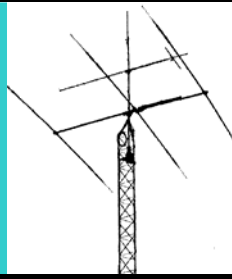


The AARC Beacon



**Serving radio enthusiasts
and communities in
Central Virginia –
The Radio Club for
Central Virginia**

Volume 2009, No. 11



November 2009

Inside this Issue

1	Meeting Notice
1	The President's Letter
2	Veep Peeps
2	Club Business
4	For Sale and Wanted...
4	AARC Officer / Director Election Results for 2010
4	Contest Highlights - Upcoming
5	AARC Scores a Hit in Amateur Radio Newslines!!
5	Annual Committee Reports 2009
8	Another Year Nearing the End
9	AARC Public Service Schedule
9	Area Hamfests
9	FCC Database Updates
9	VE Session Schedule - 2009
9	For Sale Items
9	AARC Club Officers
9	Contest Calendars

Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **November 10 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA Grounds. The program will be a presentation on the Albemarle High School Students Balloon Launch that was recovered and returned after many months.**

Sounds interesting – see you there!

The President's Letter

Dave, K4DND

Greetings to all AARC members. Thanks to everyone who turned out for the October Annual Business meeting and made it a great success. Congratulations to those newly elected to club leadership positions, and special thanks to retiring board members Alan K9MBQ, and Dennis K4THE for their significant and valuable contributions to the AARC over the past two years.

Based on action at the annual business meeting **we now have an additional Director position, making a total of six, and consistent with our six standing committees.**

(Current Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation are posted on the AARC website for your review and use). In the past couple of years, board members have taken on too much of the work of the committees for which they are accountable. Every member the AARC needs to be a member of at least one of our standing committees.

For review, and in no particular order, the standing committees are 1) Public Service, 2) Public Relations, 3) Technical, 4) Fund Raising, 5) Estate, and 6) Education. Each of these standing committees in 2010 will have a chairperson, a director, and as many others as dictated by member interest. So be thinking now about which committee or committees you are interested in joining. The more members of each committee, the less each individual member has to do to accomplish the business of the committee in the coming year. Our goal is to have every AARC member affiliated and active with one or more committees.

We have the highest AARC membership we have had in years; however, we still need to increase membership participation in club activities. Next year make sure you attend every AARC monthly meeting possible, become a regular participant in the AARC Monday Night Information Net, and the Thursday night ARES/RACES Northern Piedmont Emergency Net. I know many people listen in to our local nets but don't check in. Please check in, it is an important incentive to those running the nets, and as you become a regular check in you will feel more a part of the action.

I am amused by the conventional wisdom of the 90-10 rule that asserts in any organization, 90 percent of the work is done by 10 percent of the membership. How would it be if we violate this rule by each and every AARC member making a commitment to be more active in the club next year?

What can you do to be more active? Attend more meetings, and each meeting you are able to make, bring someone with you. Perhaps you know of someone that would like to attend a meeting but needs a ride. Perhaps you know someone who hasn't renewed as an AARC member. Bring them along with you and get them renewed and added to our AARC membership.

You could submit material to W4RQ for inclusion in the Beacon. It doesn't have to be a major story, perhaps a description of your shack, the fun you had participating in a recent contest, an update on your DX progress, or a new personal project. Any of these make good reading for the rest of our membership, and remind us all of the many, various, and interesting aspects of our hobby. And don't worry if you think your writing skills are not up to the job. You can write something and send it to me, to K4JEC, to K2SSB or W2HD. Any of us would be pleased to help you get your story finalized.

You could volunteer to help out with at least one public service event next year. Ask anyone who is a regular participant and they will tell you how much fun they have, and how important they feel their participation is to all those who are involved in the event. If you are uncomfortable with diving into public service, start out slowly. We can pair you up with someone who is experienced with the particular event, and you can sit beside or ride along with them and see just how easy it is.

