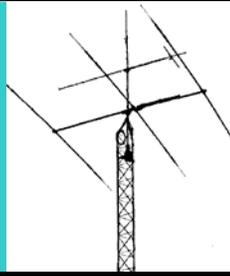


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2009, No. 12



December 2009

Inside this Issue

1	Meeting Notice
1	The President's Letter
2	Veep Peeps
2	Club Business
3	AARC Club Committees
5	Committee Report– Linda K15LLB
6	For Sale and Wanted...
7	ARRL Propagation de K7RA
7	FCC Looks to Revise and Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules
8	Contest Highlights - Upcoming
8	Our Ham Is Also a Thespian
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 **December 8 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA Grounds. The program will be a club Social – fun!**

Sounds interesting – see you there!

The President's Letter

Dave, K4DND

Holiday greetings to AARC members and families. This is the perfect time of the year to remember families, often overlooked, and take time to express appreciation for their continued sacrifices that allow your participation in our great hobby.

It is hard to believe that we are wrapping up another year, but that is the case and **it has been an active and productive one for the AARC.** I am so pleased to see the membership roster at 117, and need to remind everyone that **soon it will be time to get your membership renewed for 2010.** If we can get current members renewed as soon as possible, then we can concentrate on getting new members enrolled rather than spend our time and energy getting our current membership renewed.

We are back in the saddle with our VE team, now led by Bruce AB3BB, and our first VE session of 2010 on the books is scheduled for January 9th, 9AM at NRAO. So spread the word, and VE team members, let Bruce know if you will be able to participate in the upcoming session by sending him an email to: ab3bb@arri.net. I want to encourage our VE team to schedule a minimum of 4 sessions per year, and this will get 2010 off to a great start. Don't forget to remind anyone interested, that **the current Technician question pool is only good through June 30, 2010** and if they wait beyond that date, they will have to prepare for the exam with the new question pool.

Two fun meeting dates are coming up; the first of which is our **December Social meeting next Tuesday, the 8th** of December, and the second is the Annual Winter Dinner meeting in January. I hope to see everyone at both these events.

It is not too early to start thinking about some New Year resolutions, and I know we all have the old reliable and recycled resolutions that bubble up each year. For some it might be to quit smoking, for many it involves a desired change in body mass index, changes in housekeeping chores, budgeting, etc. All these are good, but here is one to add to the list. **How about making a resolution to get on the local repeaters more often?** In the past couple of weeks (and I know this is a busy time of year) I have been unusually unsuccessful in getting anyone to answer on the 146.760 repeater. You know, sometimes you just want to yak with someone, but there just isn't anyone there.

We do have a repeater in the area that is used daily, and by a group of people, almost exclusively, who are not AARC members. Now I am not suggesting that this has anything to do with any anti-club sentiment, I believe this group of people (approximately 10 at last count) like to talk and this is the repeater and group of users that will answer. Because these people have a non-AARC repeater that they regularly use, they don't have any reason to be club members or to put out unanswered calls on AARC repeaters. Rarely, when I have been monitoring this particular repeater, have I heard someone call and not get an almost immediate response. That is what makes this repeater popular with this group of users, and this is what the AARC repeaters lack. Maybe we have too many machines on the air, and we should think about scaling back to a number dictated by the use. Wait a minute, if we did that we would be down to a single club repeater. So let's do what we can in the future to turn this trend around. Make sure that if you hear someone announcing their call sign on an AARC repeater, you take a moment to answer them. Even if you are involved with something and don't have the time to talk at length, answer them, let them know you heard them and would talk with them if you were able. At least they will know their radio is working.

Then let's go one step further. If you hear someone you don't recognize on one of the local repeaters, make an extra effort to talk with them, make them welcome and invite them to participate in all local activities. Everyone likes to receive a few gentle strokes --- just ask my cat --- and you can go a long ways toward this by just being a congenial voice on an AARC repeater and spending a few minutes with a visitor.

Finally, I didn't work the ARRL Phone Sweepstakes as much as I would have liked, but did submit a log crediting the AARC. Anyone else, who worked the sweepstakes and submitted your score for AARC credit, please let me know. I know Harry W2HD and Stan K2SSB both worked the contest; who else was there?

Remember, AARC Board of Directors meetings now start at 7PM with the general meeting still at 7:30PM, and I hope to see you at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

73 de K4DND

Veep Peeps

Jim, K4JEC

A club social event has been planned for the December 8 Club 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 January 12** at 6 p.m. Last year's dinner was such a wonderful success we are sticking with a repeat performance that we hope will draw even more members and their guests. **Tickets will be the same at \$16 each and they are ready for sale now.** They will be available at the **December meeting and by mail by sending your check to: AARC Tickets, 5571 Brookwood Road, Crozet, VA 22932. Please don't co-mingle your dinner funds with your dues funds, as they require different handling and accounting.**

Of course, **dues are due for 2010** and the form along with instructions for mailing are available for downloading from our website at www.albemarleradio.org.

We have a reservation for the large pavilion in Darden Towe Park for the August 10 Picnic and Auction. This is a very popular spot and very much in demand so we made our reservation on the morning of the first day Albemarle County Parks and Recreation would accept reservations for 2010. We have it reserved from 6 p.m. till park closing at dark.

