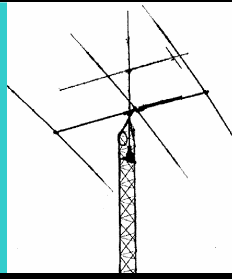


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2011, No. 1



January 2011

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The President's Letter

Jim, K4JEC

Change is in the wind. Change can be good but has an equal chance of being bad depending on how the wind blows. As we open the door to 2011, the club leadership has a real challenge ahead because as we close the door on 2010 we are closing out an outstanding year of accomplishment under the past leadership. The 2011 leadership is going to have to step out and work hard at maintaining the pace set by last year's board. It will not be a time to set on our laurels and ride the momentum because momentum can only be maintained by a continuous flow of new energy. The 2011 officers and directors have the great advantage of having been a big part of the 2010 leadership because we have only changed one face. We have lost Bob K4DU and gained Michael KA4JJD. It is a great relief to me to be stepping into the slightly intimidating role of the presidency surrounded by such a wonderful, experienced and productive group of individuals backed up by an unbelievable group of members. You are the greatest and we are going to keep the momentum rolling right through the New Year.

Tickets for the Annual Awards Dinner on January 11 will be available for purchase at the door if you don't catch up to them before hand, however we will need to let the chef know by January 4 how many place settings and food we will need. So, send me an email at jecrosby@comcast.net. The dinner will find us back at the Elks Lodge at 6:30 p.m. where we have enjoyed several previous ones. We will start with a cash bar at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will follow at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$16 each this year as they were last year. This dinner is the social highlight of the club's year as it recognizes outstanding member participation with many hard-earned awards during the past year and kicks-off the new one with a joyful noise.

We are looking forward to a new year with several major projects such as the 2nd Annual Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In the last Saturday in April, a new round of public service activities, Field Day next to the last weekend in June and the Club Picnic and Auction on the second Tuesday in August. These are all exciting adventures for the club and very rewarding for the members who pitch-in to guarantee their success. As I have said before, the success of any club program is decided by the degree of membership

Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **January 11, 6:30PM at the Elks Lodge on Rt 20 N. You will need to let Jim K4JEC know if you plan to attend so he can give the staff at the Elks a head count. Please plan to attend, this winter dinner has been one of our really outstanding fun times in the past and promises to be a repeat this year.**

Be sure to attend!

participation. I will never forget that sea of green vests that turned out to welcome and greet our guests to the first Annual Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In. I was so impressed I could have walked on the clouds. It was at that moment that I realized just how wonderful a club I belonged too. I turned and looked at Dave K4DND and he was bursting with pride as well. It was contagious because I have never seen such a group of smiling faces so eager to be helpful. What a day for AARC!

Greg N4PGS will be stepping up to the office of vice president and the major thrust of his duties is to over see the club's programs for training, entertainment and enlightenment. Having filled those shoes for the past two years, I can assure you he will need your assistance and input to bring us programs that will benefit our membership. As individuals, you represent a wide diversity of interests and skills that could be shared with the membership through an interesting program. If you have something in mind, please pass it on to Greg.

We are ending our year with over 130 members. We are starting off this year with two right out of the gate. We have a really great club – one of the biggest and best in all of Virginia – and it is our duty to share the rewards with those amateurs who haven't yet discovered us. Look around and invite every amateur you come in contact with to come and share our fantastic club and all its benefits and don't forget those who could become interested in ham radio.

Thanks for being there. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Veep Peeps

Greg, N4PGS

Greetings to all and a Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and had plenty of opportunities to break with the usual routines and perhaps experience a bit more Amateur Radio fun than usual. While some of us may have a little more 'discretionary' time than others, one of the great aspects of this service is the chance to spend a little or as much time as you want having fun with ham radio.

While I formally started in ham radio in 1987 participating in Public Service events (working with this interesting Norwegian character...), I've been messing with the electronics hobby for as long as I can remember. In rural Iowa, back in the fifties, there weren't a lot of HRO stores or Radio Shacks around, so my first foray into communications electronics consisted of building a dry cell battery telegraph set. My next door neighbor and I strung wire between our houses and would stay up nights sending Morse code messages back and forth. Yes Harry, my first QSO was a code contact! I was hooked.