You could volunteer to help a new ham get on the air. Being an Elmer is one of the most rewarding activities that you can imagine. You don't have to know everything or be able to do everything yourself. Do as much as you can and then find someone else to come in and help further. Both you and the new ham will gain from this process and you will all have fun.

After all, that is what this is all about, having fun. This is a hobby, not court-ordered community service, so never lose sight of the fun in Amateur Radio. I look forward to seeing you all at the November meeting.

73 de K4DND

Veep Peeps

Jim, K4JEC

Thank you for your response to the call for the Annual Meeting in October. This was a very productive meeting in that we had a great turnout of members and you elected a new slate of officers and directors; and also approved the Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws as placed before you by the Bylaws Committee and endorsed by your Board – all posted on our website.

Our club is alive with activities and events and keeping up with all that is going on; members need to check the website frequently at <albemarleradio.org> for the best and latest information available. The club website is currently under revision and reconstruction to serve you even better so you need to check it often and provide feedback.

As you all should know the board approved moving forward with the **Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In** and now we have to get cracking and produce the event. The club enjoyed a real honor the last week in October when the **Amateur Radio Newslines featured an announcement that we are planning a "first Virginia Ham Cruise-In on May Day of 2010 that was transmitted all across the country.** It was a long shot but we asked and they honored our request that it be announced through their media outlet. Our goal at this time is to try to get our date established so nothing else will be staged to offer a conflict for hams attention.

Events coming up include **a presentation at the November Meeting of the Albemarle High School Students Balloon Launch that was recovered and returned after many months.** If you remember, the club donated \$300 toward this adventure and it should be very interesting to get a post-event report.

A club social event is being planned for the December Meeting that could offer a more than usual opportunity to socialize and visit with each other. And of course, we are already planning and working on the **Winter Dinner and Awards Banquet for our January Meeting.** Last year's dinner was such a wonderful success so we are sticking with a repeat performance that we hope will draw even more attendance.

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes – October 13, 2009

Dave Damon, President, called the meeting to order with VP Jim, Treasure Don and Acting Secretary Pat present. Directors Dennis and Greg were present.

A change in last month's Board Meeting minutes was noted correcting the name of Beasley according to Dave who will

see that correction is made. The minutes as corrected were approved on a motion by Joe.

Don gave the Finance Annual Report, printed elsewhere in this issue.

Jim gave the VP report: He stated that a **reservation had been made by Alan for the January dinner at the Elks Club**. He also advised that he had contacted Albemarle County Parks and Recreation to reserve the pavilion at Darden Towle Park for the August Auction and Picnic. They are not yet taking reservations for 2010 until after December. He will advise when it has been reserved. Jim has also contacted Fashion Square as a site for our Spring Cruise In. Still awaiting their response, but sounds good so far.

We discussed **a December Christmas party/social and sale**. Let's investigate and decide by e-mail if necessary, as well as an alternative location other than NRAO. Don (N4UVA) made a motion that we set a budget of \$250. This was seconded by Dennis. This motion was unanimously approved.

Patsy, K4PMC gave publications report. Dennis gave Education report. Greg gave his technology report. Dave (K4DND) gave his Activities Report. All reports are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Dave recommended that a youthful membership, for which there is no fee, be for anyone under the age of 21. Jim made a motion to accept the age of 21 as a definition of Youth Member. Dennis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Harry W2HD questioned whether we want to announce club meetings on our club repeaters. It was decided it was certainly OK -- go for it. Dave reported that he had done this in the past, with no idea if it was productive.

There being no further business, the Board Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Patsy Crosby – K4PMC, Secretary

Regular Meeting – October 13, 2009

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Dave K4DND. Dave welcomed those attending the meeting and announced that we do have a quorum present with a head count of 38 members. Dave recognized the life members present and invited everyone to introduce themselves with their name and call.

