

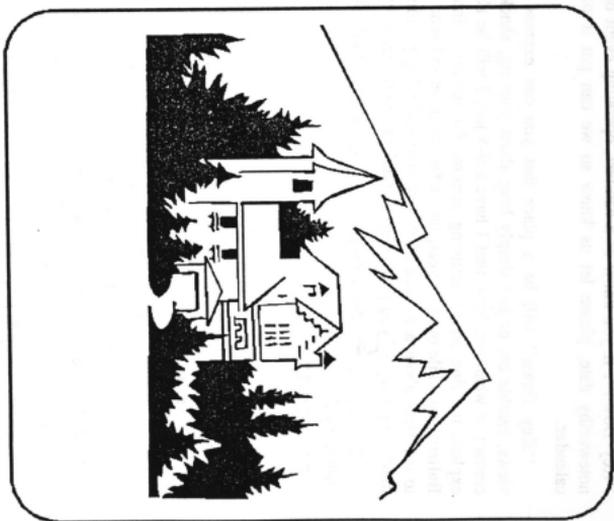
Albemarle Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 6833

Charlottesville, VA 22906

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Send articles for the AARC Bulletin to:

the Editor, Melissa Lang - KD4GRM or Co-editor, Ed Lang - KC4YTX.

DEADLINE for the February issue is January 15, 1994



Editorial Comment

With the New Year now open to us, Melissa and I would like to wish you the very best in 1994 and hope we can make the Bulletin even better and more informative than last year.

We have added a Calendar of Events and a new column, "Key Down". If you know of a hamfest, operating event or any noteworthy date, please let us know so we can put it on the calendar.

"Key Down" will be a place that you can express your views, ramble on, or just simply brag about your rig, shack, Dx contact or whatever. Now that I have a 9-5 job, I will be able to explore the fine art of scanning pictures for inclusion into the Bulletin, so while out this year, take a few pictures and send them to us. How about a picture of you at your operating position, or maybe a picture of you putting up that antenna in the snow storm.

'Til next month, don't forget to get out and be Radio Active with the AARC!

Ed - KC4YLX

A LITTLE BIT OF AARC NOSTALGIA

The January 1969 AARC meeting program was on radio control model airplanes. Included in the newsletter published by K4RKA was a list of members who had paid dues for 1969. These included (this was the ENTIRE list):

W4IHW, Gene Bossieux W4UTQ, Dick Weizel
 W4VIG, Mac McMurdo W4OFR, Dick Florence
 W4YPT, Tracy White
 K4RKA, Ron Richey
 W4LLD, Charlie Carter
 K4DIG, Bob VanFossen
 W4BIY, Norm Geiger
 W4ZYT, Don Lynch
 W44UPJ, Ed Bernet
 K4ERZ, Chappie Chapman

January 1994 AARC Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
3 7:00pm INFO Net	4 7:45-8:00pm AA-RC Info Meeting	5 8:00pm ARES Net	6	7	8	9 AARC Dinner
10 7:00pm INFO Net	11	12 8:00pm ARES Net	13	14	15 Winter MW Grps H4 DX Contest 1:30pm T-Hunt	16 Frostfest H4 DX Contest
17 Merle Lubar King, Jr. 7:00pm INFO Net	18	19 8:00pm ARES Net	20	21	22	23 North American SSB QSO Party
24 7:00pm INFO Net	25	26 8:00pm ARES Net	27	28	29	30 APRIL VHF Swapstakes
31 7:00pm INFO Net	31 CQ World-Wide 1600 CW Contest					

December 1993

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 1994

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

is another conversation heard or not. Asking people to go simplex in an area like ours does not work most times.

And please, let's not nipick this to death, of course, if someone else calls you, you can talk. But, the old argument that "I can do anything I want, cause I'm a ham and have a license, too", just doesn't wash anymore. We all SHARE the limited resource of the repeater(s), so I suggest we all try to decrease our monopolization thereof.

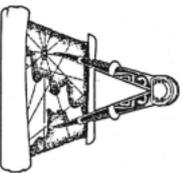
Pat Wilson - N0ERDQ

Postscript

This was NOT written with any specific conversations in mind. However, if it causes a twinge of consciousness.....