In that we are always posting new information, pictures and resources on the club website, I suggest you check it often and regularly. You can also keep up to date with club activities by checking in on the Monday Night Info Net at 7:00 p.m. and the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. Good information is always passed on these two nets and they sometimes end up in a round table discussion of club activities and interests.

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes – November 10, 2009

Dave, K4DND, called meeting to order at 6:35. Present were: Pat C - K4PMC, Jim C - K4JEC, Dave D - K4DND, Greg - N4PGS, Linda - KI5LLB, Don - N4UVA, Dennis M - K4THE.

Dave, K4DND stated he had a bill from our website service provider recommended by Kenneth, KJ4KIH, our webmaster. Jim, K4JEC made a motion that we pay \$204.80 for a two-year subscription for the website. Don, N4UVA seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave, K4KND cited the fact we made a donation to the Waynesboro Repeater Association last year and that because the repeater has always been available to our club for various events he suggested we continue that support with a

\$100 donation for next year. Greg, N4PGS made a motion that we make a \$100 donation to the Waynesboro Repeater Club. Jim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim, K4JEC asked for recommendations for the Winter Meeting/Christmas party. General opinion was that we should not have the auction just a regular meeting with refreshments. Dave, K4DND suggested we could invite the University club for a social get together. It was agreed we would meet as usual at the NRAO.

The Board meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Patsy Crosby – K4PMC, Secretary

Regular Meeting – November 10, 2009

Dave called the November meeting to order at 7:30 PM, welcoming everyone. He stated we would deviate from our normal meeting schedule and have our program first so the participants could leave early.

The CHS Balloon Club gave a presentation on their recent balloon project. Matt Shield, their instructor, thanked the club for our support. The students made a presentation covering their project, its launch and retrieval. The presentation brought a lengthy session of questions and answers.

Dave then called for a five-minute break and called the meeting back in session at 8:08 p.m.

Dave asked that the minutes be approved as published. KA4JJD made the motion for approval. K15LLB seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Don gave the finance report. He stated the beginning balance was \$4,156.94. He reported making deposits of \$32. This brought our balance on hand for the month to \$4,188.94

Dave reported he had one family application -- Peggy, KC8TNP, and Wes, WB8CEH, Soper. He asked they be approved for membership. Following an approving vote, the membership now stands at 117.

Dave reported the Board approved paying a two-year subscription of \$ 204.80 for the website. He also reported the board approved a \$100 donation to the Waynesboro Repeater Association who owns and maintains the 147.075 repeater that is also always available for our use.

Dave pointed out that last week was the ARRL CW Sweepstakes. Dave asked if any one participated. Apparently Dave and only one other member participated. Dave mentioned that the ARRL Phone Sweepstakes was coming up and asked that some members participate and register as a member of our club so that the club could get credit for our participation

Committee Reports:

Patsy gave the Public Relations report – Nothing to report

Dennis gave the Education report.

Linda gave the Fundraising report and advised that another order was being sent in for T-shirts. She stated not a lot was raised, but we did raise some funds.

Linda gave the Estate report. The radios that we have are old but in good condition.

As soon as we have settled on the value of what we have, we will notify the club members of what we have to sell.

Greg gave the Technical Committee report - Nothing to report.

New Business

Dave then identified the board member representatives to each of the committees and asked them to get together to start planning the next year. He gave a brief overview of what the expectations were for each committee. See the attachment. We then broke up into 6 committees scattered throughout the room for individual committee planning meetings.

Following the committee meeting sessions, a motion was made to adjourn. It carried.

Patsy Crosby – K4PMC, Secretary

AARC Club Committees

Dave offered the following report on Club Committees:

Board member descriptions from the current bylaws, task suggestions, and potential committee members, follow.

Section 1: Technical Committee

A Technical Committee composed of a Chairperson, a Director, the Trustee and at least two other members shall be appointed by the Board at the January Board meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee to oversee and maintain all Club equipment, including any radio stations licensed in the Club's name. This committee will maintain an up-to-date inventory of all club radios, repeaters, antennas, test equipment and other electronic devices and related items (except Field Day equipment). A copy of this inventory will be provided to the Secretary at the October Annual Meeting each year. The committee's written report shall be submitted to the Club for its approval at the Annual Meeting in October.

Jim Owen K4CGY Director
Bob Pattison K4DU Trustee
Greg Faust N4PGS
Dave Damon K4DND
Elmer Scott KF4UC1
Gordon Winn WW4GW
George Grotz AA4D

Continue current projects:

- Replacement site for 146.76/444.000, Control links for all repeaters, Linking project

Bob Dorsey W4RQ – Beacon

Section 2: Fund Raising Committee

A Fund Raising Committee composed of a Chairperson, the Treasurer, and at least two other members shall be appointed by the Board at the January Board meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee to organize fund-raising events and perform any other fund-raising activities as directed by the Club. This committee will maintain an up-to-date inventory of all items held for fund raising. A copy of this inventory will be provided to the Secretary at the October Annual Meeting each year. The committee's written report shall be submitted to the Club for its approval at its Annual Meeting in October.

