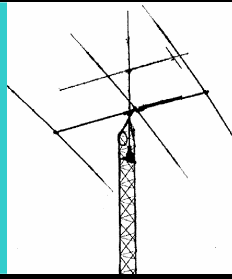


# The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2011, No. 5



May 2011

## Selected as 2011 Dayton Hamvention "Ham Club of the Year"

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### The President's Letter

*Jim, K4JEC*

Well, the first big club event of the year is behind us – I guess we can call it a big event. From the club's point of view, it was a big event because we had 18 club members show up and that was more than all the guests combined with those who came to be judged and those who just came for the fun. No one I have talked with can figure out what went wrong. We did everything we did last year and more to promote the event this year and pre-registration was encouraging. However, we only had six of the hams who pre-registered actually show up. We had only one of three judges who committed to be there show up. We had to recruit Jim-K4CGY, the director of our Technical Committee, to stand in as a back up judge. He very graciously accepted the assignment and did a superb job along with Anthony – KG4YXP, from Richmond.

For those who really did show up, it was great fun because we visited, swapped ideas with no subjects excluded and ate great food. The caterer showed up and served some delicious food. From the fellowship point of view, it was a great success and my sincerest thanks go to every one of the club members who dropped by to pitch-in and visit. This club is very successful in everything it does only because of the member support it receives and I am very proud to be a part of the team.

Our next big event will be upon us before we know it if we blink twice. Field Day planning is underway with Jim-K4CGY and Bill-NOWP leading the charge. I really enjoyed reading a story Ron-K4RKA wrote in 1990 about field day back in the seventies. It was great fun to look back at field day from that point of view. His remark, "In the late 1960s, the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club's participation in the annual ARRL's Field Day was about ½ social and ½ contest. The problem with having the event close to town was that people would show up for a bull session but few people wanted to stay up all night to work the contest." To some extent, that could be said about today's efforts but with good improvement in that our point scores seem to get better each year as participation from club members grows. Maintaining a mess tent throughout has to be a factor as

### Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday May 10, 7:30PM at NRAO.** Gabe Elias, Sr Systems Engineer at the Emergency Communications Center will present background information on the City/County/UVA trunking radio system. This should be a particularly interesting program. Hope to see you there.

well. In case you haven't heard, we will be operating from the back lot behind the Earlsyville Fire Department. We will have more details as the planning process is refined so be alert.

Due to our recently Amended Bylaws, we have two important changes to make to the club's traditional calendar. The AARC Annual Meeting and Election will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 – that is the usual date for our Annual Awards Banquet which this year will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. This will require some mental logistics to get this change firmly planted into our thinking. Another change will require the Nominating Committee to nominate the usual officers of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, as well as three directors for one-year terms and three directors for two-year terms. Please incorporate this into your annual planning now so you will be right there with us on these two important dates.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your support of our club which is the sole factor in our being an outstanding radio club across the country. I find that I must run at an all out pace just to keep up with the majority of you and what we have going on in our club.

## Veep Peeps

*Greg, N4PGS*

Here I am again, sitting in front of a computer and typing away. It seems like that happens a lot lately. In high school they had a typing class and I thought, no, I'll never need that... Should have. Over the years I've developed a clumsy but effective typing style that would sicken most typing teachers. But it works. My wife is a very accomplished typist, using all the fingers on the keyboard, blurringly putting words on the screen faster than 80 wpm. We had a contest once - my 'style' against her speedy graceful technique.

As long as we stuck to plain English, she rocketed by me. But when we used columns of numbers, program code, stuff that didn't have much apparent context, I could actually beat her! That's a sad testimony to the amount of time I spend typing 'other than English'. My point, you ask? Well, it means I (and I'm sure a lot of you) spend too much time using computerese.

Computerese is the language computers understand. You may have used it without noticing it. Programmed a VCR lately? How about a thermostat or cell phone? Seems like you can't even set an alarm clock without resorting to some sort of program code. And yes, it's really gotten into ham radio, too.