TRANSMITTER HUNT

January 15th



I will hold a Transmitter Hunt on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., January 15, 1994. This will be the first of monthly transmitter hunts scheduled for persons to compete. Include some of the new hams in your groups. Please listen on the repeater for more details.

Joe - KP4RWX

Renew your ARRL membership through the AARC.

Its fast, easy and your club will get \$2.00. So "kill two birds with one stone?" support ARRL and

AARC!!

WA4UXD, Tom Kelsey

WB4WBY, Dan Lovett

WB4LKZ, Bob Mahoney

WB4MCS, Jim Nestor

W3EMD/4, Buzz Beichman (President)

Walter Gray Charlie Dobbins ?

This tidbit of nostalgia was brought to you by the archives of Ron Richie K4RKA.

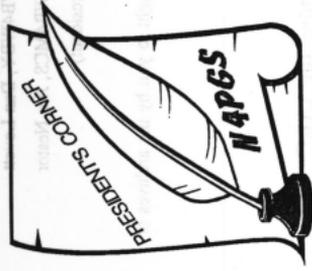
Remember the AARC
Dinner on January 9,
1994.



See you there

Directions to the Annual Club Holiday Dinner:

Take 250W from UVA or the bypass, past the Farmington light to the entrance to Boars Head Inn, which is a left turn off 250W. Go to Boars Head Country Store, before Boars Head and turn left. Go to the tennis courts, Wellington Drive, and turn right. There is a parking lot on the right, or turn left after tennis courts and there is some parking closer to the Sports Club. Our dining room is upstairs at the Sports Club and I hope to have some signs up. Checks should be made out to me, Richard Berman, as the Boars Head Sports Club will bill me direct.



With the New Year just beginning and the holiday season now over, we begin to think about cold weather and indoor projects - what a wonderful time to be a ham! Cold weather means no more thunderstorms and lightning, so you can leave your antennas connected all the time. Time to work on indoor projects like kit building, straightening up the shack, sorting QSL cards and the like. Shopping, normally not high on most people's list of enjoyable activities, can be much more interesting if you are looking for a new rig or accessory for the shack.

As you can see, it's just a matter of priorities.

It's also that time of year when we start to make plans about all those projects we're going to start (and finish?) or maybe continue some of the things already started. Time to renew some old priorities and set some new.

You've elected a new set of officers, but the emphasis is not on the 'new', because the things that have made the Club grow in the past are those that will help us grow in the future. The prime ingredient in any successful Club, an active group of members, isn't changing.

So, hopefully, what you'll see isn't a dramatic change, but reinforcement of what has already been started. As the saying goes, don't mess with success. But even a successful Club can't run long on yesterday's momentum. Energy has to be added to keep things going. And it's that 'energy' that only you can provide.

One of the attractive aspects of ham radio is it's diversity. It's many things to many people. It has room to keep contesters busy,

KEY



DOWN

Here is an opinion from one Ham who has heard many gripes and complaints about those who monopolize the repeater during certain times of the day, and has decided to talk about it, IN THE OPEN.

Everyone should keep in mind that the repeater is a PARTY LINE, there for the use of any who would like or need to have a conversation with other users. When individuals monopolize the repeater, it doesn't keep others from using it, of course, they can always interrupt and make a call. However, what it does do is eliminate other conversations. Just like real life, you wouldn't abruptly stop a friend's conversation to start another, although you might interrupt to ask a question or ask for info. However, you would then quickly let the other parties resume their talk. Unlike real life though, you can't wander into another room to have your conversation. There are limited rooms (repeaters) available.

In my opinion, therein lies the rub. There may be other conversations waiting to be started, but never get there due to the above mentioned monopolization. And please, let's not discuss, whether or not any certain conversation is important, that has no bearing on the matter, at all, because emergency traffic, ALWAYS takes precedence.

I would like to ask the powers that be, whomever they are, to formulate a specific set of guidelines that can be followed for repeater use. Perhaps a committee could be formed to formulate these guidelines and present them to AARC.

Guidelines like:

630am - 830am

400pm - 600pm

Limit your conversation to 10 minutes, period. Whether there

articles, drawing cartoons, reporting the news. There's something to catch your interest in the Publications Committee.

