



The Beacon

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

Celebrating our 53rd Year

February _____ 2016

The AARC Annual Meeting will be held at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville, VA, at 7 p.m. on February 9.

President's Corner

By Ed Berkowitz – N3US



During the past several weeks, I have spent a considerable amount of time in my basement shack organizing it and tuning around the HF bands. Since the HF band conditions have recently been quite marginal, I have also been monitoring the Club's VHF repeaters. At first I thought I must have cut the coax to my Diamond VHF/UHF vertical while rewiring some duplex outlets in my shack, as I often heard no activity on any of our Club's repeaters for hours at a time. The AARC has and continues to invest heavily in our repeaters in order to ensure that we have the best and most reliable possible coverage in our area. Many of us have multiple base, mobile, and HT rigs that seem to be collecting dust. So I urge everyone to start using our repeaters, pausing between transmissions for any "breakers" needing assistance or wishing to join your QSO. Might we consider developing a repeater-monitoring group, charged with increasing the "friendliness" of our repeaters?

The Richmond Frostfest is just around the corner - Saturday, February 6th, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 East Laburnum Avenue. Those of us who have purchased early bird tickets can enter at 8 a.m.. The

AARC is renting three tables, and Club members may bring their excess equipment to sell. Bob Pattison, K4DU, is heading up this effort. This is an excellent way to clean out your basements and for the Club to earn a small fee from the sales. The AARC receives 10% of gross sales except from sales by those members who have volunteered to staff the tables for a 2-hour rotation. There will be a sign-in sheet at the table and a schedule sheet where you can lock in your time to work the table. If you place items on the table for sale, you are responsible for retrieving them if they are still unsold when you leave. Neither Bob nor Mike - K8RVR will be responsible for the transportation of others' unsold items back to Charlottesville.

If you have any extra items that you do not want to bring to the Frostfest, please consider donating them to the Club to be used as raffle items. A.J. Miller - KE4AJM, is our Director of Fundraising, and he is always looking for large and small items to use for raffles.

Despite the recent blizzard, spring will get here soon, and Dave Damon, Director of Public Service, is always looking for club members to participate in these important, public-service events.

I am very pleased to welcome our new Board members: Rick Oliver - W3KDR, Director of Education (rickoliver45@hotmail.com) and Paul McKee - AK4OH, Director of Public Relations (ak4oh@arrl.net). Both would benefit from working with active committees. If you are interested in either or both activities, please contact them and join their committees.

Our VP's Report

by Larry - K4JZQ



We will have Gordon Miller, NQ4K, president of the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club, visiting Charlottesville to give us a presentation at NRAO on the upcoming Virginia QSO Party later in March. Mark your calendars and be sure to attend our February 9 meeting at 7 p.m.

Gordon Miller, NQ4K, came to amateur radio late in life. After 20 years in the military and 10 years as a defense contractor, Gordon was first licensed in 2001. His first radio was a 20 year old, Yaesu FT-101ZD and it is still operational. He likes it because it is robust enough for the rumblings of a new operator, with plenty of knobs to enable an appreciation of the inter-workings of a radio.

After joining the local club, the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club, Gordon participated in his first Virginia QSO Party in 2002. He was impressed by the friendliness of the operators on the air and realized that working the VQP should be fun. Shortly thereafter, Gordon became president of the club and began his involvement with the coordination of the VQP. Over the past ten years, the VQP has attracted increasing help by hams throughout Virginia in running the Party and as participants in the Party.

Field Day Planning

June 25-26, 2016 will be this year's Field Day event sponsored by the ARRL. How time flies. It seems like only yesterday that we had a great Field Day weekend at the Emergency Communication Center on Ivy Road in 2015 and despite the rainy and poor band conditions, as well as not being able to operate a digital station due to illness of a key player, I feel we did pretty well in comparison to other 3F stations around the Country.