Needless to say, times have changed and communication technology has advanced beyond anything we could have imagined, other than in a science fiction story. Now it is possible to talk to anyone, anywhere in the world. And the scary part is that this is almost taken for granted by the current generation. One of the questions we need to help answer is 'where does ham radio fit into all of this?'

Maybe I can help, in a small way, by working with Jim and all of the members of the Club to showcase a number of interesting aspects of ham radio. We can look at not only the technical aspects of the hobby, things like digital modes, new frequency bands, the latest equipment but other aspects like operational trends and perhaps even how we interact with non-hams around us.

Please let me know about your favorite aspects of ham radio. A Club this large has plenty of diverse ideas and should be able to provide the seeds of ideas for many meeting programs. 2011 will be a very good year for ham radio and we can make it another good year for the AARC. I look forward to working with all of you.

Club Business

Patsy, K4PMC

Board Meeting

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by the President, K4DND at 7 p.m. with board members K4JEC, K4PMC, K4CGY, N4PGS, K4BAV and KA4JJD present.

Secretary's Board Report

The minutes of the November Board Meeting were published in the Beacon. Does anyone have any corrections or additions? If not they stand as published. No response. We have 34 paid members prior to tonight's meeting and I have taken 2 tonight.

Treasurer's Report- Not present. Report to be offered by K4DND at the General Membership Meeting.

Vice President's Report

A motion was made to purchase 12 additional vests at the last meeting. They have arrived and are here for sale. They cost \$100 and divided by 12 that comes to \$8.33 each. My question to the board is do we want to continue selling them for \$10 even though they cost us roughly \$1 more than the previous order because of the smaller quantity? Remember we sell them with a club patch. My recommendation is that we not change the price so unless someone wants to amend the present policy, no action is required. The board agreed to leave the price at \$10.00.

I have obtained our reservation for the pavilion at Darden Towe Park for the Cruise-In on April 30 and our Picnic and Auction for the second Tuesday in August. I have the two contracts in hand to be turned over to the secretary for filing.

As chairman of the Bylaws Committee, I am pleased to report that the committee has unanimously approved the 2011 Proposed Amendments to our Bylaws. Following that approval, I circulated the proposed amendments to each of you for your consideration. Hearing nothing but approval all around, I move that the board approve the proposed amendments and recommend them to the general membership for a first reading at the February Meeting and a final reading and a vote to adopt at the March meeting. And further, the board shall direct them to be placed on the club's website for the perusal of the general membership prior to the adoption vote at the March meeting. K4JEC made the motion and KI5LLB seconded the motion. A copy of the proposed amendments signed by the committee members has been attached to the file copy of these minutes in the minute's book.

President's Report

Nothing for the board.

Committee Reports for the board.

KI5LLB reported that she had started polling her Estate committee members and she was ready to get started.

KA4JJD asked for suggestions for Fundraising events. He stated he was open to any suggestions that anyone might have.

K4JCY advised the board that he had been approached to purchase a repeater. He recommended to the board that we purchase this repeater as a replacement for one of our current older repeaters. He said we could use the older repeater as a back up in case of an emergency.

Old Business -- Nothing

New Business -- Nothing

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

General Membership Meeting

Call to Order -- The meeting was called to order by President, K4DND at 7:37 p.m. All were invited to state their name and call. There were 27 members present. Sign-in sheet attached to file copy in minutes book.

Secretary's Report

General Meeting Minutes for November were printed in The Beacon. On a motion by KA4JJD that was seconded by N4PGS they were approved as printed.

K4PMC reported that we have 2 new applicants for membership who are here tonight. Hugh Garrison KJ4ZIL and Larry Martin, KB4TBF. Harry, W2HD made the motion that we accept their membership. This motion was seconded by Joe, W2PVY.

Dave introduced Gordon Miller, NQ4K from Sterling Park who gave a presentation on the Va. QSO party. Dave encouraged all our members to explore and participate.

Treasurer's Report – Reported by K4DND in the absence of N4UVA

	Last Month	Current Report
Opening Balance in October	\$6,699.76	\$5,312.76
Deposits	\$94.00	\$152.24
Expenses	\$1,481.00	\$99.76
Closing Balance	\$5,312.76	\$5,265.24

President's Report –

To date we have 34 paid members for 2011. We now have online application and you can use PayPal to pay your dues. However, you can still print out the application and mail it with your check if you prefer to do it that way.