How about riding behind a pack of racing bicyclists, counting runners in a Triathlon, helping at a Red Cross emergency center or manning a special event station at the Mall? AARC has a long history of well-organized service helping out many local organizations with their special needs. You could find a lot of hams willing to work with you in the Activities Committee.

Recycling means just what it says. There's a LOT of good (even great!) equipment floating around just waiting to be used again, sold or traded, so that the Club or perhaps a Club Member can benefit. If you've got a streak of "horse-trader" in you, the Recycling Committee could use your skills.

A strong incentive to getting more hams in the hobby is the variety of awards for excellence in operating. Whether it's contesting with others, or pushing your own skills to new heights, the excitement created by the Awards Committee may be for you.

Even though the Digital Committee is a "new" committee, it's function has been around a long time and has been an important part of our Club for years. If you like to work packet, here's the place for you. It's not just limited to packet, though, some of our digital gurus are on the leading edge of amateur digital technology, working with ROSE, TCP/IP and other mysterious abbreviations.

So join up! We guarantee you'll find something of interest in one of the Club committees. Don't wait to be asked! Talk to one of the Committee chair people or a Club officer and sign up. You'll find others interested in the same things that interest you, and what better way to spend those long, cold winter months than to be having a good time with the hobby.

Greg - N4FG5

transmitter hunters, DXers, those interested in public service, SSB and CW, ATV, Packet and the list goes on. If you haven't found an area of the hobby that interests you, you haven't looked hard enough. And hams aren't just old men sitting in musty rooms hammering away on a straight key, but young and old, talkers and listeners, quiet and noisy. Hams can be anyone. What they all have in common is a fascination with some part of the hobby and a willingness to do something about it.

The 1994 officers and directors ARE willing to work with you to keep this Club growing with the vitality that is the core of ham radio. So don't wait to be asked; join a committee, start a project, help at a bike race, whatever, but bring some energy, and keep the Club a growing concern all year long.

Greg Faust - N4FG5

PVCC is offering a course which may be of interest to members of the AARC. Information follows:

- Electronic Communications I (Course ID #ETR-241)
- 4 Credits at \$44/credit hour
- course offered on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00-6:30 p.m.
- both lecture and lab session each evening
- material to be covered: TV, radio, digital & computer interface
- Registration 12/6/93 to 12/17/93 and 1/6/94 to 1/14/94
- classes begin on 1/17/94
- the instructor is Mark Fitzgerald

VEEP'S

COLUMN



Well, as the new Veeep, this is my first article to the newsletter and I'll try to write something that won't put everybody to sleep before they get through this first sentence. We have been evolving into a new club, insofar as we are no longer a small club of a few members dedicated solely to equipment and the social aspects of Ham fellowship. We are now a club of almost 150 members involved in teaching, public service, ARES, RACES, Mobile Watch, Northern Piedmont Emergency Net, Skywarn, etc. Under the leadership of Bob Pattison, KM4DU, and his merry men, we have taken on the responsibility of a Special Service Club, which brings with it the duty of not only getting more people interested in the hobby of Ham Radio but maintaining the interest in the technical aspects of Ham Radio, especially since the equipment and procedures are continually becoming more sophisticated. With the inclusion of computer technology into the hobby of Ham Radio the possibilities of worldwide communication on just a little 2 meter rig are almost limitless. Ham Radio started as a technical and social hobby and is now developing into one of the more civic duty oriented hobbies available. The almost incidental technical education of the people coming into Ham Radio, with

Join A Committee!

Amateur Radio has many facets, many different faces to what is more than just a "hobby" to a lot of people. There are the technical aspects - learning about electronics, designing, building, operating and repairing. It has people aspects - education, public service, awards, rag-chewing and DXing. So many different and challenging things to offer, allowing everyone a chance to find something they like to do.

Our Club has been growing in size and along with that growth, we've had an increase in the number of different types of activities.

The holiday season is over for many, and now is the time to make those new year resolutions. It's the time to take a look ahead at the new year. A good time to renew some old interests or start something new. A great time to join an AARC committee!

A thinly disguised sales pitch? Sure, but there really are a lot of benefits to joining a committee. In addition to the five standing committees, Technical, Fund-Raising, Publications, Education and Activities, there's Recycling and two new ones - Awards and Digital.

Your interests lean to the technical? Like to build kits or erect antennas? One of the strong points of the Club is the great resource we have in technically proficient people. Plenty of opportunities to pass on your knowledge or learn some more. Maybe the Technical Committee would be for you.

Like to teach? Work in a classroom? Enjoy the thrill of watching someone grasp a new concept or maybe listen to them proudly announce their brand-new callsign that you helped them get? The Education Committee might be just the place for you.

Have any ideas about making money for the Club? Willing to help at raffles or bake sales or whatever? Sounds like you might be interested in Fund-Raising.

Maybe you like spreading the word about Ham radio, writing



1994 AARC Officers, Board Members and Chairpeople

President - Greg Faust, N4PGS

Vice-President - Rick Berman, KO4WQ

Treasurer - Sharon Duvall, KO4OC

Secretary - Melissa Lang, KD4GRM

Committees: Director is listed first, and then Chairperson
Fund-Raising - Bob Pattison, KM4DUJ; Bill Harri, N4ZZB
Technical - Hein Hvatum, N4FWA; Sam Gentry, N4WJQ
Publications - Harry Dannals, W2HD; Ed Lang, KC4YLLX
Education - Mike Duvall, AC4ZQ; Bob Ross, WA2MFI
Activities - Sam Gentry, N4WJQ; Hein Hvatum, N4FWA

Committees Chairpersons for:

Digital - Roy Lane, WA0TF

Recycling - Ron Richey, K4RKA

Awards - Joe Fritz, KC4RWX

Other positions:

ARRL Liaison - Pat Wilson, N0RDQ

ARES/RACES Coordinator - Hein Hvatum, N4FWA

ARRL/VE Coordinator - John Gray, W6UZ

Trustee - Morris Jones, NM4R

the enormous help and support of the "OLD TIMERS" cannot help but be of value, not only to our local community, but to the country as a whole....Enough pontificating. I hope that the new administration can be as effective, helpful and supportive as the old one. Don't forget the Annual Club Dinner on January 9. Hope to see you-all there.

Rick - KO4WQ

VE Announcement

The local VE Team will hold a testing session in January of 1994 for all those who wish to test for Amateur Radio licenses. This session will include all elements. As always, if you are taking Novice elements (1A and/or 2) only, there will be NO CHARGE. If you request any other elements, the charge will be \$5.75.

You MUST register in advance for this session. It will be held at our usual, NRAO Auditorium site, sometime in the middle of the month. We are checking on the availability of the site now.

Call W6UZ, John Gray, VE Liaison or N0RDQ, Pat Wilson, for more details/information.

For your use (and you should know these) the elements are:

1A - 5 wpm code

1B - 13 wpm code

1C - 20 wpm code

2 - Novice

3A - Technician

3B - General

4A - Advanced

4B - Extra

AARC Meeting Minutes

12/14/93

The meeting was brought to order by Bob Pattison, KM4DU at 7:35pm. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves.

Applications for membership from Curtis Eshleman-KK4HJ, Glen Showalter-WB7QBW, Tom Kelsey-WA4UXD, Alan Porter-KD4DNU, George Howlett-AD4NF and Helene Howlett-KC4VTP were accepted.

A Disc Cone Antenna was presented to be raffled off at the end of the meeting and tickets were sold for the raffle.

The Amendment to the By-laws brought up in the October 12 meeting, was voted on and passed without changes.

Ed Burnett, WA4UPI, presented the Treasurer's report: The account balance for the Club as of 11/12/93 was \$2021.80.

The minutes from the October 12 meeting were accepted as read.

Rick Berman, KO4WQ, reported that the Annual Club Holiday Dinner would be at the Boar's Head Inn Sports Club on Sunday, January 9. The cost will be \$13.00 per person, with a child's menu available. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rick with your choice of entree.

Harry Dannels, W2HD, reported that Richard Dale, KO4EV, has set up a schedule at 2:00 EST on 14:291 on Saturday, 12/18 for anyone interested in making a contact with him while he is in Costa Rica.

Joe Fritz, KD4RWX, announced a Hidden Transmitter Hunt to take place on 12/18 in the western part of Albemarle County. It will start at 1:30 pm.

Melissa Lang, KD4GRM, reminded everyone that the deadline for getting information to be used in the January AARC Bulletin is December 15.

W3EMD/8, K4RKA/8, and WA4TFZ/8 but many east coast hams knew who we were, frequently by name. One year we ran over 1000 watts ERP on 450 MHz and contacted 22 different states on that band alone.

I have been the ARRL Area 6 Emergency Coordinator and have held every office in the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club. I published the first AARC newsletter and membership list. I served as the Public Relations director and newsletter editor for the Virginia Air Force MARS organization (as AFA4RKA). As President of the Charlottesville Emergency Amateur Repeater Society, I built, negotiated for the site, installed and maintained the early repeaters on Carter's mountain. For over 15 years, I was the AARC Technical Committee Chairman reporting to the Trustee, and am presently the Chairman of the Recycling Committee.

Most of my VHF activities have revolved around building and maintaining 2 meter and 450 MHz repeaters and 10 meter, 6 meter, and 220 MHz remote base stations and control functions. My wife, Nancy, WB4RBW, earned her license in 1970 and my daughter, Elaine, just passed her Tech Plus test at the December Charlottesville VE session. Around 1980 I upgraded to Advanced Class at the Richmond Hamfest, taking the test with an orange Putt Putt pencil which I still have, no eraser, no scratch paper and no calculator. I was the first one finished and only missed two questions. Long live multiple-guess quizzes! These days, computers and computer-related activities occupy much of my time, but I still enjoy buying, fixing, swapping and selling all sorts of surplus radios, test equipment and other electronic devices. Going to Hamfests has been a major interest for some time, although I find my fascination with "junk" has decreased somewhat (not that you could tell it by looking at my basement).

While surplus commercial equipment, repeaters, autostart VHF teletype, test equipment, packet radio, emergency communications and other club activities have occupied most of my ham life, I have had spurts of interest in HF teletype, SSB, and some DXing. I never quite got around to learning CW well enough to enjoy it, but I want to save something for the future.

first DX. A station in Canada responded to my call and politely asked me if I wasn't out of the US 20 meter phone band! I had never worked 20 meters before, wasn't familiar with the borrowed receiver, and assumed that if I heard a voice, I could talk to it. So, I thanked him, signed off immediately, and restricted the rest of my contacts to 40 meters! I didn't even ask for a QSL card.

College put a slight damper on the activity, but I was a member of W4AQL, the Georgia Tech radio club and I met several other co-op students who were hams. My work quarters were spent at NASA's Langley Field Research Center where my fellow co-ops and I delved into Hi-Fi, large voltages, and some ham radio. Later at North Carolina State University, I became exposed to VHF with Benton Harbor Lunch-boxes (regenerative receiver transceivers) on both 6 meters and 2 meters. I was amazed at being able to work New Orleans on a regular basis on 6 meters between 4 and 6 pm each day. Wow! 2 meters was strictly local and I do mean "LOCAL," but I heard that Charlottesville, Virginia, where I planned to go to work for the Sperry Piedmont Company after graduation, was a real hot bed of 2 meter activity. A lot of equipment swapping with K4TTL at the Lafayette store in Raleigh left me with a real nice HF station, a SX-100 receiver and a Globe King 500C transmitter, plus a neat Heathkit 2 meter AM transceiver. It took about a year to discover that everyone in Charlottesville was on FM. Oh well, HF and 6 meters with a Ulica 650A were still fun. Finally an ex-tactical Link FM radio came my way and I joined the crowd on 2 meters FM and discovered the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club.

In the early 1970's, I enjoyed making long distance VHF and UHF contacts by participating with several others in the ARRL VHF contests. We usually went to Reddish Knob, put the tents on the Virginia side of the parking lot and the radio equipment on the West Virginia side. Back then West Virginia was a rare state on UHF for the east coast and we became well known. Most years we were at the top of our category and one year enough other West Virginia stations participated so that we finally won a Section Award with 42 sections worked. The calls used were

Bob Pattison, KM4DU, announced that there will be a Ham Station set up at the Discovery Museum to demonstrate Amateur Radio to museum visitors on Tuesday, Dec. 28 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending about 5:00 p.m. He needs operators and asks for anyone interested to please contact him to sign up.

Elwood Shrader, KB4DJN, asked about the status of the library project. It was reported that most of the books held by Northside library are outdated, but subscriptions have been ordered that will be placed in the libraries around town. Requests are being made to get more up-to-date references into the libraries.

Harry Dannels, W2HD, gave us information from Pete Taylor, KC4JCK, regarding a class at Piedmont Virginia Community College which might be of interest to Hams. It is a course entitled "Electronic Communications".

It was announced that a Novice/Technician class will be held sometime in January. Please contact Bob Pattison, KM4DU Joe Fritz, KD4RWX and Harry Dannels, W2HD for more information.

The presentation was given by a guest speaker, Major Louise Ward, WB4KOW, with the Civil Air Patrol on communications and Ham participation in the Civil Air Patrol. Thank you.

The raffle for the Disc Cone Antenna was held and Tom Matthew, N2LX, won. Congratulations, Tom!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Club dues are due by January 1, 1994.

Don't forget!

See Sharon Duvall, KO4OC, Treasurer.



An all-day "jumpsuit" seminar on TCP/IP was held at the NRAO auditorium on Saturday, December 4. The seminar was conducted by Bob Segrest, KD4PWU, from Culpeper. Since then the following have been reported connecting to each other in the TCP/IP mode: AC4ZQ, N4FWA, KC4YLX, and N4WJQ. Bob, W4BLD, expects to install a TCP/IP server on Afton Mountain (to serve both Charlottesville and the Valley) in the near future.

Bob Segrest is scheduled to be the speaker at the February meeting of AARC. Hopefully, we can win more recruits of TCP/IP and perhaps conduct another training session following the meeting.

A technical session involving TCP/IP is conducted each Thursday evening at 8 pm on the Culpeper repeater, 147.12 MHz.

Virginia Digital Group The Virginia Digital Group (VDG) will meet at the Richmond Frostfest on January 16. All interested in any form of digital communications are invited to attend. A major subject is expected to be the development of a band plan for digital communications in Virginia. Time and place of the meeting will be announced at the Frostfest.

REMINDER:

The Board and Technical Committees meet the first Tuesday of each month at NRAO and are open to everyone.

BEHIND THE CALL

ORA - K4RKA

The Evolution of Ron Richey as K4RKA: I was first licensed as KN4RKA in 1959. A friend in the technical education curriculum in high school asked me to help him learn Morse code. Since I had learned it in Boy Scouts, it was sorta fun to hear it rather than see it from flags. When the time to take the test came, he talked me into going along and gave me a book to read on the way over. This was back in the fill-in-the-blanks days and the circuit which I was asked to draw on my test was a power supply. This was probably the only circuit which I had a snowball's chance of drawing and as a result I passed the test. Now I had to figure out what a "HAM" was!! With no equipment or parents who had any idea what a ham was either, about all I could do was study for the next level, which was basically General in those days since Technicians were weird people who played around above 50 MHz which everyone knows is too high for reliable communications. Three months later I passed the Conditional Exam which was the equivalent of General for people who lived more than 75 miles away from a regular FCC examining point. This dropped the novice "N" and gave me the call which I have had ever since. Next came an old Halicrafters SX-25 receiver which didn't work on 20 meters, but the transmitter which I had been given only worked on 80 and 40 anyhow. With an investment of \$35 and the ire of my dad when I put up a pole for one end of a two band trap dipole in his garden, I was on the air. Soon I was on AM with a Heathkit AT-1 with a cathode modulator and 20 Watts - Whee!! -big time. That allowed me to get on the Asheville, North Carolina Upper Level Hillbilly Net on 10 meters every Sunday morning. A converted ARC-5 receiver was lashed under the dashboard of the family's 1941 Ford, so I would check into the net from home and then listen to the rest of the net on the way to church. In retrospect, I am amazed that my family put up with this. I made a lot of ham friends and got an honorable mention with an amateur radio station demonstration in the high school Science Fair my senior year where I worked my