Bob Pattison K4DU Director
Don Eason Jr N4UVA
Ron Richey K4RKA

- Assure material for monthly raffle FrostFest
- Help with Cruise-In

Section 3: Education Committee

An Education Committee composed of a Chairperson, a Director, and at least two other members shall be appointed by the Board at the January Board meeting. This committee shall be responsible for organizing Amateur Radio classes, fostering the further education of Club members and performing any other educational duties as directed by the Club. This committee will maintain an up-to-date inventory of all items held for education and training. A copy of this inventory will be provided to the Secretary at the October Annual Meeting each year. The committee's written report shall be submitted to the Club for its approval at its regular meeting in October.

Bill Phillips AD6JV Director
Dennis Mennerich K4THE
Bud Beazell KB4JN1
Bruce Budinger AB3BB

- Institute a licensing program
- Coordinate with VE team - 4 sessions/year minimum

Section 4: Public Relations Committee

A Public Relations Committee composed of a Chairperson, a Director, and at least two other members shall be appointed by the Board at the January Board meeting. This committee is responsible for Public Relations and releases pertaining hereto. It shall be the duty of this committee to publish a Club newsletter, a Club directory and assist any other Club officer or committee in the preparation and publishing of Club publications. This committee will maintain an up-to-date inventory of all items held for public relations. A copy of this inventory will be provided to the Secretary at the October Annual Meeting each year. The committee's written report shall be submitted to the Club for its approval at its Annual Meeting in October.

Jim Wilson K4BAV Director
Harry Dannals W2HD
Stan Hazen K2SSB
Kenneth Kang KI4KIH – website

- Assist with Frostfest publicity
- Cruise-in promotion

Section 5: Public Service Committee

A Public Service Committee composed of a Chairperson, a Director, and at least two other members shall be appointed by the Board at the January Board meeting. This committee shall be responsible for organizing volunteers for Public Service events, acting as a liaison with ARES and RACES organizations and performing any other duties as directed by the Club. This committee will maintain an up-to-date inventory of all items held for activities, including such things as Field Day antennas and supplies, banners, tents, shelters, etc. A copy of this inventory will be provided to the Secretary at the October Annual Meeting each year. The committee's written report shall be submitted to the Club for its approval at its Annual Meeting in October.

Greg Faust N4PGS Director
Dave Damon K4DND

Section 6: Estate Committee

An Estate Committee composed of a Chairperson, a Director, the AARC Treasurer and at least two other members shall be appointed by the Board at the January meeting. This Committee shall act upon notification that an AARC member or local area non-member amateur becomes deceased (Silent Key). The charge to the committee is to assist the family of the Silent Key (with permission of the family or estate executor) in disposing of any amateur radio or related equipment to the best benefit of the family of the Silent Key. If the activity is undertaken by the Estate Committee, a complete inventory of such equipment should be made, with fair current market values assigned, and a subsequent full accounting made to the family or estate, following any action taken with respect to disposal of the inventory. This committee will maintain an up-to-date inventory of all items received and being held for later transfer to the Fund Raising Committee. A copy of this inventory will be provided to the Secretary at the October Annual Meeting each year. The Committee's written report of yearly activity shall be submitted to the Club for its approval at the Annual Meeting in October of each year.

Linda Beard KI5LLB Director
Don Eason Jr N4UVA
Carter Elliot WA4AYS
Mathew Brill KR4BG

- Develop and maintain record keeping for donations
- Develop procedures for Estate assistance

Committee Report- Linda KI5LLB

Estate Committee Report

The Estate Committee was created two thirds to the way into the year. Several of the club members had died and there had been questions of whether or not the club could or should attempt to help the survivor with radio items. Most of the widows or know nothing or very little about the SK's radio equipment. The club's answer was, "YES" and a new position was born.

I heard about this committee and repeatedly ask to head it. I was really glad when I was given the opportunity to help these people. It has gone really well. There was a person that needed our help right away. I went to her house twice to pick up radios and radio related items. After separating the broken items and unusable pieces of wires and parts of odds and ends and making a junk box for a lucky treasure hunter, I gave the hopeful items to Carter for his evaluation and I ask Bubba to look at some of the older items.

I ask Carter to give me a report on the condition of the radios and other things. At the same time I ask for a general price value to be put on each item. This list was sent to Bubba for his information.

Bubba was asked by the club to act as auctioneer at the club picnic. He did a wonderful job. Both the auction and the picnic were very successful. Many Club members benefited. They got older, but still good items which they added to their shacks. This made them very happy. All of the feedback I received was very positive. It, also, helped the led the club to decide to hold an auction at that time of the year again. It will be an annual event in the future. The event was a big club hit. This event helped the widow as well, because the Club was able to give her a check for \$500.00.

This was the first time I did this so it was a kind of experiment. I think I did a good job, I see room for improvement. First, there is a folder that I want to write. I plan to give them to all of the members of the club and I will have one to give to all new members in the future. I hope to make this committee very helpful to the ladies and (as in my case) gentlemen who have lost their love ones.

