



# The Beacon

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

**Celebrating our 51<sup>st</sup> Year**

February \_\_\_\_\_ 2015

**Our February meeting is set for February 10 at 7:30 p.m. back at NRAO.**

## President's Corner

By Ed Berkowitz – N3US



I want to thank Jim Owen, K4CGY, and Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY, for their outstanding leadership serving as President and VP respectively in 2014. I can only be successful as the 2015 President of AARC with all your help and suggestions on how to make our club even greater. I will also turn to past officers and members for guidance.

A little of my own background is probably in order: I have been licensed and active continuously since May 1963 after being introduced to ham radio at Boy Scout summer camp. My first call sign was WN2HWH followed by WB2HWH after upgrading to general class in November 1963. I grew up in West Orange, NJ and often went to "Radio Row" in NYC to buy WWII surplus equipment. I first met Harry W2HD at the 1964 World's Fair at the Amateur Radio Station at the Coca-Cola Pavilion. Harry was the Hudson Section Director and Trustee of the World's Fair Station K2US. A great summary of this station can be found at <http://www.nywf64.com/coke06.shtml>.

My first "real" ham gear was a Hammarlund HQ110AC, a Knight T-150A, and a dipole in my parents' apple trees. I then upgraded to a DX-100, a Hallicrafters SX-101 Mk III, and a Hygain TH-4 beam at 45 feet. The DX bug bit me and I have always enjoyed DXing. However, I am not into

working each new country on every band and every mode and I dabble in contests. Nothing beats a good, solid rag chew.

Ham Radio led to my majoring in Electronics Engineering, obtaining a BSEE and MSEE. After a 42 year Federal career as an electronics engineer, with a specialty in radar meteorology, I retired and relocated from Norman, OK (Go Sooners!) to Earlysville, VA. During my career, I also lived in Washington, DC and Denver.

Some of my club goals include making our meetings more interesting to improve attendance and expanding our membership by appealing to both new hams ("novices") and existing ("old-timers"). One of my ideas to attract some young blood into Ham radio would be to set-up some demonstration stations in addition to Field Day. One club in central Oklahoma set up a station in a city park for Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air and coordinated this with the local BSA Council. About a dozen newcomers joined the ranks of Amateur Radio as a result of this one event.

So again thank you for your support but I want to be a Leader in AARC rather than a Manager. A Manager says "Do it" while a Leader says "Let's do it."

## Our VP's Report

by Larry - K4JZQ

Abraham Lincoln was reputed to have passed on a story of a man who was being carted out of town after being tarred and feathered. Asked how he was, the man replied "If it wasn't for the honor, I would rather have skipped the whole thing."

I don't know if that story is true or not but obviously as the new AARC Vice President for 2015 I face an interesting challenge to provide our diverse and eclectic membership with new and stimulating speakers and topics each month for the rest of 2015. My thanks to Joe, W2PVY, my distinguished predecessor who really did yeoman service in that regard.

Some say my job is impossible because of the many diverse interests in our club. We have all heard rumblings recently about declining membership and the need for new and challenging topics to draw in newer and especially younger members to our meetings. I quite agree but in order to respond adequately I need ALL your help in suggesting

what some of these topics will be, especially help in suggesting speakers for our monthly meetings.

As many of you know, I was QRT from ham radio for about 20 years until recently. I have been amazed at the changes that have occurred over just that short time period. There are a myriad of new amateur radio activities to delight every ham operator. Unfortunately these many activities permit some of us to get comfortable in only a few programs and we tend to ignore the rest. Having a favorite 'niche' activity in ham radio is fine but we stagnate when that happens if we don't convey the breadth of what amateur radio is all about to potential new members. We ourselves need to get better exposure to the full range of ham radio and what it has to offer. Only in this way can we expect to attract younger membership to the full range of ham radio potential.

So I encourage you to think about programs and speakers who can expand our knowledge and horizons in ham radio. I can't do this alone so please volunteer a topic or suggest someone you think could do the job. Our speaker for February, Mike McPherson, KQ9P will be speaking on the single-board computers for amateur radio. This is a great start. I hope you can attend and then follow-up by attending his workshop on February 21. Also start thinking how YOU can help out at Field Day in June this year. We need to walk the walk, not just talk. Each one of us! Email me at <tuzlu@comcast.net>. Thanks.