Look at all of the stuff that is computerized in the hobby. Most radios now are microprocessor based, from the big HF rigs to the little hand-helds. I just picked up an inexpensive dual band HT and the darned thing talked to me (in Chinese) when I turned it on. The users manual said, sure, you can

program this thing from the front panel if you have the time, but really smart users will use a computer. Arrggh!

Packet radio, digital modes, sound cards, spread spectrum, APRS, logging programs and the wildest of all, Software Defined Radios. Yep, it's a computer all dressed up to look like a radio. It creates RF waveforms using software. Anyone used one yet? It would be a great topic at one of our Club meetings.

Since the computer seems so integral to most aspects of the hobby, we decided to have it as a program topic at one of our upcoming meetings. They are NOT going to go away, so we might as well learn how to live with them.

There are times I yearn for the peace and quiet of a remote wilderness mountain top, leaving behind the GPSs, digital watches, MP3 players, cell phones and countless other computerized gadgets, just stringing a wire in some trees and hooking up a little Rock-Mite to a battery and tuning (with a real knob) some far off radio stations.

I'll let you know how that turns out...

## Club Business

*Patsy, K4PMC*

Board Meeting

**Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by President Jim, K4JEC at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: K4JEC, N4PGS, K4PMC, K4DND, N4UVA, AD6JV, and K4CGY,

### **Secretary's Board Report**

Patsy, K4PMC, reported the minutes of the March Board Meeting were published in the Beacon. K4PMC asked for corrections or amendments, hearing none, the minute's stand as published. At this time, we have 116 club members on our 2011 Master Roster. A copy of the master roster was passed around; K4PMC asked that any changes or additions be noted. She stated that after this meeting the directory would be sent to the printer.

**Treasurer's Report**- K4UVA stated that he was prepared to give the figures at the general membership meeting.

**Vice President's Report** – Greg – Nothing to report.

**President's Report** – Nothing for the board.

**Committee Reports for the board.**

**Technical Committee** – Jim – All repeaters are working at this time.

## May 2011

**Educational Committee** – Bill – Bill, AD6JV, advised that he would have a report for the general membership meeting.

**Public Service Committee** – Combined with Fundraising

**Public Relations Committee** – Not present.

**Fundraising Committee**-K4DND stood in for Michael Rein and announced that he had a radio that Elmer Scott had reprogrammed and this would be raffled off this evening.

**Estate Committee** – Not present.

**Old Business** -- Nothing

**New Business** -- Nothing.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

### General Membership Meeting

**Call to Order** -- The meeting was called to order by President, K4JEC at 7:30 p.m. All were invited to state their name and call. There were 31 members present. Sign-in sheet attached to file copy in minutes book.

#### **Secretary's Report - Reported by K4PMC**

General Meeting Minutes for March were printed in The Beacon. No corrections were offered so they stood as published.

K4PMC reported that we have 116 members renewed for 2011 so far. I have no new applications at this time. I have a copy of the 2011 Master Club Roster which we are circulating around, she asked that all members check their info as we will be publishing the 2011 directory soon.

#### **Treasurer's Report** – Reported by N4UVA

Opening Balance	-\$6,265.90
Deposits	- 176.52
Expenses	- 169.77
Closing Balance	-\$6,272.65 3/31/2011

#### **President's Report** – Reported by Jim, K4JEC

K4JEC announced that one of our members would be turning 84 on Friday. He asked that this party please acknowledge their self. Harry, W2HD stood acknowledged that this would be him. The group offered their congratulatory applause.

I want to thank all those members who pitched-in with Bill Phillips to make the Demonstration and exhibit at Western Albemarle High School for the state convention of the Destination Imagination students. We now have some great display items for future exhibits and demonstrations thanks to Linda Beard. Bill will have more to say during his report.

I want to thank all those members who joined Dave Damon at Sherando Lake for the Bad to the Bones Enduro Race. Dave can give us a full report during his Public Service Report

The Cruise-In is only a couple weeks away. To capitalize on our experience from last year, I would appreciate it if each member staffed the same position they held last year. For example, the parking crew did such a great job; I hope each one of you can return this year to set up much like we did last year reflecting on what we learned from last year. If there is anyone who cannot perform the same function this year as last, please let me know so we can cover that area of responsibility with someone else. We gathered last year at 8 a.m. and were so well organized, we were fully set up and ready go a full hour before our first guests were due to arrive at 10. So I suggest we gather around 8:30 a.m. to begin set up and see how that goes.