Now we have the second lady needing help and that is going well, also. She has donated the radio items to the club. There are three men who will be evaluating the donated items and giving me their estimates. From there we will decide a value for each item and get a total. Then check with the widow to see if she will accept our offer. Usually the donator decides the value, but we are helping because she has no idea what is fair. This is one of the ways our club is helping the SK.

Fund Raising Committee Report

It was not a great year for raising money. I accept the responsibility for that. I am not good at asking for things that raise money. However, it was not a really bad year. Several ideas I had did or could have raised money. Dave had a great idea as well. He suggested club raffles. We started the year with these monthly meeting raffles. That started very well and there were numerous items that exchanged hands. That was fun and I enjoyed doing it, but by mid-year there weren't any more unwanted or not needed items the club members wanted to rid their shacks of, so that just came to a standstill.

One of my ideas was the patch that Jim and Patsy gave life to. It did raise a few hundred dollars. I don't have a report on the amount. It may need to be added to the Fundraise Committee's reports. They did a really great job of designing the patch, having them made, and selling them. Thank-you! Jim and Patsy, you did a great job, well done.

Another idea was club T-shirts. We sold twenty two shirts, 7 hats, and 2 jackets. We sold them at cost plus I divvied the cost of shipping between each item. So we all paid for the shipping on the items we purchased. I put the bill on my credit card so the club was not involved in the money exchange. Don asked me to keep those records. I have the credit card statements to show what I spent on the shirts, hat, and jackets. I will make you a copy of those statements if you like. The club could have make a reasonable amount of money on this project, but I was asked not to add to the cost of these items so we gained a few men and two women walking around with the club's AARC and their own call sign on blue shirts. We look great. I will give you one of the catalogs and you can continue taking orders if you like. There are two people who wanted things ordered; it was after I ask to be replaced. I will give you a copy of their request if you want them. I will give them the address of the company so they can order what they want themselves. If you want to handle their order that way.

There were several club members who promised to give some of their things to the club when the 501c3 was approved. They did and I met several people to pick up the donated items, but most of the things were given to Dave, so I don't know who most of them were or what they gave to the club. Those items were sold to members of the club and sold at club meeting raffles. We made a good amount of money that way. I don't know how much.

There were several businesses that said they would give to the club yearly if we got the 501c3 paperwork. I went back to them with a copy of the paperwork, but the money market was dropping and most of them said, "not now". Some said they would get back to me, but they didn't. That yielded no money at all.

The biggest thing I took part in that raised money was the picnic auction. It was an idea I had, but someone else suggested it first. We added the first Estate items to that sell and club members brought personal items to sell. The auction was a great success and it was a lot of fun to be a

part of. We didn't make a lot of money for the club nearly \$400. We made _\$500 to give to Debby, who is the widow of the SK. Several of the club members made a small amount, also. My part of the sale was more Estate Committee than fundraising. The original records are available and will be given to the club whenever requested. Don asked me to make files and keep them as part of the Estate Committee. You may have them if he feels like they are more your records than Estate records.

This is not a long nor is it an exhausted report. If you feel like it needs something added. I will redo it and add whatever you need. Thanks for taking this over. I am not a fundraiser and hope you are much better than I.

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.

WANTED: Heath HP23A or HP23B power supply. Contact Ron, K4RKA@JUNO.COM or 434-973-3640

ESTATE OF CASIMIR (CASEY) NORRISEY, K4MTX

Contact Mary Ellen Norrisey Hodges at ME.Hodges@cox.net. In addition to the items below, there are several lots of vintage capacitors, resistors, vacuum tubes, etc. available for purchase.

I will try to answer any questions you might have about any of the items for sale, and I can forward photos of each item, including interior views of most. Additionally, I am in Charlottesville about every other weekend and can arrange for you to view any items you might be interested in. I am willing to entertain reasonable offers on the items below that are listed with a specific price.

Heathkit HW-101 SSB Transceiver with Shure Microphone (\$110) --- (I have the dial from the transceiver that is missing in this photo)

Heathkit Visual-Aural Signal Tracer (\$25)

Hallicrafters Sky Buddy Receiver Model S-19R (plus 6-page manual, "Operating Alignment & Servicing Instructions," manual in poor condition) (\$75)

Standard Electrical Product Co., Adjust-a-Volt (best offer)

RCA Senior VoltOhmyst (best offer)

VANCO CB SWR (SWR-6) Watt Meter (best offer)

Homemade antenna tuner

FOR SALE: Hygain TH6-DX TriBand 10-15-20 meter

Beam: Good Condition, but needs clean-up, new trap end caps (new kit included), new SS element clamps, and new bolts for element to boom mounts. Will need to purchase new boom to mast clamp for about \$40.00 from Hygain. \$155.00. Call Jim K4CGY at 434-296-3044.

FOR SALE: Rohn 45G 60 foot Tower: Two sections never used, four sections will need painting or hot dip galvanized (about \$250.00). One section has slight bent at one mounting sleeve, can be straightened or used as the concrete base section. Includes flat top plate with thrust bearing, two thrust brackets, rotor plate, 600 feet of 1/4" EHS guy wire (new), mounting bolts, three concrete anchors with three hole equalizer plates (new), sixteen 1/4" thimbles, six 1/2"x12" turnbuckles, 1/4" cable clamps and serving tool, six 1/4" big grips (used in place of the cable clamps). All new. \$1400.00. Call Jim K4CGY at 434-206-3044.