Dave asked that we accept the minutes of the September General Membership meeting as they appeared in the Beacon with the correction of AB4G, Gary Beasley's name. Joe (W2PVY) moved that we adopt the minutes as printed with the Gary Beasley name correction. Bob (K4DU) seconded. They were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Don gave the Annual Financial Report, printed elsewhere in this issue. We will publish in the Beacon for member review.

VP Jim announced that we have a reservation for the annual dinner at the Elks Club for January 12, 2010 (confirmed by Alan (K9MBQ)).

We are planning to reserve a pavilion at Darden Towle Park for the summer picnic/auction but they won't accept reservations for next year until December.

We are planning a Christmas social at the December meeting on Dec. 10, 2009. Dave suggested we identify a location other than NRAO. Jim requested that if anyone has any connections or recommendations for a location to please let him know -- more to follow.

Dave asked for the Annual Committee reports due at this meeting. Patsy gave her Publications report. Dennis gave his Education report. Greg gave his Technical report. Linda was not available -- report to follow. K4DND gave the Activities Report. All reports are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Dave announced a ten-minute break. We came back at Dave's call. Dave asked that Jim (K4JEC) open discussion about the bylaws proposed changes. Jim asked if anyone wanted him to read the proposed changes in that they were distributed in their entirety. There was an indication that everyone had received them and they were ready to vote. K4DND called for a motion to adopt the bylaws as previously distributed/presented. Stan (K4SSB) moved to accept the bylaws as distributed. Joe (W2PVY) seconded the motion. Dave (K4DND) called for the vote, which was unanimously approved.

Dave announced that after a discussion by the board, it was decided that a youthful member be defined as a youth up to age 21.

Dave then asked Harry for the Nomination Committee Report. Harry gave his report, which was produced in the Beacon's October Issue.

Dave thanked the committee composed of our life members and announced that the floor was open for nominations – none were heard. Alan made a motion that the nominations be accepted. Don seconded the motion and nominations were declared closed.

In that there were no contested positions for the slate, Dave asked that the secretary cast one unanimous ballot to elect the candidates.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Patsy Crosby – K4PMC, Secretary

For Sale and Wanted...

Tnx Ron, K4RKA

Please notify K4RKA when an item has been sold or pulled from availability and can be deleted from this list.

Scanners for Sale -- 2 Uniden 760 \$50.00 Each. 1 Radio Shack 95 Portable \$100.00. 1 Bearcat 240xt 40 channel \$25.00. 1 UHF-VHF Radio Shack 16 channel \$25.00. 1 Bearcat 240XL 20 channel 20.00. 1 Bearcat 200 16 channel \$15.00. 1 Uniden 100xt 100 channel 50.00. 1 Pro 2051 Radio Shack Desktop 1000 channel \$150.00. Thanks, Jerome, KI4DLA

Old tube radios and other goodies. Philco 620F (1937) - \$ 50. NC-300 - \$200, Scott RCH - \$250, Midwest 18 console - \$100, KLH 27 stereo receiver - \$60, HP-302A wave analyzer - \$100, HP- 606A signal gen - \$100, Feiler signal tracers - \$20 each, AK-20 - \$100, RCA WR-99a marker generator - \$40, RCA sig gen - \$15, small antique Weston ohmmeter - \$30, Airline 62-256 - \$10, BF Goodrich Mantola R661 - \$ 25, Philco- 40-140 - \$15, Philco-37-620 Console. Call Carter Elliott, WD4AYS at 434 566 8767 or via email at celliott14@aol.com

Items For Sale. Listing for a friend. **Drake MN-2000** matching network. **Swan 1200-X** tube linear amplifier. **Heathkit SB-634** Station Console. **Ham-Key** straight key with black base. Call Bob W4RQ at (434) 990-2659 (home) or via email at w4rq@yahoo.com.