Frostfest is scheduled for February 5, 2011. The club will be purchasing two tables and 5 tickets. Club members are welcome to sell items at this table. If a member comes to work they can keep the entire profit but if the seller doesn't work the table, the club will retain 10% of the selling price.

The December AARC session produced three successful upgrades to general and one new technician license. He stated that he felt that scheduling 4 sessions for 2011 would also be a good idea.

Dave next made a motion that the club donate \$100. to the Waynesboro Repeater as we had done in the past. KJ4XZ was the first while W2PVY made the second.

Vice President's Report

I have tickets for the Annual Awards Banquet in January. They are \$16 each.

I have a new shipment of the Club's Safety Vests available here this evening.

K4JEC announced that the board had approved some bylaws amendments. These amendments will be published on the website. All are welcome to review. The board approved their being presented to the membership in a first reading at the February meeting and again at the March meeting for a final vote to adopt.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim, K4CGY –advised the board that the Bucks Elbow repeater was old and he had been offered the opportunity for the club to purchase a new model Vertex repeater for \$1000. He recommended to the membership that they

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purchase this repeater from the repeater fund. W2HD made the motion that the repeater be purchased for \$1 000 from the repeater fund. WA4JJD seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Fund Raising Committee – Bob, K4DU, -- Not present.

Estate Committee – Linda, KI5LLB, -- Linda advised that she currently has 5 members and that they are ready to go to work when and if needed.

Public Service Committee –Greg, N4PGS, -- Reported this committee's work is done for this year.

Education Committee – Bill, AD6JV, -- Great year! Super job was done. 4 people took the class. 3 upgraded to general while one tech was licensed.

Public Relations Committee—Jim, K4BAV –Committee is moving along with plans in the works.

Old Business- None.

New Business – K9MBQ mentioned that Joe W2PVY has published a book entitled “Let Their Be Light” that is available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and the Old Dominion Book Store.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

- Use DX Clusters for real-time info on what station are on the various bands and who is working them. Free clusters include Ham Radio Deluxe and F5LEN (<http://f5len>)
- DX Nets – for example the 14247 (Mhz) DX net daily in the afternoon; Southern Cross DX Net – 0730 daily on 14238.5 MHZ. Both are directed nets with very helpful net control stations.
- Sunrise+/-: 40 & 80M SSB & CW toward the Pacific; 20 & 17M great after sunrise – some Pac, then EU
- Sunset+/-: 40/80M after toward Europe; 20/17M Asia before/after sunset
- The higher bands are frequently open during daylight hours.

DXpeditions coming up:

- The really big one to a rare entity is the Spratley Is (150) expedition with the call DX0DX – running from 6 Jan to 1 Feb . . . with 37 operators from 15 countries. They will have multiple stations with good antennas and stations – they will hear you! After the first few weeks the pileups should mitigate so they will be easier to work. Web site is www.dx0dx.net
- Closer to home are the new Netherland Antilles entities – now 4 separate DXCC “countries”. The most difficult of the bunch is PJ5/6 – St Eustatius & Saba Islands. G4IUF will be on SABA between Jan 27 and Mar 3 operating as PJ6/G4IUF on 3.5 to 28 MHZ, SSB and CW. Saba is a “Chip Shot” from here, so should be easy to work.

There are many others which are discussed in the ARRL DX News and other bulletins. Hope this helps. Good DX'ing!!

For Sale and Wanted...

Ron, K4RKA

For Most recent listings – See www.albemarleradio.org

What About DX?

Alan, K9MBQ

December 15 2010
DX INFO . . .

Sunspots/propagation are improving! For those interested in trying to work DX or working more of it, this winter is a good time . . . even if your station is modest (e.g. 100W & a dipole or vertical). Here is some basic info on What DX stations are or will be on, When and Where:

- Read the QST and CQ magazine monthly DX columns
- Read the ARRL DX News – free weekly by e-mail; go to www.arrl.org, “news bulletin”, “Member data” for auto distribution.

AARC Member Focus

Dave K4DND

With great pleasure, let me introduce the two newest members of the AARC. Larry Martin KB4TBF has been licensed over 20 years. He took his Technician exam in Richmond, and admits like many of us should, to listening more than talking.

Larry was able to get his friend Hugh Garrison interested and recently Hugh passed his Technician license exam also in Richmond and was awarded the call sign KJ4ZIL.