Are there any questions regarding the Cruise-In? I would like to urge all our members who plan to be at the Cruise-In to go to our website and register so we know how many to count on.

I have just been advised that our chief judge from last year will not be able to participate with us this year so we need to identify some new judges. Dave – K4DND volunteered to contact some of his associates from ARES to see if he could enlist some judges.

**Vice President's Report** – Greg, N4PGS –All is well.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Technical Committee** – Jim, K4CGY. –220-repeater reinstallation is moving on. CGY will check on 220 status with SERA.

**Fund Raising Committee** – Michael, KE4JJD –was not present and asked K4DND to handle the raffle of a 50-watt mobile radio.

**Estate Committee** – Linda, KI5LLB --not here

**Public Service Committee** –Dave, K4DND –advised of multiple service projects. 5/1/2011 Lake Monticello bike race, 5/8/2011 Jefferson Cup bike race, 6/4/2011 Tour de Greene, 6/11/2011 MS 150/ Dave requested that anyone interested in helping let him know. All are welcome.

**Education Committee** – Bill, AD6JV advised the Destination Imagination event at WAHS drew over 3,000 people and was a success. Not a lot of young kids but there was some youth interest. Over all, it was a good experience.

**Public Relations Committee**—Jim, K4BAV –not available.

**Old Business**- K4JEC announced that the 2011 Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws were approved on a first read at the March meeting. He announced that tonight would be the second and final presentation of the amendments. He stated that the chair would entertain a motion to adopt from the floor. Joe – W2PVY moved that the 2011 Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws be adopted. Joe - W4BXG made the second. Without discussion offered, the motion was carried unanimously.

**New Business** –. Nothing offered.

Program - President Jim stated, "Col Steve Sellers our new Albemarle County Chief of Police is our guest tonight to talk about his personal background, goals he has for ACPD and emerging crime concerns for Albemarle County. Col. Sellers is KD4ZDF. He served as president of the Stafford Amateur Radio Association in the mid-90 when the club was similar in size to ours. Col. Sellers was well received and answered many questions from the audience.

**Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at \_8:35 p.m.

## For Sale and Wanted...

*Ron, K4RKA*

For Most recent listings – See  
[www.albemarleadio.org](http://www.albemarleadio.org)

## DX Notes

*Alan, K9MBQ*

If you like to work DX and pursue DXCC or other certificates, including Worked All States (WAS), then having a Logbook of the World (LoTW) account at ARRL is a relatively easy and efficient electronic way to QSL (confirm) your contacts. Many of us still like to get the hard copy QSL card from the stations with whom we QSO, but postage costs are high and going up. LoTr those rare country DX peditions, a contribution to help offset expenses is a good thing to do. If you do not use W confirmations are electronic and at no cost . . . that said, fo LoTW, check out the ARRL Web site ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)) and click on LoTW – where there is a highlighted phrase for non-members. It's worth the time if you are a QSLer.

So, on to some upcoming DX stations of interest:

- PPOT – Trindade: Ops will be on the island starting around 30 Apr and will go until sometime in June. They will operate 6-160M on all modes. Web site is <http://trindade2011.com>, and QSL is via LoTW. See web site for other QSL info and details.
- JD1 – Ogasawara: JD1BMT (home call JE4SMQ) will be active 30 Apr – 4 May, and JD1BLY (JI5RPT) will be active 30 Apr – 7 May, and JD1BMH (JG7PSJ) will be on 4-13 May. They will operate on all bands and modes. QSL to home calls.
- GJ – Jersey Island: JK3GAD will be operating as MOCFW 18-21 May on 10-160M. Check QRZ.com for QSL info.
- KH0 – Mariana Isls: Members of the JDCC DX holiday team will be operating from Saipan 1200Z

24 Jun – 1400Z 26 June. They will be on 80-6M, all modes. Check QRZ.com for QSL details.

Good luck and see you in the pileups.  
73, Alan K9MBQ

## Field Day Remembered

*Ron, K4RKA (written about 1990)*

Field day remembered – (written about 1990 by k4rka)