Coleman Series 54 Generator; 4KW 120V/240V. Briggs & Stratton 8HP engine model 190432. Very clean and mounted on cart. Purchased about 1985 and used very little. Has new carburetor, plug, air filter, fuel lines, fuel filter & fuel cutoff valve. However I can't get it started. Has compression, fuel and I believe good spark. Maybe new carburetor just needs adjustment. I'm tired of pulling the rope! And anyway it won't run my heat pump. \$199.00 Jim K4CGY 434-296-3044

ITEMS FOR SALE: With the purchase of my 2004 Hyundai Elantra GT, I will not be needing my mobile gear anymore. I do not have any intent of installing radio gear into the vehicle. Please follow the below link for the sale page on QRZ: <http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?p=1716639> . No worries, I still have the handheld unit for local communications. Jeffrey, N4LFJ, 76 Holly Ridge Court #3 Evington, VA 24550, (434) 382-9527 or n4lfj@yahoo.com.

AARC Officer / Director Election Results for 2010

Thank you for your vote of confidence in re-electing me to serve as your Vice President for a second term. It is truly an honor to serve you in this capacity and to play a small part in putting together another fantastic year of fun, entertaining

and enlightening events. Ham radio is a unique hobby that always offers something new to explore, comprehend and challenge its participants.

You elected the following as your leadership for 2010:

PRESIDENT	K4DND, DAVE DAMON
VICE PRESIDENT	K4JEC, JIM CROSBY
SECRETARY	K4PMC, PATSY CROSBY
TREASURER	N4UVA, DON EASON
DIRECTOR	AD6JV, BILL PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR	K4BAV, JIM WILSON
DIRECTOR	K4CQY, JIM OWEN
DIRECTOR	K4DU, BOB PATTISON
DIRECTOR	KI5LLB, LINDA BEARD
DIRECTOR	N4PGS, GREG FAUST

These are very special people because they have stepped forward to assume their various roles in serving you the members. Some are new to the role and some have served in various capacities over many years. They represent a real talent pool and beyond what they bring to the table, they also need your support in the way of input and participation because all of us working together can accomplish much to shout about at the end of the year in which we can all take credit.

Thanks again! You are all a part of an organization in which I am very proud to claim membership!

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Nov 7	ARRL EME Contest
Nov 7	ARRL Sweepstakes CW
Nov 21	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the ARRL Contest Calendar webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

Nov 14	Worked All Europe Contest - Digital
Nov 14	Japan International DX Contest
Nov 29-29	CQ Worldwide DX Contest - CW

The [SM3CER Contest Service - Contest Calendars](#) has info and rules for these contests and just about every contest that exists.

73, Bob W4RQ

AARC Scores a Hit in Amateur Radio Newline!!

Tnx Jim. K4JEC

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club has made the news in this week's edition of Amateur Radio Newline. The Newline is broadcast around the world and is carried locally on the AARC Monday Night Info Net; which is called every Monday evening at 7 p.m. by Net Control Operator Harry (W2HD). The Newline is downloaded and broadcast for the club by Joe (W2PVY). Be sure to check-in on the net this Monday, October 19, at 7 p.m. to hear the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club's plans to stage a Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In.

This is fantastic exposure for our club and its planned Cruise-In to get the date firmly established throughout the ham community so nothing will be set up on the same date to represent a conflict. Our story was submitted to Bill Pasternak, the editor.

You can access the Newline on the web at www.arnewline.org if you have to miss the local broadcast. The website allows you to download the weekly edition as hard copy or as an audio file. Check it out or check into the Monday Night Info Net.

Annual Committee Reports 2009

Vice President's Report (Jim. K4JEC)

We started 2009 off with the best-attended Winter Awards Dinner yet. Those in attendance commented positively on the food, facilities and program. The dinner included a printed program, tickets sold in advance and lots of awards were presented setting a new mode and method for the annual affair. Arrangements for the dinner at the Elks Club were made by our Secretary, Alan Swinger, who has already arranged the date for our 2010 dinner.

We approved a design to stand as the club's logo and printed a brochure to represent the club to the public and ordered club patches that were made available to club members at \$4 each.