Scanners for Sale -- 2 Uniden 760 \$50.00 Each. 1 Radio Shack 95 Portable \$100.00. 1 Bearcat 240xlt 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 100xlt 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: 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.

A Life of Service in Amateur Radio

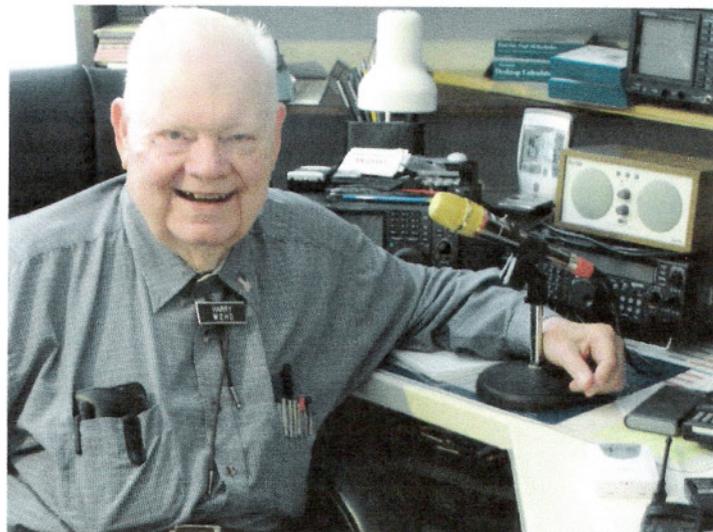


Photo by Ken Reitz KS4ZR

This story begins many decades ago when a young lad of ten fell from a garage roof while trying to catch a swinging rope and hit the ground on his stomach. As it turned out, no injuries were sustained, but the parents of this fellow put him on house restriction and no more catching of ropes hanging from a tree!

What to do about this parental decision? Obviously, it was the end of all the fun, but was it? As a diversion from this outside activity, our young lad turned to his best friend and they decided to learn the Morse code (CW) together using little buzzer units connected by wire from room to room. It wasn't long before both boys became code proficient with increasing speeds.



Harry Dannals as W2TUK in 1947 at age 19 in the station he shared with his dad, W2GG, using an ARC-5 converted military transmitter for 80 meters and a BC-779 (WWII version of the Hammerlund Super Pro). (Courtesy: Harry Dannals W2HD)

Before long the young lad was listening to CW on the amateur radio receiver that his dad, W2GG had, and a life-long interest in ham radio quickly developed. As you now certainly know, that person was your writer and a wonderful and fascinating life began that has covered seven decades. The story continues today and what follows are highlights of that time.

Budding Ham Career Interrupted

As a twelve year-old I would often help my dad, the commanding officer at his Naval Communications Reserve group on Long Island, by sending CW to Navy trainees. Sometimes, when dad was on a distant assignment, "bootleg" radio contacts were made on CW between my dad and

mom. Mom would read my code copy over my shoulder and tell me what to send.

A year later I found myself riding in a National Guard half-track in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, as the radioman, relaying our position in CW to the other half-track on maneuvers whose radioman was my dad. I got the job because the actual operator had called in sick. My dad told the National Guard Commander that I could do the job and he said, "But, isn't he just a kid?" My dad said, "Yes, but he's a better operator than anyone else here."

Dad was called to active duty in early 1941, assigned to Norfolk, Virginia and, unfortunately, study for my ham radio license took a step backward because moving required school changes and keeping up with school work was very important. Dad was then sent to the Panama Canal Zone as Officer-In-Charge of a radio receiving site. World War II started just weeks later. By then the federal government had banned all amateur radio activities and the ham bands went silent. My plans for a license had to be put on hold.

After graduation from Balboa High School, in the Canal Zone, my Navy life began for real. My dad was my first commanding officer, something never to be recommended! There was no "boot camp," so my first assignment was washing dishes while attending radio classes on the local base. The classes were easy because my code speed was now more than 25 words per minute.

Since Navy operating procedure had been part of my early life with my dad, all that was necessary was learning to type. I began standing radio watch at the receiving site at the age of 17 and another phase of my life began with my entry into a career in electronics, radio, and communications.

Learning quickly about the operation of our radio equipment and, having a deep interest in naval communications, led to early promotions. Eventually I became the supervisor of more than 20 radiomen and support personnel. Radio Balboa, with the call sign NBA, was one of the Navy's key radio stations and it was an honor to be the youngest Watch Supervisor at that time at the age of 18.

Another Try at a Ham Ticket

Discharge from the Navy came in mid-1946 and I found myself back in the U.S. after almost



W2TUK in the attic shack at his first home with his wife Kay in Bethpage, on New York's Long Island. On the bench: a Johnson Viking II transmitter with VFO, a Collins 75A4 receiver, and Johnson MatchBox that fed a 40 meter dipole. (Courtesy: Harry Dannals W2HD)

five years away. I was ready for another phase in life; one that I hoped would include a return to studying for an amateur radio license. I had enrolled at Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (now Polytechnic Institute of New York University), majoring in electrical engineering with an emphasis on electronics. I was eager to learn as much as I could about the fast changing world of electronics.