THE GOOD OLE DAYS (at least "old" days)

In the late 1960s, the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club's participation in the annual ARRL's Field Day was about ½ social and ½ contest. The problem with having the event close to town was that people would show up for a bull session but few people wanted to stay up all night to work the contest. About this time through the early 70's, our then President, Bob Mahoney, WA4???, owned a cabin/retreat/camp (depending on which section of the country you are from) near Howardsville at Mount Alto. I would say it was "on the James River" which is literally true in a horizontal direction, but the vertical drop of about 300 feet almost straight down meant you didn't get very close to the water. He volunteered this location for the club's Field Day for several years. Due to the distance involved, it meant that people would likely come down and stay a while – at least long enough to get some operating in – and many would stay the night either in tents or in one of the several bedrooms.

Our operating radios were a Heath HW-12 for 75 meter phone (where most of the contacts were made) and a HW-100 for all the other bands and 80 meter CW. We were blessed with a 1200 watt generator mounted on a trailer run by a 4 cylinder Continental engine. Today you can almost get that much power in a large size boot box. The nice thing about the generator was that it had automatic starting whenever a load was applied so you could park the generator far away from the operating location. The bad thing was you had to tow it to the location, then talk two people out of their car batteries to start and run it. At least that guaranteed that at least two people would stay for the duration of the event. I'm not sure we ever operated ALL night, but the night owls would last until 2 or 3 AM and the early birds would get things cranking about 5 AM, so we didn't miss much time.

The 75 meter antenna was strung from a point of land to the cabin which left the center point about 100 feet from land in the center and 300 feet straight down. Probably very few field day sites ever had a 75 meter antenna mounted the recommended ½ wave above ground but we did. The other rig ran a multiband vertical mounted on the tin roof of the main building. What a ground plane! The most memorable experience of K4RKA was getting up at 5 AM and working California on 75 meter phone.



The next best thing was Mac McMurdo, W4VIG, cooking breakfast. He would always show up with his gas stove and all the cooking stuff to prepare some pretty good "out in the woods" meals. I don't remember the club ever doing very well in the points category. In fact we were always easy to find at the bottom, either before or after the Boy Scouts. I think we had our own little contest going for many years. I wonder if they knew it.

This site was used for several years until Dick, W4OFR, (now K4VY), parked the generator on an incline one year. Sure, he and Gene Bossieau, W4IWW, checked the oil on a regular basis but one night the generator froze up solid – because the oil pump was on the uphill side and the oil was all on the downhill side! Since there was no commercial power available at the site, that did it for that location.

Just think how much easier it is today with one car battery and a rig which weighs 1/2 that and you can operate the whole contest. No (extra) noise, no high voltage to arc over on a humid morning, no tingles when you grab the key or mike, no Mac to cook eggs and bacon and hamburgers. Ah, well, we are doing much better in the points standings these days. Downright difficult to find us up there in the middle of the pack. The best thing today is the amount of enthusiasm and the number of new folks who show up and make a contest out of it. So, come out, socialize, and work a few dozen stations or more.

73, ron, k4rka

## Destination Imagination 2011

*Bill, AD6JV*

AARC was invited to set up a display at the Virginia State Tournament of Destination Imagination, held at Western Albemarle High School on April 2. Destination Imagination is an after-school activity in which students work in teams to solve mind-bending Challenges and present their solutions at Tournaments. Over 100,000 students across the U.S. and in more than 30 countries participate.



**Something New and Interesting**



**Bill AD6JV and Jim K4CGY setup the AARC tables at Destination Imagination**

The Virginia State Tournament consists of teams from cities, counties and home school students from throughout the state. The students attending the state competition would have placed 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in their regional competitions. Approximately 3,000 people attended the state tournament at WAHS on April 2.

AARC members set up a display in the cafeteria with posters, ham equipment, a live 20 Meter digital station, and a hands-on CW demo on the table, and the AARC banner on the wall behind.