We distributed a free club patch to all who attended the called meeting to approve Amendments to our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to comply with IRS requirements to meet the IRS Code 501 (c) (3) qualifications to be determined to be tax exempt under the federal guidelines. The subsequent examination by the IRS resulted in their issuance of a Letter of Determination.

The Club elected to add a ham radio equipment auction to our Summer Picnic in August. The event was so well attended that we filled the large shelter in McIntire Park, raised \$500 for a deceased ham's widow and nearly \$400 for

the club. The overwhelming success dictated that we make the auction/picnic an annual affair. The Bylaws Committee consisting of Alan Swinger, Dennis Mennerich and chaired by your Vice President studied, analyzed and wrote a set of recommended amendments to bring our Bylaws in line with present practice and make other necessary changes to bring them up to date. The amendments were approved following a discussion and some minor tweaking by the Board and recommended to the general membership for approval at the annual meeting.

The Board approved sponsoring the first ever Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In to be staged on May 1, 2010 following a sampling of interest among club members via an email survey.

This has been a very active year for the club and it has been an honor to step up to the plate as your Vice President and be a full participant in club activities.

Treasurer's Report (Don, N4UVA)

Deposit Balance 12/31/08:	\$4,918.19
Debits:	\$4,997.25
Credits:	\$4,236.00
Deposit Balance: 9/30/09	\$4,156.94
Income	
Dues:	\$1,045.00
Repeater Donations: (Restricted Balance \$729)	\$363.00
Annual Dinner:	\$210.00
FrostFest:	\$685.00
Raffle Sales:	\$600.00
Patch Sales:	\$246.00
Estate Disbursement-Items Sold-	\$500.00
Donations Received - CASH -	\$587.00
Donations Received - Non Cash - Richard Dale Equip.	\$800.00
Total:	\$4,236.00
Expenses	
Food for Field Day:	\$73.62
Annual Dinner:	\$755.99
Repeater Antenna:	\$150.00
Patches:	\$260.06
SCC Amendment:	\$225.00
Annual Picnic:	\$175.24

November 2009

Annual Liability Policy Renewal:	\$488.00
Legal Fees to Procure Non Profit Fed. Status:	\$822.16
Estate Sale Disbursement to Beneficiary:	\$500.00
Antenna reimbursement Tim Miller:	\$174.25
Club Donations: (See Note)	\$648.23
Misc:	\$645.64
Total:	\$4,918.19
Note:	
Cash Donations	
Science Fair Awards:	\$200.00
Amateur Radio News Line:	\$50.00
Balloon Launch:	\$300.00
Non Cash Donations - Training Manuals	\$98.23

Activities Report (Dave, K4DND)

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club has been an active participant in public service activities over many years. For example, AARC has provided communications assistance for the annual MS Society MS-150 Bike Tour for over 20 years running. The AARC believes this type of activity is an important public showcase for the Amateur Radio Service as well as providing more realistic training for ARES/RACES by forcing participants to "get the job done" in the face of real world conditions.

AARC participation in 2009 exceeded expectation and has proven to be a real credit to the club. 2009 events included:

1. Bel Monte Mountain Run – 1 day event – 5 club participants
2. Jefferson Cup Bike Races – 1 day event – 12 participants
3. Montpelier Boy Scout Camporee – 1 day event – 9 participants
4. Tour de Greene – 1 day event – 8 participants
5. MS-150 Bike Tour – 2 day event – 16 participants on Saturday, 14 on Sunday
6. Devil's Backbone Mountain Cross – 1 day event – 7 participants
7. Great Eastern Endurance Run – 1 day event – 5 participants

8. AARL Field Day – 2 day event – over 50 participants - reported separately by FD Committee.

Not counting Field Day, a total of 76 event participations were made by a total of 25 AARC members. Assuming an average of 10 hours per event participation per person 760 participant hours were contributed by AARC members in 2009. The ARRL assumes each participant hour has a market value of \$19, and also counts an estimate of the personal and repeater equipment used. Taking only participant hours into account, the AARC provided over \$14,400 of communication assistance value to local events and members of the public who participated in those events. Taking individual and club equipment costs into account would more than triple this dollar amount. Individuals who participated in the AARC Public Service in 2009 are listed on the AARC website www.albemarle-radio.org, and are encouraged to attend the January Winter Dinner where certificates will be presented to recognize their participation.