College work required a lot of time, but I found a way to prepare for my amateur license by doing a research paper for an English class using amateur radio as a resource. Among my references was the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL) *Radio Amateur's Handbook* with the latest ARRL license manual on the side! It worked, and my call sign, W2TUK, was received that year with a great deal of joy by me and my dad.

My early days as a licensed ham started with the handling of messages on the air, something that had been a major part of my Navy career. This also began my association with the ARRL, an organization which has been a very important part of my ham radio involvement.

Graduation from college in 1950 was a milestone that led to my employment at the Sperry Corporation where I worked in radar and other engineering programs. But, Sperry, too, had a connection with ham radio. During almost



In 1964 at the New York World's Fair, Dannals was trustee for K2US, the official U.S. amateur radio station. Here he's at the key of an all-Hallicrafters station. (Courtesy: Harry Dannals W2HD)

40 years of my employment there, the company provided a club station, W2YKQ, which was on the air during lunch periods, a fact that made the more than 200 ham radio operators that worked at Sperry very happy.

But, let's get back to the days after graduation. Another avenue had been opened when I applied for a direct commission as a naval officer which resulted in a new Ensign being added to the ranks. The Naval Security Group program was anxious to have qualified applicants and a new naval career for me soon followed. The final result of several decades of service as commanding officer of two highly rated Security Group divisions and an association with the communications world, ended with my retirement from the Navy as a full Commander in 1987.

Kay Enters the Scene

Before returning to my association with the ARRL, there is a very important part of my life that must be told. It involves meeting a very pretty, pleasant employee at Sperry whose carpool had busted up with a change in overtime work hours. She was in this carpool with another rider who needed a ride and he was, of all things, one of the Sperry hams. He approached me for a ride and that was OK. Then he said there was another person who needed a ride from the same pick-up point. My answer was simply that, while he was an old friend, someone else was going to be a newcomer to me and was questionable as a passenger. However, he was convincing and the gal who has been my wife for almost six decades



Mid 1990s W2HD is at the key for Field Day at WA4TFZ, club station for the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club (Charlottesville, VA). (Courtesy: Harry Dannals W2HD)

was that passenger!

Kay and I have had a wonderful, busy life with four kids (two boys and two girls); twelve grand-children, and three great-grandchildren. Without her support for my involvement in amateur radio, there would simply be no story to tell. I thank Kay many times over for enabling my amateur radio activity.

As part of this story of ham radio and family, it should be mentioned that I am the son of a ham (K4GG when he became a Silent Key); the brother of three hams: Frank (W2DRL) and two who have become Silent Keys. And, I'm the father of two hams, Bob (W2GG, my dad's old call) and Tom (W2TUK, my old call). It's fun to have ham radio as a bonding tool.

The League Beckons

And now, back to the ARRL. During my direct involvement with the League, I have held many offices at various levels. As part of the League's field organization, I received appointments as Official Relay Station (ORS); Official Phone Station (OPS); Official Observer (OO), and Emergency Coordinator (EC). In the area of elected office I have been Section Communications Manager (SCM), the vice-director and director of the ARRL Hudson Division.

I was elected League president by the ARRL Board in 1972 and returned for a total of five two-year terms ending in 1982. It was my pleasure to serve the Amateur Radio Service which had given me so much over the years.

While, presiding over meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee was the responsibility of the office, to me, there was a message to be delivered to the League's membership and also to those hams who were not members.

This message is simple: Amateur radio is a service organization established with a basis and purpose as set forth by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in simple terms with the following key points: It is a voluntary, noncommercial, communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications; to demonstrate a proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art; to provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art; to provide trained operators, technicians and electronics experts; and finally, the extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

That was the key message I brought with me as I visited all fifty of the United States during my ten years in office. Many of my addresses to the assembled groups started out with the words, "I am proud to be a radio amateur because we continue to be responsive to our basis and purpose."

In addition to the visits to all 50 States, trips were made to the Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Peru, the Bahamas, Bermuda and the United Kingdom. Many of the visits to the countries beyond our borders were made as the U.S. representative to Region II of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). It was interesting to note as I traveled abroad that the ARRL and U.S. amateur radio was well respected and looked to for leadership in our mutual interest.

The Politics of Ham Radio.

One of the key events during my presidency was the preparation for the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) of 1979. The future of our radio frequency bands was of prime importance with retention and possible expansion as goals. ARRL staffers as well as volunteers were deeply involved with this effort. The concept of an additional band or more to bridge the gap between the existing Amateur Radio assignments had been set forth by A. Prose Walker of the FCC.

He envisioned having new bands between 40 and 20 meters; between 20 and 15 meters, and between 15 and 10 meters. The League took the concept into its workload by preparing details and promoting the idea with other countries seeking their support at the WARC level.

Vic Clark, W4KFC, then ARRL First Vice President (now a Silent Key), was asked to visit and work closely with IARU Region II countries in South and Central America plus the Caribbean islands. He performed this task with tremendous success and all of the countries in Region II voted in support at the WARC. All their efforts paid off with very successful results. The 30, 17 and 12 meter bands were approved with small, but foothold, assignments.