## The Topic for AARC February 10 Meeting: Single-Board Computers for Amateur Radio Speaker: Mike McPherson KQ9P

There has been a lot of excitement over the past few years about low-cost (~\$50) single-board computers (SBCs) such as the Raspberry Pi, the BeagleBone Black, the Arduino, and a host of others that are less familiar. Most of these computers have sufficient horsepower and RAM to run full versions of the Linux operating system, supporting one or two applications running simultaneously. This combination of price and performance allows for the creation of very cost-effective and flexible "computing appliances" with a broad range of real-world applications, including many in amateur radio. They are a cheap and easy way to make lights blink, buzzers buzz, servos spin, and communicators communicate.

For example, most of you are aware that K4DND's 146.730 MHz repeater on Carter's Mountain is normally linked to 30 or more repeaters via the IRLP network; there is a dedicated Raspberry Pi making that magic happen.

There are two SBC-related events in the Club in February. **At the regular Tuesday, February 10 meeting** Mike, KQ9P will give an overview of SBCs, the capabilities of the most popular models and their ecosystems, the applications for amateur radio, and some ideas of how to get started.

**On Saturday, 21 February 2015**, from 8am until noon the Club will hold an Arduino Workshop at the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad (CARS) building at 828 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902 (the

intersection of US-250 and McIntire Road, <http://mapq.st/1sAWbCF>). This will be a hands-on introduction to this very simple but very capable SBC, a great starting point for learning about real-world applications of embedded computers. We'll familiarize ourselves with the hardware and software, then work through some examples that will get participants started toward using SBCs in their own projects.

Detailed information and registration is available at <http://www.albemarle-radio.org/node/238>. Please join us for one or both of these events.



## The Wednesday Lunch Bunch By Bob Pattison, K4DU

The Amateur Radio community in Charlottesville has a reputation for being a welcoming bunch. When new folks are heard on one of our repeaters it is not unusual to also hear the locals providing the newcomer with a list of ham radio events in the area:

*Monthly AARC Meeting at NRAO at 7:30 p.m.*

*Monday Night Info Net at 7 p.m.*

*Thursday Evening NPEN at 8 p.m.*

*Saturday Gathering at Panera Bread  
in Barracks Road at 7 a.m.*

*Wednesday Lunch Bunch at the Wood Grill at 11 a.m.*

The Wednesday Lunch bunch has been going on for more than 30 years. When I first joined the party we were meeting at the Bojangles Restaurant near Rio and Rt 29. On most Wednesdays we filled the place up. It was a place where folks could go, talk about what they were doing and ask for advice and counsel.

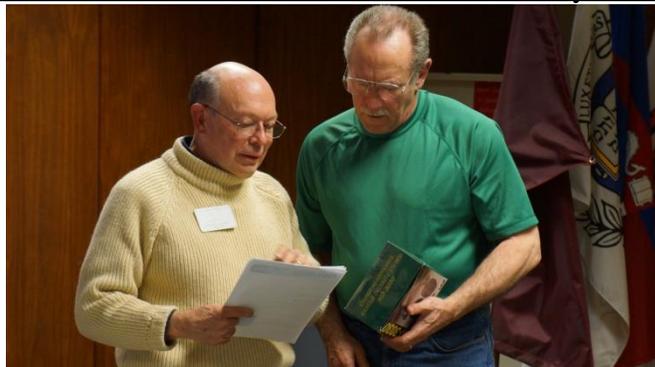
Time being what it is, Bojangles closed and after a few fits and starts we found ourselves at the Bonanza Restaurant on Rio Road, (now a heavy equipment dealership). Bonanza was, well to be honest, a bonanza for us. We had a private room in the back and a display case with ham radio paraphernalia on display. We were as happy as stuffed pigs until the day came when they told us they were closing.

Once again we were looking for home. We tried Sloan's (Another closed Charlottesville institution) and other places and finally landed at the Wood Grill. So if you find yourself

available some Wednesday around 11:00 AM and have a hankering for good company and conversation trundle over to the Wood Grill and pull up a chair. We have had visitors from all over the country and Europe too.

It may look like a QCWA meeting (Quarter Century Wireless Association) and there are many grey beards who have some knowledge and an eagerness to share their experiences with anyone who would ask. Bring your significant others too! You don't have to be licensed to join us.

Come on in, the water is fine!



## Our Photo Album

By Jim Wilson K4BAV

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



Your club's new leadership for 2015 lined up for a group picture. They are (Front Row, left to right): Jim Crosby, director; Ed Berkowitz, president; Larry Eicher, vice president; Don Eason, Jr, treasurer. (Back row, left to right) are: Bill Pond, director; Dave Damon, director; Patsy Crosby, secretary; and Jim Owen, director and past president. Absent from photo are: Jim Wilson (who took the picture) and A.J. Miller.



Rag chewing face-to-face is a given at our club meetings in between formal activities – the best reason for coming for many members.



The raffle offers some goodies to the winners and puts cash in the bank for the club. Thanks A.J.



## AARC Minutes of January 13, 2015

### Board Meeting

Called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Jim Owen, president.

There was only one report by Bill Pond who needs someone to check on the Marshall Manor Tower.

There were no other reports given.

Board meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.



### General Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Owen at 7:29 p.m. with 24 members present.

He called for introductions of members present.

**Secretary's report:** absent

**Treasurer's report:** Beginning balance-\$4,267.31, debits-\$1,850.22, credits-\$2,276.19. Ending balance-\$4,693.28.

During the treasurer's report there was a discussion of raising the 2016 dues to \$25.00 per person and \$30.00 for family. A motion was made to not address a dues increase at this time. Motion made by Joe Giovanelli and seconded by Harry Dannals. Motion carried.

**Election:** Due to the fact that Jim Owen was on the slate, he turned the chair over to the Nominating Committee Chair to conduct the election. The nominating committee presented the following slate:

President-Ed Berkowitz, Vice President-Larry Eicher, Secretary-Patsy Crosby, Treasurer-Don Eason Jr., Director-Dave Damon, Director-Jim Owen, Director-Bill Pond.



Hearing no nominations from the floor the chair directed the secretary to cast one unanimous ballot for the slate.

Dr. Michael Rein thanked Jim Owen and Joe Giovenelli for their service.

Jim Owen turned the meeting over to Ed Berkowitz, your new president, and took a seat. Jim Crosby presented a program on the non-profit status of the club.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy S. Crosby, acting secretary.

# Buy + Sale + Swap

Be sure to check our listing on the club website:

[www.albemarleradio.org](http://www.albemarleradio.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, [celliott14@aol.com](mailto:celliott14@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](mailto: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, [celliott14@aol.com](mailto:celliott14@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, [celliott14@aol.com](mailto:celliott14@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](mailto: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: [joegio1@earthlink.net](mailto:joegio1@earthlink.net); phone 434-973-9502; Joe W2PVY

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Below you will find a list of equipment for sale that belongs to Ernie, W2EIU.

The items that I have tested so far work. We are offering this equipment to club members first. What doesn't sell will be on the table at Frostfest.

If you have interest contact me, K4DU at 434-960-3344 or by email. Ernie kept real good care of his station. He has not been on the air for over a year.

de K4DU

Manufacturer	Model	Type	Est Value
AEA	PK232	TNC	TBD
Alinco	DJ-S11	144 Handheld	\$30.00
Alinco	DJ-S41	440 Handheld	\$40.00
Ameritron	RCS-8V	Remote Switch Control	\$120.00
Ameritron	RCS-4	Remote Switch Control	\$85.00
Autek	WM-1	Computing Meter	\$100.00
Bencher	BY-1	Iambic Key Dark Base	\$85.00
Cushcraft	?	2/440 Beam	\$50.00
<b>Cushcraft</b>	<b>R7000</b>	<b>Vertical</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
JPS	ANC-4	Antenna Noise Canceller	\$85.00
Kenwood	TH-315A	220 Handheld	\$40.00
Kenwood	SW-200	Dual SWR Power Meter	\$125.00
Kenwood	TS-850	HF Transceiver	\$700.00
Kenwood	MC-60	Microphone	\$60.00
Kenwood	MC-50	Microphone	\$45.00
Kenwood	TM-733A	Mobile VHF/UHF	\$175.00
Kenwood	KSC-1Y	Rapid Charger	\$10.00
Kenwood	TS-680S	HF Transceiver	\$350.00
Kenwood	VOX-4	Outboard VOX	\$10.00
Master Charger	MC-1	Rapid Charger	\$10.00
MFJ	MFJ-16010	Antenna Tuner	\$20.00

MFJ	MFJ-492	Memory Keyer	\$65.00
MFJ	MFJ-916	144/440 Duplexer	\$20.00
Opek	SWR-3P	SWR/Watt Meter	\$20.00
Realistic	Pro2006	Scanner	\$65.00
TE Sysytems	5106	Six meter Amplifier	\$125.00
Vibroplex		Bug	\$85.00

## 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