

# THE ALBEMARLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

September - November 1992

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Staff: Melissa Lang, KD4GRM

## ♪ NOTES FROM THE ♪ PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our Illustrious President is off on a well-deserved vacation with the family in Maine and A. Nonymous is pinch-hitting with some "points to ponder."

Following up on Bob's last column where he expressed his views on the many activities within the club and the work of the volunteer corps who keep things rolling, let's cover a subject not mentioned too often within the hallowed halls of AARC. It is contesting!

The club recently took part in the annual Field Day exercise and, following a great organizing job by N0RDQ, Pat, and KC4YLX, Ed, with a great assist by KD4IGX, EJ, who planned the picnic, it was an event enjoyed by many of the members.

We also had entries in the Novice Round-up earlier in the year and several of our club members "got their feet wet" in the contest atmosphere.

However, there are other club contest events which go with a few, or no, entries from AARC. These contests are the annual ARRL DX Contest, held in February and March and the ARRL Sweepstakes, held in November. While these events can be of the "Lone Ranger" type with each operator working from his or her own station as a solo operator, a multi-operator facility which uses the possibly superior equipment and antenna of a club member can also be put into action.

The club sums the scores of all its participants and the club's high scorer receives a certificate of accomplishment from ARRL.

It can be lots of fun and there are many advantages to the individual or the multi-operator. Are you chasing the WAS (Worked All States) award? Are you chasing WAC (Worked

All Continents) or WAZ (Worked All Zones)? Perhaps you are trying to complete your DXCC (DX Century Club) award. Participation in the Sweepstakes and the DX Contest will help you attain those goals.

There is yet another plus in contesting and that is very simply the development of your communication skills. Whether you enjoy 'phone or c.w., you can sharpen your skills by participating in a contest. Yes, it's a real challenge... battling the "big guns" and the rest of the QRM... but try it, you'll like it!!!  
= A. Nonymous =

## SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING COMES EARLY

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 8, the day after Labor Day -- a little earlier in the month than it has been for some time. The meeting will be at the usual time, 7:30 pm, in the Auditorium of NRAO on Edgement Road on UVA grounds. There is no formal program planned, but there will be a business meeting to catch up on unfinished business. Since the election of officers for the next year must be held at the October meeting, we will discuss this subject and select a committee to dragoon a slate for 1993.

We hope to persuade some of the transmitter hunters to describe their activities and get you all pumped up for the next hunt which will be held in the not too distant future.

As a bit of bait to lure you out after you have exhausted yourselves over the long Labor Day weekend, we will be distributing copies of the August 1992 edition of the club directory. Come join the hunt for the errors in the new version --  
**HE WHO FINDS THE MOST GETS TO  
PUBLISH THE NEXT ONE!**

Of course, no meeting would be complete without the usual goodies supplied by **FAST EDDIE'S CATERING SERVICE** and the good fellowship and ragchew. See you there!!!!!!  
= W6UZ =



## AARC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club is once again sponsoring license classes for the Novice/Technician and upgrade classes for the General license. The classes are being held again at CATEC on Rio Rd. Registration was August 26, and the first class began on September 2. BUT, there is still room for anyone who would like to join us! All you have to do is come on down and enroll at the class. Classes are every Wednesday from 6:30 til 9:00 and will continue until November 18. A V.E. session is tentatively planned for that following Saturday, November 21 at NRAO. All those interested are urged to contact either KC4TQF, Bill, WA2MFI, Bob, or just come on down! We are going to have lots of fun and when it's all over, we will have lots of new Hams as well as new Techs and Generals!! You've been wanting to do it - now's the time to GO FOR IT!!!!!! 73 de Bill (KC4TQF).....SK



## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS 1992

Here is an updated list of Public Service Events for the remainder of 1992.

### UVA BIKE RACE

Saturday, September 19, near Carter's Bridge. This is a new one for us. It is going to be similar to the bike races we have covered in Boonesville. It is a morning event and it will probably be over by noon. Please note that this is the same weekend as the Virginia Beach Hamfest.

### MS BIKE TOUR

Saturday September 26, in Albemarle and Greene Counties. Same as last year, starting and ending at Meriwether Lewis School. We provided 25 hams last year.

## TRIATHLON

Sunday September 27, at Lake Monticello. Same as last year. We provided 15 stations. Please note that the bike tour and the triathlon are on adjacent days. It might become a problem to find enough people to cover both events.

## OTHER

There might be a Diabetes Walk in Charlottesville sometime in the fall, but I haven't heard from them yet. Also, the First Night Virginia festivities on New Years eve might want some help.