Many club members contributed to the effort: Linda made a great set of posters. Jim Crosby, Jim Owen, Linda Beard, Jim Wilson, Mike Rein, Joe Flamini and Bill Phillips all spent time manning the table.



**Mike KA4JJD shows off something small**

We had a steady stream of visitors, both kids and adults. Our most loyal fans were two fourth graders who had a great time with a couple of HTs and their imaginations. (All under Mike's close supervision). There was a lot of curiosity throughout the day about Jim Wilson's Morse exhibit, and several adults who were hams stopped by to chat and learn about AARC.



Who knew? Kids may really like CW

Event officials thanked us profusely for making the effort to come out.

## Antennas Anyone?

*Dave, K4DND*

On a recent trip to DC, I saw this tower located between Silver Spring and the District. I was amused by the number of what appeared to be VHF antennas, located on the tower leg facing downtown DC.

By my count, there were at least 16, with an unused mount just waiting for a new occupant. To us, the idea of an empty antenna bracket is sacrilegious, of at least the stuff of nightmares.

As in any question of real estate, the important thing is location, location, location.

With apologies to the AARC, my photo stitching ability is sadly evident.



## AARC Public Service Schedule

Saturday March 26	Bel Monte Endurance Run
Sunday March 27	Jefferson Cup Bike Races
Saturday May 1	Lake Monticello Triathlon
Sunday May 8	Rescheduled Jefferson Cup BR
Saturday June 4	Tour de Greene
Saturday June 11	MS-150 Bike Tour Day 1
Sunday June 12	MS-150 Bike Tour Day 2
Saturday August 27	Devils Backbone Mountain Cross
Saturday Sept 24	Great Eastern Endurance Run

## Area Hamfests

Vienna Winterfest	Sunday February 27
Manassas Hamfest	Sunday June 11
Berryville Hamfest	Sunday August 6
Va Beach Hamfest	Saturday September 17

## FCC Database Updates

<b>New Calls</b>	
<b>Upgrades</b>	
<b>Vanity Calls</b>	

## VE Session Schedule - 2011

<p><b>Date: Saturday May 14</b>  <b>Location: NRAO Rm 230</b>   <b>(ARRL VEC)</b></p>	<p>Remember the new Technician Question Pool is effective as of July 1, 2010. DON'T study the old questions!! This will also be the last opportunity for a local session that is based on the current General license class pool that changes July 1, 2011</p>
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## AARC Club Officers

President	Jim Crosby	K4JEC	<a href="mailto:jecrosby@comcast.net">jecrosby@comcast.net</a> (434) 987-2006
Vice President	Greg Faust	N4PGS	<a href="mailto:n4pgs@arrl.net">n4pgs@arrl.net</a> (434) 978-1962
Secretary	Patsy Crosby	K4PMC	<a href="mailto:patsycrosby@comcast.net">patsycrosby@comcast.net</a> (434) 989-2362
Treasurer	Don Eason Jr.	N4UVA	<a href="mailto:deason@comcast.net">deason@comcast.net</a> (434) 973-9119
Director	Jim Wilson	K4BAV	<a href="mailto:jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net">jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net</a> (434) 245-7041
Director	Linda Beard	KI5LLB	<a href="mailto:lindaskyone@embarqmail.com">lindaskyone@embarqmail.com</a>
Director	Dave Damon	K4DND	<a href="mailto:k4dnd@arrl.net">k4dnd@arrl.net</a> (434) 973-5866
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	<a href="mailto:billp1048@earthlink.net">billp1048@earthlink.net</a> (434) 872-0686
Director	Mike Rein	KA4JJD	<a href="mailto:mfr6t@virginia.edu">mfr6t@virginia.edu</a> (434) 9774281
Director	Jim Owen	K4CGY	<a href="mailto:k4cgy@yahoo.com">k4cgy@yahoo.com</a> 434-296-3044

## Contest Calendars

<a href="#">ARRL Contests</a>	ARRL sponsored contests
<a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2011</a>	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
<a href="#">Contesting Online</a>	Just about everything contests!

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**ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month**

**Contact Information**  
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**Next Club Meeting : May 10 - 7:30 PM NRAO Auditorium**

**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](http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf)