



The Beacon

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

Celebrating our 52nd Year

December Extra

2015



Happy faces could be seen all around the room as the club enjoyed the 52nd Annual Awards Dinner which took the place of our regular monthly meeting in December. (Photos by Jim Wilson, K4BAV & Jim Crosby, K4JEC)

The AARC Annual Awards Dinner was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville

By Michael F. Rein KA4JJD

On the evening of December 8, the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club held its annual Awards Dinner in the Treetops Dining Room at the DoubleTree hotel. Some forty AARC members and their guests congregated at 6 p.m. for some socialization.

The event was called to order by President **Ed Berkowitz N3US** at 6:30 p.m. Attendees participated in a bountiful "Chef's Choice" buffet, which received excellent reviews.

At the conclusion of the meal, Ed N3US (a man who needed no introduction) called the meeting to order and presented a review of some of the club's achievements of 2015:



Outreach: Club members participated in eight public service events, and our Volunteer Examiners conducted four VE sessions. Our score for our 3F Field Day operation surpassed those of 82% of entries. A digital set-up by **Mike KQ9P** that captured our QSOs and plotted them in real time on a map display monitor was written up in QST (December, page 51). **Harry W2HD** was interviewed about Field Day on Spirit FM, 90.3, in Lynchburg (September QST, page 97). Club Members participated in the 2105 Tech Tour, the BSA Apple Harvest Camporee, and the Barnes and Noble Maker Faire.

Within the AARC: We developed major upgrades to our repeater system, including a Fusion 2-meter system for Bucks Elbow and new antennas for Marshall Manor. Our website underwent a complete makeover, including migrating to WordPress and automating the online club directory. We assisted many local hams and their families in disposing of amateur radio equipment. We established an Antenna Team to assist members. We modified the format of club meetings to decrease time spent on administrative matters and increase the time spent in fellowship.

Ed's remarks were greeted with thunderous, self-congratulatory applause.



Michael KA4JJD, chair of the 2015 Awards Committee, thanked the members of the committee: **Dave K4DND**, **Bob K4DU**, **Bill AD6JV**, and *ex officio* members: **Ed N3US** and **Larry K4JZQ**. He noted that the major goal of the committee was to increase the number of members involved in the awards process. He requested volunteers, and he noted that he had received a number of suggestions for additional awards to be

considered for next year. This request was greeted with stony silence.



Ed N3US presented *Certificates of Appreciation*. **Thomas Hanson** of the ECC was given a certificate "for providing an outstanding site and great personal support for the AARC Field Day Event."



Kirby Felts, also of the ECC, was presented a certificate "for ongoing support of the AARC by generously providing space for courses and operating activity."

Anthony Beasly, PhD, was recognized "for providing the AARC with a home at the NRAO."



His award was accepted by **James Condon AD4YM**, also of the NRAO, who was himself

presented with the *Town Marshal Award* for “making sure that the AARC doesn’t cause trouble at the NRAO.”

Michael KA4JJD presented this year’s operating awards, explaining that these were designed to encourage newer hams to operate on HF and to use the club’s repeaters. No operating awards were conferred. Michael noted that **Larry K4JZQ** had “swept the table” in 2014 and achieved all of the operating awards, for which he received many, many certificates.

KA4JJD presented **K4JZQ** with the *Just Out of Habit Award*, just out of habit.

Larry K4JZQ, AARC vice-president, conferred awards for outstanding presentations at club meetings. The VP arranges for these presentations, and Larry requested input from those with ideas for the 2016 meetings and from those with topics they would like to present.



He bestowed *Outstanding Presentation Certificates* on **Dennis K4THE** for his presentation on “Propagation,” and to **Alan K9MBQ** and **Jim K4CGY** for their joint presentation on “The Art of DXing in Today’s Pileups.”



Dave K4DND, director for Public Service described the eight events in which the club participated and noted that a number of our members had also served in events which are not officially sponsored by the AARC. He described the many goal of public service events, including training, demonstration of the value of ham radio, and fun. While **KA4JJD** scampered about the room delivering certificates to those present, Dave thanked and read off the list of participants. One event: **Linda KI5LLB**, **Dale KD4EAP**, **Don KE4DDR**, **Stan K2SSB**, **AJ KE4AJM**, **Bill N0WP**, **Mark AK4OL**; two events: **Don N4UVA**, **Dayton AA4DH**, **Jim K4CGY**, **Manny K4MSR**, **Ed KA4VMP**, **Suzanne KK4EDV**; three events: **Ed N3US**, **Donna KG4FOL**, **Mike KQ9P**, **Michael KA4JJD**, **Linda KM4JIO**, **Leonard N4LXP**; four events: **Larry K4JZQ**, **Bill AD6JV**, **Elmer KF4UCI**, **Rick KJ4ZIH**, **Gordon WW4GW**; five events: **Greg N4PGS**, **Jonathan KJ4RPW**, **Shannon KJ4VJR**; and “the superstars,” six events: **Jeff K4OLW**, **Marty W4MBW**.

Dave K4DND then presented the *Hein Hvatum Outstanding Public Service Award* to **Jeffry Heavlin K4OLW** for “exceptional contributions to AARC public service activities and for leading the Greene County amateurs in the Tour de Green 2015.” Dave noted that this award remembers **Hein N4FWA**, a great friend, mentor, and **Elmer**, and a staunch organizer and supporter of public service. **Hein** died of cancer on May 22, 2008.

Michael KA4JJD and **Ed N3US** presented the *AARC Special Service Awards*. These awards recognize those members of the AARC who have gone above and beyond the expectations for their

positions. **Larry K4JZQ** was recognized for championing and administering Field Day 2105.

Jim K4CGY, Ed N3US, Bob K4DU, and Marty W4MBW.



Bill N0WP was honored for his skill and dedication to improvements in and maintenance of repeaters. **Dennis WR4I** was recognized for organizing, running, and operating at the Apple Harvest Scout Festival.



A moment of silence recognized those hams lost to us this year.

One of the most important functions of the AARC is Elmering. **Michael KA4JJD** and **Ed N3US** presented certificates to AARC members who had been nominated for excellence in guidance, instruction, and encouragement by other members of the club: **Dave K4DND, Bill N0WP, and Bob K4DU.**



Several club members were honored for their exceptional dedication to the support to AARC amateurs and their families in the disposal of amateur equipment:



On the basis of numerous nominations, **Harry W2HD**, was presented with a *Lifetime Elmering Award*, which was accepted on his behalf by K4DU.



The AARC annually presents some extra-special awards to hapless members. Specific awards are not presented every year but only when circumstances dictate. **Larry K4JZQ** was given the *Not a Coward Award* for championing and administering Field Day twice (the triumph of hope over experience). It was a dark and stormy morning at the onset of Field Day. Suddenly, a man in a mask appeared and set up a digital station. **Mike KQ9P** received the *Who Was That Masked Man? Award* for intrepid service to his ham colleagues by setting up computers despite grievous illness, while

at the same time remaining noncontagious. **Mike KQ9P** also obtained the *Kicking and Screaming Award* for dragging the AARC into the twenty-first century. The *Herding Cats Award* went to **Marty W4MBW** for repeatedly serving as net control for public service events.



The prestigious *Associate Repeated Caretaker Award* went to Dave Damon's Truck for repeatedly and steadfastly transporting Pond, Damon, and other reprobates to isolated AARC repeater sites. This award was accepted by **K4DND**.



Finally, the *XYL of the Year Award* was bestowed on **Vicky Eicher** for setting the record for contacts at the GOTA station on Field Day 2015.



The raffle was run by **AJ KE4AJM**. Four Baofeng 2M/440MHz HTs and a 2M Elmer Scott special were offered as prizes.

Ed N3US presented the Presidential Awards.



Michael KA4JJD received the *President's Award* for exceptional contributions and value to the President of the AARC.



Accompanied by a standing ovation, **Mike KQ9P** accepted the *Ham of the Year Award* for contributions too numerous to list.

The meeting was adjourned at something like 8 p.m.



Linda KM4JIO was presented an award for her public service participation the following Wednesday at the Woodgrill Amateur Luncheon.



Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus was waiting outside of the Doubletree to greet our clubbers as they left the hotel.

Photo by Jim Wilson, K4BAV



Elected Leadership 2015

Ed Berkowitz – N3US President
eberkowitz@sbcglobal.net
Larry Eicher – K4JZQ Vice President
tuzlu@comcast.net
Pat Crosby – K4PMC Secretary
patcrosby73@gmail.com
Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA Treasurer
deason@comcast.net
Dave Damon – K4DND Director Public Services
2-YR dnd@virginia.edu
Jim Owen – K4CGY Dir Estate Services
2-YR k4cgy@yahoo.com
Bill Pond – N0WP Director Technical
2-YR n0wp@arrl.net
Jim Crosby – K4JEC Director Education
1-YR K4JEC@arrl.net
A.J. Miller– KE4AJM Director Fundraising
1-YR aj@ke4ajm.us
Jim Wilson – K4BAV Dir Public Relations
1-YR elegraphjim@gmail.com

Appointed Leadership 2015

Larry Eicher – K4JZQ Field Day Chairman
tuzlu@comcast.net
Mark Grolinsky – WA1A Vol Exam Liaison
mgch@mac.com
Michael McPherson – KQ9P ARES/RACES
mcperson@acm.org
Jim Owen – K4CGY Club Stations Trustee
k4cgy@yahoo.com
Ron Richey – K4RKA Swap Fest Coordinator
k4rka@juno.com
Jim Crosby – K4JEC Beacon Editor
jamescrosby073@gmail.com
Michael Rein – KA4JJD Awards Committee
mfr6t@cms.mail.virginia.edu
Michael McPherson – KQ9P Webmaster
mcperson@acm.org

That's All For Now!

Merry Christmas!!!