I have bad news for those of you who want to participate in the HORSE TRIALS. The farm where the event was held last year is up for sale, and the trials have been canceled for this fall. However, the planning for the BIG horse event at Montpelier in the spring of 1993 is very much alive. So be patient, all you horse lovers.

= N4FWA =



## AARC TREASURER'S REPORT

As of August 18, 1992:

Since the last treasurer's report in the May-June, 1992 Newsletter, we have added 29 new paid-up members for a total of 153. Of these 153 members, 5 are in the "under 17 years of age" group, and 38 are family members.

Contributions from Hamfests have been excellent: \$204.30 from Manassas, \$130 from Berryville, \$260 for the 222 repeater from Berryville, an anonymous donation of \$100 for the 222 repeater, plus several smaller donations.

VEC income was \$96.90 and expenditures were \$94.00.

An additional \$160 has been added to the "Link Fund."

\$298.66 has been spent on printing and stamps for a newsletter and announcements, during the period.

Field Day cost was \$84.47 and the annual picnic was \$51. Meeting refreshments for the May, June and July meetings totaled \$22.92.

As of the Bank Statement of August 18, 1992, the club fund (which includes the "Link Fund" and the Packet Fund) was \$1,972.00 and the Repeater Fund was \$2061.18 for a total of \$4033.18.  
= WA4UPI=



## HAMFEST CALENDAR

- Sept 13 - F.A.R.FEST, Gaithersburg, MD  
Sept 19-20 - Virginia Beach Hamfest, VA  
Sept 26 - Danville, VA  
Oct 11 - Columbia ARA Hamfest, Howard County Fairgrounds, MD  
Nov 1 - Mason-Dixon Hamfest, Westminster, MD  
Dec 6 - HolidayFest '92, Largo, MD

[Above information taken from *Autocall* and the *SERA Journal*]

## VOLUNTEER EXAM SCHEDULE (Virginia Locations Only)



- Sept 12 - Mount Vernon ARC (Alexandria)  
(Laurel VEC)  
Contact: Frank Mackey, N4GUS  
(703)-455-1510  
Sept 20 - ARRL Roanoke Division Convention,  
Virginia Beach  
(ARRL VEC)  
Contact: Ed Brummer, W4RTZ

(804)-898-8031

- Sept 25 - Stafford  
(ARRL VEC)  
Contact: David Boyd, K9MX  
(703)-659-6241  
Oct 9 - Piedmont Technical Center (Culpeper)  
(ARRL VEC)  
Contact: Bill Brown, AC4KP  
(703)-547-3089  
Oct 10 - Williamsburg Area ARC (Williamsburg)  
(ARRL VEC)  
Contact: Andrew Swanson, WJ4X  
(804)-253-2811  
Oct 10 - Massanutten ARA (Harrisonburg)  
(ARRL VEC)  
Contact: Marshal Cooper, N4ZKH  
(703)-856-8012 (6-9PM)  
Oct 10 - Mount Vernon ARC (Alexandria)  
(Laurel VEC)  
Contact: Frank Mackey, N4GUS  
(703)-455-1510  
Oct 10 - Richmond  
(W5YI VEC)  
Contact: Dow Pierce  
(804)-232-8128  
Nov 7 - Portsmouth ARC  
(ARRL VEC)  
Contact: Art Thiemans, AA4AT  
(804)-484-2857  
Nov 20 - Stafford  
(ARRL VEC)  
Contact: David Boyd, K9MX  
(703)-659-6241  
Nov 21 - Hampton Roads Radio Association  
(W5YI VEC)  
Contact: Bill Runyon, N4BDH  
(804)-487-8611  
Dec 5 - Virginia Beach ARC  
(ARRL VEC)  
Contact: Ed Robinson, WD4GOY  
(804)-468-0866

Every Second Sunday - Bedford

(ARRL VEC)

Contact: August Meidling, N4PVU  
(703)-297-5515

Last Tuesday - Danville

(W5YI VEC)

Contact: Richard Marshall, WB4CCT  
(804)-793-0772

[Above information taken from *Autocall* and the  
*SERA Journal*]

## CALL SIGNS - AN OBSESSION

Some years ago on a final visit to the FCC Chairman's office in our Nation's capitol, the subject of Amateur Radio call signs was raised in response to an old friend's request. This old friend, Ruthy, W2OWL, used to have a very original QSL card with the face of an owl prominently shown. Ruthy is now in an old-age home in Florida. She's not on the air, but her present call is one of those combinations of Y's, Q's and K's which many of us receive while wishing for something else. In the old days, the FCC required that you change your call sign to agree with the call area in which you resided. Some folks kept a mailing address in their old area so that their call might remain the same.

