



# The Beacon

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

**Celebrating our 53<sup>rd</sup> Year**

May

2016

Our next meeting will be held at the NRAO, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville at 7 p.m. We will have a DVD video of our new ARRL president Rick Roderick K5UR giving a speech on ham radio. For those of you who have never heard Rick Roderick you will be in for a real treat.

## President's Corner

By Ed Berkowitz N3US



We have started this year with some amazing presentations including Mike McPherson, KQ9P, discussing Mesh Networks at our January meeting; Gordon Miller, NQ4K, presenting the Virginia QSO Party at our February meeting; Steve Sellers, KD4ZPF, describing law-enforcement communications at our March meeting; and Tom Hanson, director of the 911 Center, at our April meeting. Thanks to John Porter, KK4JP, videos of these briefings are posted on the AARC YouTube channel accessible from our club website.

The Club recently received a very generous donation of \$300 from the Monticello Velo Club (MVC). Ruth Stornetta, president of MVC wrote: "You all do a wonderful job for our bike races every year. Thank you for all you do for the community and please accept this donation to support your club." Special thanks to Dave Damon, K4DND, director for Public Service, who spearheads the AARC's participation in these important public service events.

As a result of heroic efforts by Paul McKee, AK4OH, director for Public Relations, the Daily Progress published a story and video about our club "coordinating logistics for the Jefferson Cup Road Race held on April 3 in Albemarle County south of Charlottesville, where cell phone reception is unreliable." In addition, this story was picked up by Amateur Radio Newsline in their April 8 bulletin. Newsplex also broadcast this story:

[http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/the-logistics-behind-those-cycling-legs/article\\_185a8604-fa03-11e5-b547-8f62927c0b59.html](http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/the-logistics-behind-those-cycling-legs/article_185a8604-fa03-11e5-b547-8f62927c0b59.html).

Dave Damon, K4DND, will shortly put out a call for club volunteers for the Miller School bike race on June 5.

Please consider using the Amazon Smile Program to benefit our Club. The direct link is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-2321624>. Amazon contributes 0.5% of the price of purchases to charitable organizations, and we are so listed. The cost of items purchased through Amazon Smile is not increased.

AARC is healthy, and here are some statistics:

Full Individual Members:	78
Family memberships:	22
Life Members:	9
Honorary Members:	6
<b>Total Members:</b>	<b>115</b>

We voted-in 7 new members at the April meeting, a Club record for the number of new members in one month!

In addition, our Club's treasury balance is above \$10,000 for the first time ever.

Remember the ARRL National Park Service On the Air Events to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service. Upcoming activity is posted at <https://npota.arrl.org/nps-events.php>

Lastly, the AARC trip to the Greenbank Observatory will be on Saturday, August 13. More details including an online sign-up sheet will be coming. Feel free to bring family and other guests.

## Our VP's Report

By Larry Eicher K4JZQ



I'm happy to report to those who might not have yet heard that Vicky, my xyl had a successful surgery for a hip replacement March 30 and she is now working on her physical therapy program in hopes of being fit enough to fly to Alaska in late August for a photo workshop scheduled there. We also have just completed a 4 week visit of our Turkish godson from Sydney, Australia during this timeframe so my report to AARC members will be necessarily shorter this month. Thanks to all AARC members who sent get well wishes to my wife for a speedy recovery. Much appreciated indeed.

Remember to mark your calendars for the 2016 ARRL Field Day weekend. KQ9P Mike has already set up a volunteer list and the Field Day committee will be getting more active in the coming weeks. If you want to join the Field Day team, please let me know. We have Bill AD6JV as captain of the GOTA station but he will need members to assist him with the anticipated crowds waiting to get on the air. Can you help?

Normally here I would give a brief summary of what we plan to present with our upcoming speaker in May. Well, be prepared for something different this month for we have no live speaker for our May 10 meeting; instead we have a DVD video of our new ARRL president Rick Roderick K5UR giving a speech on ham radio. For those of you who have never heard Rick Roderick you will be in for a real treat. He has a very impressive resume in amateur radio and is a very dynamic speaker; his love for ham radio is manifest in this speech.

Rick is also from Arkansas so be prepared for some very funny and humorous country style humor as it relates to ham radio. Seriously though I think the ARRL is very fortunate to have him as our new president and know with him at the helm we have someone fully dedicated to promoting and advancing the cause of amateur radio well into the future. His focus on youth recruitment as well as new technology is quite evident in this speech. So come and meet our new ARRL president. I know you won't be disappointed as we all embark on a new era of leadership at ARRL.



Bob Pattison said, "I have recently been catching up on sending QSL cards. I got one back from N8BC the Lake County Radio Club (Ohio). I thought you might enjoy this." 73 de K4DU



Ed Berkowitz said, "We were all sitting in the Control Room during the live airing of *Face the Nation* on Sunday as it was Jackie's last day at CBS News. We were shocked to see the recognition. After the show was over, the production staff of the show gave Jackie a surprise party including a cake that said: Good Luck at Netflix but we will all miss you."

