This is the site of Radio Nederland so I had big hopes for a strong signal. Not so. It took over 8 attempts over a 6 month period to finally get a readable QSO with Hans-Willem. Even then it was a 4-3 sent and his 4-5 for me on 10 meters. Not great but we got the job done and I happily telephoned KA4JJD the news prior to the dinner. That finalized the sweep of 11 awards in one night. Happily I might add, the Awards Committee recognized this was a real hand-across the sea effort and so they also awarded Hans-Williem Geitz PE1JZQ a similar "Worked My Call" Award which has been dispatched to his QTH in Hilversum.

While the Awards are to increase 'young ham' activity, it also can help encourage us older types to 'get back into the game' so I invite every member of AARC to make a New Year's resolution to try for at least one award for next year's banquet. After all, it's a bit lonely up on the stage without company to share the honors. Thanks also to Dr. Michael Rein KA4JJD and his Awards Committee for giving us these fun challenges!

73

Larry K4JZQ

Buy + Sale + Swap

Be sure to check our listing on the club website:

www.albemarleeradio.org

NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of 12/31/

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WANTED: posted 12/31/2014

Wanted: Icom IC-781 transceiver. Carter,
WD4AYS, elliott14@aol.com, 434 566 8767

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FOR SALE: posted 10/30/2014

Maco 10 meter Ground Plane vertical antenna. Works quite well on ten meters

and with a tuner, also works on 17 and 15 meters.

Assembles in five minutes. \$65. Ed, N3US, Earlsyville.
email is eberkowitz@sbcglobal.net; tel 434 975 9001

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YAESU 2900R (info link)

Purchased new in June 2014 - used indoors only. Great radio, but won't work in my Jeep.

\$140 Sarah Vogeley KM4SAR
434-242-5238 (can text photos)

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WANTED: posted 5/16/14

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

Carter, WD4AYS, elliott14@aol.com, 566 8767.

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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, cellriott14@aol.com, 434 566-8767

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FOR SALE - AARC benefit updated 5/16/2014
contact Jim Owen, K4CGY at k4cgy@yahoo.com
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)

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FOR SALE: Alinco DJ-C7T dual-band "credit card" transceiver, approx. 300 MW. Included are the original 2-inch long antenna, a 14-inch long dual band antenna, adapter from SMA to coax, external speaker mike, and charger. Asking 125 dollars, but if interested, we can talk about it. Contact me on the air or by email: joegiol@earthlink.net; phone 434-973-9502; Joe W2PVY

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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The End