Eventually, the FCC decided that you could "carry" your call with you no matter where you moved. We see that quite notably here in our own community with W1's, 2's, 3's...and on through the entire numerical call area list. At the time of that visit to the FCC, however, such was not the case. When asked if something could be done to help someone like Ruthy (and many others) the Chairman simply replied that we Radio Amateurs have "an obsession" about our call signs. Obviously, there was agreement on that point and it was related that far more people in the world recognized the call sign "W2HD" and they probably couldn't spell my name! Our call is important to us... some will never change theirs... some will seek another call just to have something (hopefully) better.

During the discussion, the Chairman was reminded that my home was in the New York City area and we have WABC, WCBS and WNBC as some of the prominent broadcast stations. Perhaps the comment that it was somewhat of an "obsession" for those major networks to have such call signs didn't help our position, but it had to be said!

However, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. Recently, Ralph Haller, N4RH, (Note the call), Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau (We're in his list of responsibilities) addressed a VEC meeting in Gettysburg. Ralph said that even as he was speaking there was activity leading toward a hopeful solution to providing some relief to those who wished to obtain lost calls or wished to try for something "special!" There is little doubt that each request would require a special fee. (W2HD was paid for in 1976!)

While we may not see anything in the near future, don't lose hope if you have been hoping to get that special call. The FCC is now heading in the direction which will make that possible.  
= W2HD =



### PLEASE NOTE

A special ARRL Educational Workshop will be held at the Virginia Beach Hamfest (ARRL Roanoke Division Convention) on Saturday and Sunday, September 19th and 20th from 12:30 to 3:00pm each day.

Several speakers will be giving 20-minute presentations relating to their ham radio teaching and recruiting. There will also be a round table discussion.

Leading the list of speakers will be Rosalie White, WA1STO, ARRL Manager of the Educational Activities Department. Well known Amateur Radio educator Gordon West, WB6NOA, will play a prominent part in the activities of this workshop and the convention.

This is a "must" occasion for those involved in teaching and recruiting in Amateur Radio.

## AARC OFFICERS FOR 1992

President	- Robert A. Pattison, KM4DU
Vice-President	- Harry L. (Bud) Beazell, KB4JN1
Treasurer	- Edwin J. Bernet, WA4UPI
Record. Sec'y	- Greg Faust, N4PGS
Corresp. Sec'y	- John D. Gray, W6UZ
Director	- Eugene V. Bossieux, W4IWW
Director	- Hein B. Hvatum, N4FWA

### SPECIAL NOTE

222 MHz... Do you remember when it used to be called 220? This "wasteland" in some parts of the country is now being revitalized here in Charlottesville. The Club has received coordination approval from the SouthEastern Repeater Association (SERA) for a repeater on 224.76 (that "76" sounds familiar!) Our 222 Repeater Committee is now proceeding to put together the necessary equipment and hopes to have something on the air soon.

In the meantime, our club member, KB4YQC, has an excellent repeater working on 224.14 and it demonstrates the potential of the band as it operates from high atop Buck's Elbow in western Albemarle County. If you have any 222 equipment, dust it off and let your signal be heard on the band. You may not remember, but the Novice class licensee can operate voice on this band.

### Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

An important club job need doing, so Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody, who was busy, was sure Somebody would do the job. Anybody could have done the task, if the time weren't inconvenient, but Nobody did the work.

Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody would do it, but Nobody realized Everybody wouldn't, and that's why Nobody did the work. In the end, Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

(Borrowed from many sources.)



### LOGO NEWS

The Club is still looking for a logo to put on the front of the newsletter! There have been a couple of entries, but we'd like more to choose from!! So please, either in writing or by drawing, please send your ideas in for YOUR CLUB'S LOGO. The next newsletter, (coming out in January) will show the logo entries and let everyone give their input into the decision-making! And remember, you can enter more than one idea. Give your ideas to Melissa, KD4GRM, (Ed, KC4YLX can take them to her, easily) or to Harry, W2HD by December 1 so that they can be prepared to go into the coming newsletter! Reminder: The prize will be one year free membership within the AARC!!

### DOES ANYBODY KNOW??

How many times have you wondered, what does HAM mean? I have had several meanings come from different sources, but none really seem to be the definition. I'd love to get your ideas and share them through the newsletter. Also, I'd like to get an idea of how many YL Hams we have in the Charlottesville area. It would be interesting to see when the first YL Ham received her license and when the most recent YL Ham received her license. Also, perhaps we could figure out who was the first OM Ham in the Charlottesville area, as well as the most recent! Please send any of the above information to Melissa, KD4GRM (or send them through Ed, KC4YLX, they're at the same address!).

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