Both Larry and Hugh work for Facilities Management at UVA and despite the distance between their home locations, (Hugh lives up against the Southwest Mountains north east of Charlottesville, and Larry lives in Greene County), they are able to work each other simplex using Alinco handhelds.

Larry has been through some periods of less activity over the duration of his license, but with his ability to work his friend simplex, we should hear more of him in the near future. Larry also has two brothers who are licensed amateurs.

Please make an effort to welcome these two new members of the AARC family the next time you see them or hear them on the air.



Larry Martin KB4TBF and Hugh Garrison KJ4ZIL

AARC Membership Renewal

Dave, K4DND

It is that time of year again, time to renew your Albemarle Amateur Radio Club membership. This year for the first time you can renew on-line, pay your membership dues, and make a donation to the AARC Repeater Fund using PayPal. If you are interested in using this convenient service, just go to the club website at:

<http://www.albemarleadio.org/node/19>

If you are not comfortable using PayPal, just download the usual membership application from the website by going to: http://www.albemarleadio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf . Mail the application in with your check as usual and your membership will be promptly updated.

You may ask why you need to fill out the information again? People change phone numbers, email addresses, call signs, and license class. We need to have your current information in the AARC database.

AARC December Meeting

Dave, K4DND

Many thanks to Jim K4JEC for arranging the December AARC meeting program, and special thanks to Gordon Miller NQ4K and his XYL "W1FE" for making the trip to Charlottesville to put on an informative overview of the VA QSO Party.

Gordon had some very interesting data on previous QSO Parties and generated a good deal of interest among those who attended the meeting.

The VA QSO Party is sponsored by the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) and has been ongoing for many years. This shows impressive club support, in light of the fact that SPARC has a membership of only about 15% of the AARC.



Gordon Miller NQ4K

The VA QSO Party has sponsored plaques for many operating categories (24 total), and offers a certificate to every participant that submits a log.



VA QSO Party Rules Review

Gordon gave an interesting analysis of participation in the 2010 QSO Party with many comparisons of preceding years. As you might expect, most of the heavy lifting by SPARC comes after the event, with log checking and analysis.

Needless to say, electronic submissions are encouraged and appreciated. Be sure to set a little time aside this year and participate in the 2011 VA QSO Party. When you submit

your log, make sure you indicate that your submission should also be credited to the AARC.



Harry W2HD and Gordon NQ4K go for the quick draw



The new Vertex Repeater gets a once over

AARC Public Service Schedule

None	Check each month in 2011 for upcoming public service opportunities.
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Area Hamfests

None	
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FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
Thomas Boisvert	KJ4ZST
Upgrades	
Elizabeth Phillips John Ball Andre Berkin	KI4RIV upgrade to General KU4KAE upgrade to General KI4NTM upgrade to General
Vanity Calls	

VE Session Schedule - 2011

Date: Saturday Feb 12 Location: NRAO Rm 230 (ARRL VEC)	Remember the new Technician Question Pool is effective as of July 1, 2010. DON'T study the old questions!!
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AARC Club Officers

President	Jim Crosby	K4JEC	jecrosby@comcast.net (434) 987-2006
Vice President	Greg Faust	N4PGS	n4pgs@arrl.net (434) 978-1962
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	KI5LLB	lindaskyone@embarqmail.com (434) 823-2107
Director	Dave Damon	K4DND	k4dnd@arrl.net (434) 973-5866
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net (434) 872-0686
Director	Mike Rein	KA4JJD	mfr6t@virginia.edu (434) 9774281
Director	Jim Owen	K4CGY	k4cgy@yahoo.com 434-296-3044

Contest Calendars

ARRL Contests	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2011	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
Dave Damon K4DND
4521 Burnley Station Rd
Barboursville, VA 22923
434-973-5866
k4dnd@arri.net

Next Club Meeting : January 11 - 6:30 PM Elks Lodge on Rt 20N

CLUB MEETINGS and NETS

REGULAR Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM
BOD Meetings: Prior to regular meeting at 7:00 PM
Meetings are held at the NRAO building on Edgemont Road.
LUNCH BUNCH: 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**
443.000 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4UVA**
145.17 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4FCO** (Fluvanna)
146.79 (-) 110.9 Hz Tone **WW4GW** (Buckingham)
145.450 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **K4DND** (MJ Hospital)
IRLP Node # 4703
224.600 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **KG4HOT**

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