We anticipate that at least 7 of the events listed above will be on the calendar for 2010 and look forward to working again with all the great AARC members who volunteer for this important outreach commitment.

Submitted Oct. 13, 2009

D. N. Damon, AARC President - Acting for the Activities Committee

Technical Committee (Greg, N4PGS)

During the last year the members of the Technical Committee maintained the Club repeater equipment and operated it in accordance with applicable FCC rules.

Several projects are in the works for the upcoming year, including

- Establishing a repeater link network
- Investigating new repeater sites
- Upgrading repeater controllers

Many thanks to the Technical Committee members who worked on individual projects to install and replace equipment at the repeater sites.

Submitted by Technical Committee Chairman

Greg Faust, N4PGS

Education Committee (Dennis, K4THE)

Education Committee members for 2009 are:

AD6JV	Bill Phillips
K4BAV	Jim Wilson
K4DU	Bob Pattison
K4THE	Dennis Mennerich (Chairman)

I solicited participation in this Committee and its activities throughout the year. The AARC mail-list was used to request and distribute information.

The Education **Requirements Questionnaire was updated**. The results were used by both the VP to plan our presentations and by this Committee to guide the expansion of the education and training page on our website.

The primary accomplishment this year was the **major expansion of the education and training web page** addressing the subjects of most interest to the membership. It now provides hyperlinks to over 125 sites (which lead to over 700 amateur radio topics and 10,000 valuable other links) with information on training media, exam preparation, handicap resources, Morse code, expert sites and references, digital modes, software defined radios, DX reflectors and clusters, propagation, and emergency services, etc. This resource will enable prospective and current members to locate information for further self-study. Thanks to WW4GW and KJ4KIH for posting the information to the web site. <http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/Education.shtml>

Based on members stated interests in the questionnaire, the following presentations were made at the monthly meetings:

AB3BB Electrically Steerable Antennas
 K4DND Intro to Digital Modes using sound cards, PSK31
 K4DND Digital Modes Part 2 (RTTY, PSK, CW, etc)
 K4DND D-Star Digital Mode Repeaters
 K4JEC Directed Net Operations and phonetics
 K4JEC Ropes and Knots for Hams
 K4THE Weak Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) Digital Mode
 KI4RIX & KJ4IEA FM Digital Radio
 W2PVY Low cost home-brew sound system
 WW4GW History of Radio

AD6JV and K4THE were judges at the PVCC Science Fair. They talked to many students about the relevance of their projects to ham radio and selected the two winners for the club awards.

I attended a CERT **Community Emergency Response Team** meeting and continue to work with K4CNO to help them obtain their ham licenses. About 7 or 8 members have been studying and will be ready to take an exam in a few weeks. I have asked AB3BB to schedule a VE exam session for them. <http://www.charlottesvillecert.org/>

The continuing lack of adequate support by the membership precludes the operation of a regular training or review course at this time. These members volunteered to teach: AB3BB, K4JEC, KI4LLB, and K4EBL – but many more are needed.

Members indicating interest in being an Elmer were AD6JV, K4AZV, K4DND and K4THE.

Members showing interest in working with the Boy Scouts were AA3BB, AD6JV, AG4DN, K4AZV and K4MSR.

I solicited members to evaluate KD0FNR's on-line exam software but, disappointingly, had no responses.

I picked up books donated by a retired UVA electronics technician for use by members.