I'm honored to be again chosen to be chair of the Field Day committee but no one can do it alone and to that end I am grateful that the following key people have agreed to make up the 2016 Field Day Planning Committee for 2016:

Ed Berkowitz N3US, Deputy chair / spokesperson
 Michael Rein KA4JJD - GOTA station event
 Marty Wangberg W4MBW, GOTA station event
 Mike McPherson KQ9P, Captain of digital section plus wifi & logging coordinator
 Paul McKee AK4OH publicity & public relations
 Jim Owen, K4CGY, Captain of HF Operations
 Bill Pond, N0WP, Captain in charge of Technical Set up
 Dennis Terribile, WR4I, Captain CW Operations
 Bob Pattison K4DU, Historian/equipment coordinator
 James Crosby, K4JEC, Safety Officer

This has to be a team effort and our success depends on inputs from each and every AARC member if we are to continue our success each Field Day. In addition to just the contest highlights of Field Day, we also want to have this be a great social event for all club members and their spouses and/or significant others. If you have any suggestions on how to enhance the social aspects of Field Day for our members, please let me know. To that end, we'll also be planning another great pot luck dinner this year, but instead of the usual fried or baked chicken purchased by AARC, Teri

Henderson KT4UO has volunteered to see whether she might be able to produce a fine Virginia Barbecue as a special treat for participants. Coordination of the picnic for Saturday June 24, starting at 6PM will again be in the most capable hands of Patsy Crosby, K4PMC and her team of volunteers.

Our location at the ECC on Ivy Road is to again encourage more public participation in Field Day and help educate the public on the role of ham radio in various emergencies. We are grateful to Tom Hanson of the ECC who has invited us to again utilize the site we used last year for our Field Day site. To that end we again hope to have a robust GOTA station on air for use by non-ham visitors. We also need volunteers to help our new Public Relations Chief, Paul McKee in spreading the word of this upcoming event. Even though it's only February, we all know how fast June can be upon us. Let Paul know if you can help. Our other Captains also need volunteers so let them know also if you can provide any special services in their area of expertise.

Any and all help, however small, is always welcome.



Jim Wilson caught Mike KQ9P during his presentation at the January meeting.



“Are you ready to present the slate of leadership for 2016,” was the question posed to Dave K4DND by President Ed Berkowitz N3US. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV, Beacon chief photographer)

Awards and you

By Michael KA4JJD
Chair, Awards Committee

The AARC's Award Committee was constituted to give more of our members a role in selecting Club awards, which are presented at our annual Awards Banquet in December. Many of these awards recognize outstanding contributions to the AARC, its goals, and its activities. Operating awards are aimed at encouraging newer hams to make HF, UHF, and VHF contacts. There is also an annual presentation of some light-hearted awards. I have already received a number of suggestions for new awards for 2016.

The Award Committee conducts almost all of its activity by email. Membership on the Committee requires a good sense of humor and a commitment to respond to emails in a very timely manner.

If you are interested in serving on the Awards Committee for 2016, please let me know by email (in a very timely manner) at mfr6t@virginia.edu.

discussing his possible election with VP Larry Eicher K4JZQ.



Joe W2PVY and Harry check out their new ham shack at Our Lady of Peace.



"Who got elected!!! The best available members who were willing to step up to the plate." (Wilson was at it again)



The antenna team works on getting an antenna up in the air at Our Lady of Peace. (Above and below Photos by Teri Henderson KT4UO)



"Now just what does the Director of Public Relations do?" Wilson caught Paul AK4OH

Our Lady of Peace is on the air

By Larry Eicher

January 2 dawned crisp and clear so the newly minted Antenna Team consisting of AARC members Ed Berkowitz, N3US, Jim Owen, K4CGY, Bill Phillips AD6JV, Bob Pattison, K4DU, John Porter, KK4JP, Michael Gilmore K8RVR, & Larry Eicher K4JZQ collected at the Our Lady of Peace Retirement Center to erect a G5RV type dipole antenna for our retired hams at their new QTH. Teri Henderson KT4UO provided running commentary of the team's effort in the new shack as our semi- official sidewalk superintendent.