## A DX Note

By Alan Swinger K9MBQ

Mount Athos has more than one Amateur Radio operator. We all know of SV2ASP/A, Monk Apollo, from the Docheiariou Monastery, however he is not the only one in the rare DXCC. In late 2015 following the Elmering of SV1RP, George, Monk Iakovos, who lives at the Koutloumousiou Monastery in Mt. Athos took his Amateur Radio exam and passed. He has an IC-735 and runs 100 watts into a vertical on 40 Meters.

Monk Iakovos began operations yesterday (4/22) on 7.141 MHz just prior to 1700Z and was there for about an hour. He can operate on SSB and CW and could be QRV again this weekend. For those fortunate enough to work the

newest Amateur Radio operator from Mount Athos QSLs should be sent via SV1RP.

Also it would be advisable to add SV2RSG to your logging database as Mount Athos, not Greece. Monk Iakovos has a QRZ.com page at <https://www.qrz.com/db/sv2rsg>.

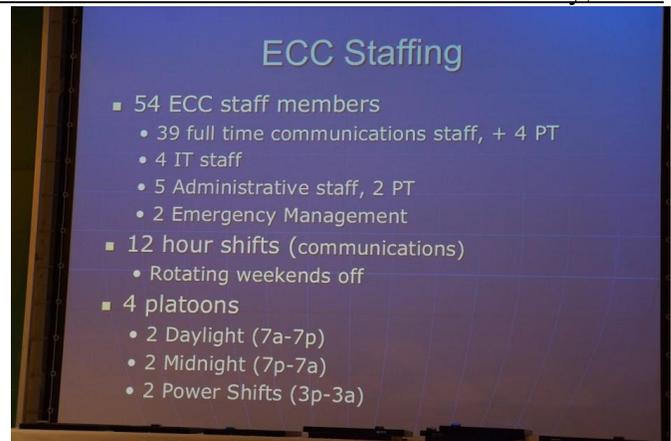
Provided by Bernie McClenny, W3UR, Editor of: The Daily DX



Marty Wangberg W4MBW said, "In June, 2015 Jane (Snjezana) Gubo took and passed her Technician License at an AARC VEC session. In Sept, 2015, Jane took and passed her General Class license at an AARC VEC session. In late October 2015, Jane Gubo K3MDX participated in the 2015 World-Wide DX SSB Contest. Jane scored a total of 50,078 points for single operator - low power - 15 Meters. She was using the vintage Icom 730 that she borrowed from AARC. Mario K4MDX and Jane K3MDX are both members of AARC. She scored: #1 in US 4th Call Area, #5 in the United States, #10 in North America, and #55 in the world. Cudo's to Jane for an awesome score and she had only been a ham for 4 months and a General for less than 2 months." (Picture by Marty W4MBW)



Tom Hanson, director of the 911 Center, presented our program for the April meeting. (Photo by Jim Wilson)



- 54 ECC staff members
  - 39 full time communications staff, + 4 PT
  - 4 IT staff
  - 5 Administrative staff, 2 PT
  - 2 Emergency Management
- 12 hour shifts (communications)
  - Rotating weekends off
- 4 platoons
  - 2 Daylight (7a-7p)
  - 2 Midnight (7p-7a)
  - 2 Power Shifts (3p-3a)



The presentation certainly captured these members attention.



The members were caught visiting during the break.

## AARC Meeting Minutes

### AARC Minutes for April 12, 2016 Meeting

**General Membership Meeting** -- The meeting was called to order by President Ed Berkowitz at

7:08 p.m. with 41 members present. He called for introductions of those present.

**Program:** The president introduced Tom Hanson, director of the 911 Center and an Honorary Member of the club. Hanson offered a history of the combined Charlottesville City, Albemarle County and University of Virginia Emergency Communications operations and discussed the operation as it exists today. He outlined with is ahead in technological advancements and explained the unique employment situation with the extreme stress involved with emergency communications.

After a short break the business meeting was called to order.

**Secretary's report:** Requested approval of the March minutes as published in the newsletter. Minutes were approved as printed?

We have seven new members to vote into membership tonight. They are:

Patrice Porter – KM4RSL

Matt Robertson – W1MPR

Richard Thomas – K4WLK

Jerry Hendricks – KA4EKD

Matt Holcomb – KB3FTP

John Knight – AB4XT

Taylor Vierrether – KC4K

The membership for all was approved by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer filed the following report with the club.

Beginning Balance: \$8496.44

Debits: \$39.58

Credits: \$291.95

Ending Balance: \$10016.85

The treasurer's report was approved by a majority vote.

### Other Reports

Reports were presented from the **Maker Faire** which offered a good presentation on amateur radio and introduced attendees to ham radio.

**Bill Pond** advised that all repeaters have been linked and the .925 repeater is still noisy. He stated the new Yaesu Fusion Repeater is up and running and doing very well. Yaesu has upgraded the Fusion Repeaters already and are offering a free upgrade for those already sold. I plan to take

advantage of that while we are still in the warranty period.

**Dave Damon** reported that 12 members of the club worked the Jefferson Cup Bicycle Races and earned a \$300 donation to the club. He reported the Miller School bike race will be on June 5<sup>th</sup> and the Boys and Girls Club event will be on June 11<sup>th</sup>. He circulated his clipboard for sign-ups.

**Larry Eicher** reported the Field Day Committee will be on April 30.

It was pointed out that the Green Bank trip to visit the NRAO Greenbank Observatory site will be on August 13 and everyone is invited to participate. The Northern Piedmont Emergency Net will move to the Flat Top Mountain Repeater on 145.470. **AJ** reported the raffle earned \$65 for the club.

**New Business:** None reported.

**Old Business:** None reported.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.  
Patsy Crosby, Secretary

### Board Meeting of April 30, 2016

President Ed Berkowitz called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. in the Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire Station.

Ed opened the meeting and called for a report on the Member Mentoring program.

Rick Oliver stated it was a works in progress and stated that we had visitors at our last meeting and he tracked them down but suggested we obtain contact information on the meeting sign-in sheet so we can follow up on our visitors more readily. It was also agreed we should match new members and visitors with compatible club members.

Ed moved on to a discussion of the production of the printed member directory. Jim Crosby reported he had spent a couple of days on the updating of the directory already and estimated that it could cost around \$100 to \$125 to produce as a best guess. He also asked the board's opinion on whether or not to email a pdf copy of the printed directory. It was generally agreed that was a good idea. Michael suggested it was nice to know a spouses name when calling a member and thought it would be nice to add a spouse name to the member listing. Crosby responded that he thought

might be a good idea and suggested it be discussed for next year. He explained that the data is not available from any club source at this time and would have to be obtained, probably via an entry on the club application form for next year. Crosby mentioned that he had already invested about 18 hours of work on the directory update, it was already well into the year for its production and he really did not want to go back to add new data that would have to be first obtained, massaged and entered.

Ed suggested that we put a pdf version of the directory online. Crosby pointed that all the data in the printed directory was already online. Ed said he realized that but it would be nice to have all the directory data in one entry.

Ed asked for a motion to approve up to \$125 for the printing of the Member Directory and Handbook. The motion was made and approved without dissent.

The Board meeting was adjourned and Larry called the **Field Day Committee Meeting** to order:

Larry pointed out that \$300 had been approved for Field Day food and expenses. He stated we would participate as a 3F entry which would accommodate single sideband, code and digital. It was suggested we ask Mike McPherson to operate the digital station as he saw fit and was able.

A list of available items for the food operation was turned over to Pat Crosby to determine what else might be needed. It was suggested that a coffee maker might be added for those times when brewed coffee might not be available.

Larry reported that two portable toilets would be available throughout.

Jim Crosby said he was going to seek some loaner fire extinguishers for a local company for use at the event.

Jim Owen reminded everyone that he has the club tent and poles and they had to be picked up in a truck from his home.

Larry stated that site setup would begin at 2 p.m. on Friday this year which takes into consideration of the aging participants.

Changes to the poster were discussed with Paul circulating another approach. It was agreed that the potential modifications to the poster would be worked out between Paul and Jim via email.

Thus ends the minutes as recorded by the secretary because it was necessary for her and Jim to leave the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Some members stayed behind to continue discussions.

Pat Crosby  
Secretary

### **Added by Ed after I left:**

Michael Rein will send out FD invitation letters signed by himself, Larry Eicher, and Paul McKee to: David Toscano - member of VA State Assembly, Mayor Signer of Charlottesville, Rob Bell - State Senator, and Creigh Deeds- State Senator.

Additional letter to be signed by Michael to be sent to State Senator Bryce Reeves.

Michael Rein will also send out email invitations to each Charlottesville City Council member and to each member of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors.

Paul McKee will attend the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors meeting to pick up the FD proclamation and say a few words about AARC FD.

We need to solicit members at the next meeting to assist Bill Philips with the GOTA Station.

## **Buy + Sale + Swap**

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

[www.albemarleadio.org](http://www.albemarleadio.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.**



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 Pub Serv 1-YR	dnd@virginia.edu
Jim Owen – K4CGY	Director Estate Serv 1-YR	k4cgy@yahoo.com
Bill Pond – N0WP	Director Technical 1-YR	n0wp@arrl.net
Rick Oliver – W3KDR	Director Ed 1-YR	rickoliver45@hotmail.com
J. Miller – KE4AJM	Director Fundraising 1-YR	aj@ke4ajm.us
Paul McKee – AK4OH	Director P R 1-YR	AK4OH@arrl.net

## Appointed Leadership 2016

Larry Eicher – K4JZQ	Field Day Chairman	tuzlu@comcast.net
Mark Gorkinsky – WA1A	Vol Exam Liaison	mgch@mac.com
Michael McPherson – KQ9P	ARES/RACES	mcpherson@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 Chair	mfr6t@cms.mail.virginia.edu
Dave Damon – K4DND	Public Service	dnd@virginia.edu
Mike McPherson – KQ9P	Webmaster	mike@kq9p.us

**That's all for now!**