During my tenure, I made frequent visits to FCC offices in Washington to discuss ham radio repeater issues, possible expansion of Citizen Band (CB) frequencies, and other points. The CB subject ended with a congressional hearing on a Class "E" service taking the 220 MHz band from ham use to CB. My appearance before the hearing committee was to defend the continuation of the ham radio assignment and we were successful at that time. Subsequently, however, 40 percent of the band was lost to others (not CB) due to our lack of use. The remainder of the band is presently in use by hams for repeaters, links and other activities.

Another appearance before a Congressional Committee was concerned with radio frequency interference (RFI) to devices in the TV and audio field. Ham radio was successful here also; making the point that interference was not due to our equipment, but the lack of adequate filtering in the external device.

Without question, the time devoted to ARRL matters, working with the very capable and dedicated staff, and my association with the board of directors was a wonderful experience. Each year was punctuated by new developments for ham radio. A volume of great memories will never be forgotten.

Another chapter in my life began with the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) as a director and then president from 1989 to 1994. It is interesting to note that this was the first time that one person had held both offices.

As a licensee for 63 years, I am still active every day on the ham bands from my home in Charlottesville, Virginia and, if you tune to 14.291 MHz, you can hear me daily on the Sperry Net.

It has been a very interesting life. The challenges of new avenues in communication are wonderful to observe and, I believe, will keep amateur radio alive and well for decades ahead. I hope to meet you there!

MT

ARRL Propagation de K7RA

ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP048

This is a brief Propagation Bulletin preceding the Thanksgiving holiday. ARRL headquarters is closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after, Friday, November 27. Part of the reason for the brevity is because of limited internet access at the moment. I hope to have another bulletin out Monday morning to catch up with the sunspot, solar flux and geomagnetic data normally at the bottom of this bulletin.

Last Friday's Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP047 reported sunspot numbers for November 12-18 as 11, 0, 0, 11, 12, 0, and 29, and since then, November 19-24 they were 30, 31, 14, 13, 0 and 0. Nice conditions for the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes last weekend.

This weekend, November 28-29 is the CQ Worldwide CW DX Contest. Although recent activity seems a good trend, we have no indications when sunspots will return.

With increasing sunspot activity have come reports of openings on 15 meters. Jack Emerson, W4TJE of Fancy Gap, Virginia says a friend in North Carolina copied the VR2B beacon (Hong Kong) at 21.15 MHz some mornings via long path. Jack said he began listening, and most of the time the signal is barely copyable. But on November 23 at 1210z via long path Jack said he was able to hear the signal, although with S1 signal strength, 519. He was about to leave for work but decided to tune up the band, and on 21.255 MHz at 1212Z found special event station VR2009EAG coming in very well at 5x5. Jack worked him with 100 watts, and swung another antenna around to the short path direction to make sure he was actually receiving the signal via long path propagation.

The evening before (November 22, local time) Jack heard more JA stations on 15 meters than he has ever heard during the new solar cycle. Jack worked UAOCM just after local sunset, with a 599 signal report.

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA reports recent openings on 12 meters.

Jon Jones, NOJK operated casually on a Sunday afternoon outing in the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes, and took along a 5 watt transceiver and a CB mag-mount whip. He was on a trap clay shoot outing at a friend's farm. Jack added some wire to the whip to get it to load on 15 meters, and reports "Figured it might be good enough to make a Q or two. To my surprise, it really got out! Over the next hour and a half I made 43 QSOs on 15 Meters, including some real DX like WP3R, AL1G and KH7XS. A number of stations commented 'great QRP signal!' Even some short E-skip to NM, TX and CO. But the comments that impressed me the most were: "thank you for getting on and helping out."

In Sweepstakes, weary contesters on Sunday afternoon digging for new calls really appreciate the casual operators getting on to give out some needed contacts. Jon's 43

contacts were with 20 sections.

Aki Akai, JQ2UOZ of Nagoya, Japan has also had good luck on 15 meters recently, running 500 milliwatts into a dipole on his apartment balcony. You can watch a video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvCsl327k5w> showing his station and some contacts he made on November 22. He wrote to us last year (see 2008 Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP035 at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/2008-arlp035.html>) about a personal challenge to earn DXCC during the solar cycle minimum using only one-half watt. On November 15 he made 19 contacts with Czech and Slovak stations on 15 meters during the OK/OM DX Contest, and you can see his log of these contacts at, <http://www.k4.dion.ne.jp/~jq2uoz/GoodEarsList.html>.

Look for the data normally at the bottom of this bulletin in a dispatch early next week.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k9la-prop.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://www.arrl.org/qst/propcharts/>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of this bulletin are at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#email>.

FCC Looks to Revise and Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules

From the ARRL Letter, November 25, 2009

On Wednesday, November 25, the FCC issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* -- WT Docket No. 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations.

According to the FCC, almost 80,000 licensees have replaced their sequentially issued Amateur Radio call signs with a vanity call sign since the program began in 1996. When the program began, the Commission established what they called "the broad outlines" of the vanity call sign system, concluding that call signs generally should not be available for reassignment for two years following the death of a licensee, or expiration or termination of the license for that call sign. In doing so, the Commission made exceptions for former holders of the call sign, close relatives of a deceased

former holder and club stations of which a deceased former holder was a member.

The Commission did not, however, specify all of the procedures governing the vanity call sign system, but indicated that the procedures "would be set out in the *Public Notices* announcing 'starting gates' for the groups receiving initial priority and that the procedures would be adjusted from gate to gate as experience dictated." The procedures announced in the *Public Notices* announcing the gates are still in effect, but they are not set forth in the Commission's Rules. The *NPRM* states that the FCC "now believe[s] that certain provisions should be codified in our rules, and others added, so that the vanity call sign system will be fair, equitable and transparent to all amateur service licensees. The Commission also decided in the *Vanity Report and Order* [issued in 1996] to resume issuing new club station licenses. We believe that certain rule changes to the club station licensing rules may be appropriate."

The comment period for WT Docket No. 09-209 will extend for 60 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*. Historically, items appear in the *Federal Register* approximately 7-10 days after they appear on the FCC Web site. Reply comments can be made up to 75 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Dec 4-5	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Dec 5-6	ARRL EME Competition
Dec 12-13	ARRL 10 Meter Contest

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

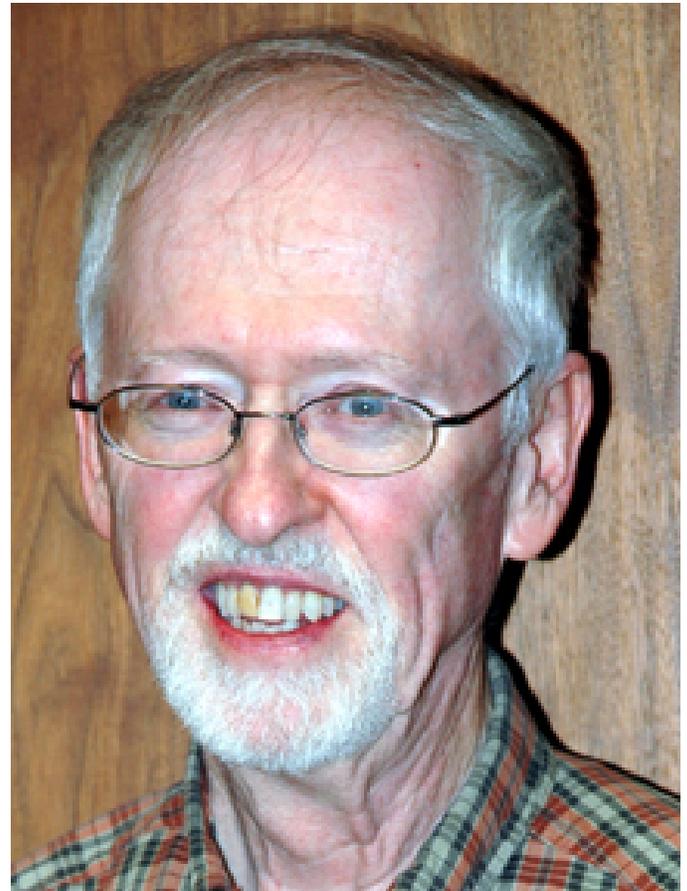
Other Contests of Interest

Dec 26	South Dakota QSO Party
--------	-------------------------------

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

73, Bob W4RQ

Our Ham Is Also a Thespian



Jim Wilson – K4BAV played a role in a documentary “Lincoln: American Mastermind” that was broadcast at 9 p.m. on November 23 on the National Geographic Channel. Jim played a member of President Abraham Lincoln’s 1862 Cabinet.

Jim stated, “The documentary on Lincoln is merely an extension of my hobby of telegraph activities in history. In this documentary, I did mention Lincoln’s telegraph operator, Homer Bates, but one does not know what is edited out until the show airs.

Jim continued, “If you visit the Newseum in DC (The *Newseum* — a 250,000-square-foot museum of news on Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington DC — offers visitors an experience that blends five centuries of news), you may be surprised to see an 83-year-old friend of mine, Hubert Jewell, sending Morse code as I copy it. The image of us is in high definition and about 60 by 80 feet in size. Boy was I surprised to see us on their big screen transmitting and receiving the important message that President Lincoln had been shot! But that fact did not get me in to the Newseum free!”

AARC Public Service Schedule

End of September	Great Eastern Endurance Run
------------------	-----------------------------

Area Hamfests

Date	
Location	

FCC Database Updates

New Calls

N4CAB	Chris Bortz – now Amateur Extra!!
-------	-----------------------------------

Upgrades

None Reported

Vanity Calls

None Reported

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	
----------	--

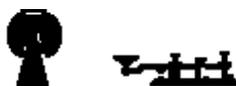
AARC Club Officers

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/>



THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2009 No. 12
December 2009



© Copyright Albemarle Amateur Radio Club 2000-2009. Content in this newsletter may be used if proper credit is given to the AARC Beacon.

ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month

Contact Information
 Daniel R. (Bob) Dorsey, Jr. W4RQ
 PO Box 530
 Ruckersville, VA 22968-0530
 (434) 990-2659
W4RQ@yahoo.com

Next Club Meeting : December 8 - 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
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

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