The team's object was to get Harry Dannels W2HD back on the air after many months absence from the airwaves. Hams across the Nation have welcomed the news that Harry is now back on the air.

The Our Lady of Peace facility provided Harry W2HD and Joe, W2PVY with a small office (ham shack) at no cost so they and any other hams at that facility can now get QRV. It's a small room but quite adequate, including window panel connections provided by K4DU and K8RVR. The coax feedline is well above a person's normal height from the shack so no one will run into it and the antenna itself is high up in the trees in back of the facility causing no one any interference.

Putting up the antenna into the trees in back of Our Lady of Peace was the most challenging part to our antenna raising party but through the use of Bill Phillip's sling shot, Michael Gilmore's potato cannon and John Porter's drone all was accomplished within a 4-hour period. Harry may not have the power and punch of his old tower/beam at his home QTH but at least he's back on the air and we're delighted to have him back with us. Thanks to all Antenna Team members for a job well done!

A reminder to all members is to be sure to let Ed Berkowitz N3US know if any member needs assistance with antenna repairs or installations. Just contact the Antenna Team. They are here to help.



Michael Gilmore K8RVA, the driller.



Bill Phillips AD6JV the shooter.



John Porter KK4JP the pilot and air controller.



Bob Patterson K4DU the tuner.



Two ham amigos check out their new ham digs.

An Open Letter About Club Repeaters

by Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY

To All:

As I am writing this, my transceiver is turned on and is listening to the 146.76 AARC repeater. It is not difficult to write to you while it is on because nobody is talking! (Yes, I have the volume turned up.)

If you are a member of the AARC, you know that we have spent considerable money to obtain the best possible equipment. We even have the latest equipment for digital voice transmission and reception. Our technicians spend many hours at our various repeater sites to make certain that the equipment works well and that external interference is kept to an absolute minimum.

If you are not a member, you might not realize how much work is done to provide the kind of service everyone wants. Should you attend any of our informative meetings, you will hear reports from our Technical Committee about the things I have mentioned and much more.

I've done some writing and a bit of editing, and during all this time my radio has been silent! It's Wednesday afternoon. You may be working so wouldn't have your sets on. You may be retired like me and have your radio on. On the other hand, you may be at home or mobiling around with your radio turned off. Who can say? If it was on, we might have chatted a bit.

After a bit more editing, there was nothing coming from the speaker. Even so, I sent out my call, and what do you know? I had a great QSO with someone who I seldom hear! It was marvelous!

Well, you get the point, right? Chatting is what we like to do. It's why we stand around in groups after meetings and throw the bull! Some of us are just crazy enough that we get UP early on some Saturday mornings and meet at 7 a.m. to have breakfast and ragchew.

Hey! We have this new Fusion repeater on 146.895 mHz. Why don't we see if we can wear it out?

73

Joe, W2PVY

Photo Flashback to a Great Event

By Vicky Eicher



The site of the AARC Awards dinner although most of us did not arrive by train.



Raffle tickets were very popular with Pat K4PMC, Dayton AA4DH, Bob K4DU keeping AJ KE4AJM very busy.



Larry K4JZQ flags Allen K9MBQ and Jim K4CGY.



Ed N3US, Larry K4JZQ and Michael KA4JJD smiled for the camera while Larry was honored.



Mike might have been last but certainly not the least to be recognized for his club work.

AARC Meeting Minutes

AARC Meeting January 12, 2016

- The meeting was called to Order at 7 p.m. with 26 members present with President Ed Berkowitz presiding.
- The president asked members to rise and state their name and call to introduce themselves.
- Secretary's Report – Asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the General Meeting from November as published in the newsletter. She presented the applications of:
 - Matthew Yeatman KM4KOG
 - Darryl Youngblood KE4HTS and family
 - Joshua Youngblood KM4ICH
 - Kelly Youngblood KB0VFX
 - Ernest Poole No Call Yet
 - Mario Gubo K4MDX and wife
 - Jan Gubo K3MDX
 - John Knight AB4XT

Their membership was approved by a unanimous vote.

- Treasurer's Report – Don Eason for November and December combined

Opening Balance	\$6,392.15
Credits	\$3,171.22
Debits	\$1,236.05
Balance at end of December	\$8,327.32

- Repeaters Report – Dave offered a report for Bill Pond who was absent. Dave reported the Heard Mountain and Trump site repeater frequencies were swapped to delete some interference being picked up at Trump site. Another Yaesu Fusion Repeater was ordered and Dave requested approval for up to \$300 to be spent to get it on the air when it arrives. The request was approved by unanimous vote of the membership.

- President Ed reported that a website had been set up by Bob K4DU to list all of the items donated by Harry W2HD to be sold to benefit the club.

- Report of Nominating Committee: Ed announced that Dave Damon has chaired the committee with Mike McPherson and Michael Rein serving on committee. Dave presented the slate for election to include:

Ed Berkowitz – N3US
 Larry Eicher – K4JZQ Vice President
 Pat Crosby – K4PMC Secretary
 Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA Treasurer
 Rick Oliver – W3KDR Director Education
 A.J. Miller– KE4AJM Director Fundraising
 Paul McKee – AK4OH Dir Public Relations

The slate was accepted as presented and no nominations were made from the floor. The secretary was directed to cast one unanimous ballot for the slate as presented.

Directors with a one-year remaining on their terms are:
 Dave Damon – K4DND Director Public Services
 Jim Owen – K4CGY Dir Estate Services
 Bill Pond – N0WP Director Technical

- AJ reported that the raffle produced \$90 for the club.
- Following a call for any old or new business with no response, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 /s/ Patsy Crosby, Secretary

An Intercepted Letter of interest

Submitted by Larry Eicher

January 22, 2016

Dear Mr. Eicher:

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning H.R. 1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act. I appreciate your taking the time to express

your thoughts on this important matter. I am grateful for the privilege of representing you and serving as a voice for the citizens of Virginia's Fifth District.

As you may know, H.R. 1301 was introduced by Representative Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) on March 4, 2015. H.R. 1301 seeks to direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications. H.R. 1301 has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Please be assured I will show your concerns every consideration when H.R. 1301 comes before the U.S. House of Representatives for action.

I hope you will stay connected to our office with updates on the latest news, legislation, and other useful information, by signing up for our e-newsletter on our website, hurt.house.gov. Thank you again for your communication and please do not hesitate to contact our office with any future questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Robert Hurt
Member of Congress

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Phone: 434-973-9631
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308 Craghead St., Suite 102-D
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515 S. Main Street - P.O. Box D
Farmville, VA 23901
Phone: 434-995-0120
Fax: 434-995-1248

Buy + Sale + Swap

For the latest list, be sure to check the listing on the club website:

www.albemarleradio.org

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Editors Note: While you are on the club website to read the newsletter, please go to the SWAP FEST listings to check on the latest posts. The listings on the website are instantly reflected and much more accurate than those previously published within the newsletter due to the delay inherent in this process.

That's all for now!

Photo by Jim Wilson, K4BAV



Elected Leadership 2016

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
1-YR dnd@virginia.edu
Jim Owen – K4CGY Dir Estate Services
1-YR k4cgy@yahoo.com
Bill Pond – N0WP Director Technical
1-YR n0wp@arrl.net
Rick Oliver – W3KDR Director Education
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A.J. Miller – KE4AJM Director Fundraising
2-YR aj@ke4ajm.us
Paul McKee – AK4OH Dir Public Relations
2-YR elegraphjim@gmail.com

Bill Pond was absent from the above picture

Appointed Leadership 2016

Larry Eicher – K4JZQ Field Day Chairman
tuzlu@comcast.net
Mark Gorlinsky – WA1A Vol Exam Liaison
mgch@mac.com
Michael McPherson – KQ9P ARES/RACES
mcperson@acm.org
Jim Owen – K4CGY Club Stations Trustee
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Ron Richey – K4RKA Swap Fest Coordinator
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