Recommendations for future actions:

- Recirculate the questionnaire to update the members' education and training needs (as the membership has grown) and obtain additional books / media for JMRL as needed. The results can also be used by the VP to plan presentations at our meetings and to expand the EDCOM web page.
- Attempt to get enough volunteers to teach a weekend review course.
- Try to develop a liaison with Boy Scouts and Civil Air Patrol.

===== PROPERTY =====

The committee holds the following club Property:

1 Book = The ARRL Instructor's Manual for Technician & General License Courses, 4th edition (with CD-ROM)

Submitted by Dennis N. Menerich, K4THE, Chairman

Publications Committee (Patsy, K4PMC)

The production of a club brochure was instituted under the leadership of Jeffrey Seay (N4LFJ) and the initial distribution took place at the Winter Awards Dinner. Coupled with the production of the club brochure, a design was approved for a club logo and patches were ordered to make available to the membership. The Committee took possession of the brochures and patches to hold for distribution as required.

The Publications Committee registered the Boy Scout Camporee at Montpelier as a special event with the ARRL and obtained brochures and pamphlets for distribution during the event, as well as display holders for the publications. The Committee has a working supply of ARRL literature and club brochures to cover the needs of the club.

The Publications Committee prepared and distributed press releases promoting Field Day 2009, arranged for radio talk show interviews and distributed posters promoting the event. During the event, the Committee provided brochures, pamphlets and information to be available to the public covering all aspects of Amateur Radio Operation.

The Committee now maintains a stock of ARRL literature and display racks along with our club brochure.

We also have an inventory of 35 patches on hand for

distribution at \$4 each.

I inherited this post from Jeffrey Seay with a lot of ongoing projects and he came to my rescue many times to assist in various areas. He was especially helpful in working with the media enabling several radio show interviews and press coverage promoting Field Day.

Respectfully submitted, Patsy M. Crosby

Director in charge of Publications Committee

Another Year Nearing the End

Harry, W2HD

The holiday season is just around the corner and I'm saying, "Where did 2009 go?" It doesn't really make any difference because the stores are beginning to show signs of the season. The toy section of the local stores is having the shelves stocked with all kinds of stuff for the kids. It has been said that a man is known by the "toys" he possesses. Of course, our "toys" are not blocks and the games of the young sons, grandsons and nephews we know. Our "toys" tend to be a bit bigger, possibly costing a few more dollars, too (but not necessarily so these days!) Incidentally, don't think I'm making myself out to be a male chauvinist. This month's column is addressed to ALL Ham Radio operators... just change a few words above and that will take care of everything!

The important thing to realize is that we have radio equipment... many have something a little bigger and more expensive, but we have what we can afford. However, regardless of the rig... whether a Blooperdyne 7388 or just a little Miniwatter... each of us dreams of something a little more elaborate. Well, fellas and gals, that's more of a dream than anything else, but that's not the end of the story. The holiday season can be a time to add a little extra here and there. The Blooperdyne rig might need a Blooper Amplifier to become the big signal on the band. Perhaps, the station should have a new multi-band Blooper Antenna system... how about stacked yagis? Well, let's leave good old KW Joe with his big station and come down to earth where most of us live.

Is it really necessary to have all that gear and keep the power company in business? Not really! There are a great number of stations with relatively low power who day in and day out have more success and fun, too, with much less. They do it with smarts! To those in this category, a holiday gift-receiving list might include a choice of a good Amateur Radio book or publication, a VSWR Bridge, a simple VOM or perhaps a 24-hour clock with GMT setting capability.

Most of these items are not a tremendous strain on the giver's budget. Books might include a copy of the latest ARRL Handbook or the Antenna Book. Both publications look good on the desk or in the bookcase and will provide lots of good information. A publication could be a year's membership in the ARRL which includes the monthly magazine, QST, which is a fountain of information and makes a good building block for next year's gift-receiving list. VSWR Bridges come in all shapes

and flavors. There are fancy digital types which don't require reading a meter, simple units with crossed needle indication and the tried and true zero the meter in the calibrate position and switch to read SWR. A few dollars separate the entire field. While on the subject of VSWR, maybe an antenna matching unit would be in order for the Ham who can't put up the simple antenna with coax feed and must use the random hunk of wire out the window approach. Now, there are a bunch of suggestions!

The VOM price range is also a very interesting variable. You can range from the simple pocket type all the way to the fancy Fluke meters with the big price tag. If all you do is measure 12 VDC and the 115 VAC line plus simple shorts and opens on cable, there is no need for the fancy, high price unit. You will obtain fine results with the 3x4 Sears or Radio Shack varieties for that work.

I'm sure that a glance through the latest AES or HRO catalog, coupled with a quick look at the latest issue of QST, CQ or Brand X will bring many other items in the modest price range into view. You may still look at the Blooper Amplifier and the stacked yagis and dream a little, but you won't be any happier than you will be with the modest gift lovingly received on the special day of the year.

73... /s/ Harry, W2HD



AARC Public Service Schedule

End of September	Great Eastern Endurance Run
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Area Hamfests

Date	
Location	

FCC Database Updates

New Calls

N4CAB	Chris Bortz – now Amateur Extra!!
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Upgrades

None Reported	
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Vanity Calls

None Reported	
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VE Session Schedule - 2009

Date	For exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the ARRL Exam Session Search web page.
Location	
(ARRL VEC)	

For Sale Items

For Sale	
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AARC Club Officers

President	Dave Damon	K4DND	k4dnd@arri.net (434) 973-5866
Vice President	Jim Crosby	K4JEC	jecrosby@comcast.net (434) 987-2006
Secretary	Patsy Crosby	K4PMC	patsycrosby@comcast.net † (434) 989-2362
Treasurer	Don Eason Jr.	N4UVA	deason@comcast.net (434) 973-9119
Director	Jim Wilson	K4BAV	jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net (434) 245-7041
Director	Linda Beard	K15LLB	lindaskyone@embarqmail.com (434) 823-2107
Director	Greg Faust	N4PGS	n4pgs@arri.net (434) 978-1962
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net (434) 872-0686
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	k4du@arri.net (434) 985-4828
Director	Jim Owen	K4CGY	k4cgy@yahoo.com 434-296-3044

Contest Calendars

ARRL Contest Calendar 2009	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2009	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
Contesting Online	Just about everything contests!

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 6833
 Charlottesville, VA 22906
<http://www.albemarleradio.org/>



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month

Contact Information
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 Ruckersville, VA 22968-0530
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W4RQ@yahoo.com

Next Club Meeting : November 10 - 7:30 PM NRAO Bldg - UVA Grounds

CLUB MEETINGS and NETS

REGULAR Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM
BOARD & TECHNICAL Meetings: Prior to regular meeting at 6:30 PM
 Meetings are held at the NRAO building on Edgemont Road.
LUNCHEON: Wednesdays -- Area hams gather at the **Wood Grill Buffet** on Rte 29 North from 11 AM – 1 PM
Monday Night Information Net – Each Monday at 7:00 PM
Northern Piedmont Emergency Net: Each Thursday at 8:00 PM
All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater

AREA REPEATERS

146.760 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
 146.925 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
 146.895 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
 224.760 (-) No Tone **WA4TFZ**
 444.000(+) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
 444.250 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
Other Area Repeaters
 444.775 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **KF4UCI**
 442.075 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **KF4UCI**
 145.17 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4FCO** (Fluvanna)
 146.79 (-) 110.9 Hz Tone **WW4GW** (Buckingham)
 145.450 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **K4DND** (Martha Jefferson Hospital)
 224.600 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **KG4HOT**

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
November 10	Regular Club Meeting
December 8	Regular Club Meeting
January 10	Annual Winter Dinner and Awards Ceremony
February 9	Regular Club Meeting
March 9	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
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Membership application available in PDF format at http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf