



The Beacon

A monthly newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club serving Central Virginia

Remembered as the 2011 "Club-of-the-Year" at the Dayton Hamvention

August

2012

Dr. Michael ticked off his points



Our club member, Dr. Michael F. Rein, MD, Professor Emeritus of Medicine, at the University of Virginia and KA4JJD presented the program for the July Meeting. The subject was ticks. (Photo by Jim K4JEC)



This group of Field Day visitors did not sign our log. Two hot air balloons passed over our Field Day site Sunday and created a whole new round of excitement. (Photo by Roland KK4EDC)



Dennis Terrible WR4I scored a lot of points with the assistance of Michael Rein KA4JJD. He worked very close and diligently with Jim Owen K4CGY and Bill Pond N0WP in the overall project. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)



Wes Epperly K4WLE not only pitched in to help set up and tear down, he scored a bunch of overnight points for the club. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)

August Picnic & Silent Auction

The club's annual picnic and silent auction will be held at the Darden Towe Park Pavillion on Tuesday, August 14, at 6 pm. Place a box in your ham shack and fill it with items you would

like to sell to raise some money for items you want to buy. As they say, "One person's trash is another person's treasure."

Each member is asked to bring a dish to share to supplement the hot dogs and hamburgers the club will provide along with drinks and paper products. To ensure we have enough food for the event, we ask that each member send an email to jecrosby@comcast.net stating how many, if anyone, will be attending with you. Members and their immediate family are invited along with significant others.

Items for the silent auction should be ham gear or ham related gear. All items must contain a bid sheet and they can be downloaded from our club website. All item bidding will cease at 8 pm and the highest bidder will then settle up with the seller.

In the event the item is from an estate sale or club property, the buyer must settle up with the Club Treasurer, Don Eason, Jr.

August Meeting Received Two New Members

By Jim Wilson K4BAV

We had an efficient meeting with two new members joining in the persons of Rob Robertson KJ4KMS and Robert Canody W8GTA. Robert lives in Afton and

Rob lives in Charlottesville.

Dr. Michael's program on ticks warned about the importance of checking for and removing ticks as soon after being in the field as possible. Discovery and quick removal of ticks is the best defense against the potential infections they can carry.

He pointed out that a summer fever following a tick bite is the best indicator that one should see a doctor.



Robert Canody K8GTA joined the club from Afton. (Photo by Jim Wilson)

The Beacon

The Beacon is the official newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc. It will strive to communicate with, enlighten, and entertain the members of the club in strict compliance with the official word of the club as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The newsletter shall be published monthly on or before the 1st day of the month of issue. The deadline for submissions shall be the 25th of the month preceding the month of publication. The primary role of the publication shall be to promote upcoming activities, report past activities and accomplishments of the club and its members, carry the minutes of the preceding month's meetings, as well as, become a recorded history of the club by the archival of all past issues.

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President Jim visits with new member Rob Robinson KJ4KMS. (Photo by Jim Wilson)



Don N4UVA pays the club bills during the July meeting. (Photo by Jim Wilson)



Dave K4DND and Dr. Michael KA4JJD get ready for the raffle with Bill K4IB helping. (Photo by Jim Wilson)



A pre-meeting visit takes place behind Harry W2HD. Bill K4IB, Jim K4CGY and Dave K4NZ are in the background. (Photo by Jim Wilson)

CC&Rs Are Bad News For Amateurs

Amateurs should avoid private land use regulations such as covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) when considering a relocation of their home. On July 16, the FCC re-stated its established policy of limited preemption of state and local regulations governing amateur station facilities, including antennas and support structures, but expressly decided not to extend its limited preemption policy to CC&Rs in home ownership deeds and condominium bylaws because such agreements are voluntarily entered into by the buyer or tenant when the agreement is executed and do not usually concern the commission.

In January 2012, Leonard Umina, W7CCE, of Gilbert, Arizona, filed a petition asking the FCC to "expand its policy of limited preemption of state and local regulations governing amateur station facilities to preempt private land use regulations such as covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) and rental agreements that limit amateur licensees' ability to deploy antennas." On July 16, the FCC notified Umina that it had denied his petition.

In its denial, the FCC told Umina that it had already answered the question of whether to preempt CC&Rs in deeds and bylaws that restrict the installation of antennas and associated support structures used by Amateur Radio stations back in 1985 with PRB-1. PRB-1 -- as codified in Section 97.15(b) which states that "state and local regulation of a station antenna structure must not preclude amateur

service communications. Rather, it must reasonably accommodate such communications and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose."

The FCC also concluded in its PRB-1 decision that there had not been a sufficient showing that CC&Rs prevent Amateur Radio operators from pursuing the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service."

"With PRB-1, the Commission denied a petition in 2001 requesting that the Commission adopt rules to preempt CC&Rs that do not provide reasonable accommodation for Amateur Radio operators, and affirmed that the limited preemption policy of PRB-1 applies only to state and local regulations. The Commission noted that its decision in PRB-1 to exclude CC&Rs from its preemption policy was premised upon the fundamental difference between state and local regulations, with which an Amateur Radio operator must comply, and CC&Rs, which are contractual terms to which the purchaser of a property voluntarily subjects him or herself."

CC&Rs are contractual terms to which the purchaser of a property voluntarily subjects him or herself.



Daniel KJ4YHE and Bill N0WP work the digital modes on Field Day. (Photo by Jim Wilson)



Linda KI5LLB and Jim K4BAV teamed up to work the bands on Field Day. The solar panel in the background was used to recharge the battery for the networking device.

License Renewals: Not too soon and certainly not too late.

Amateur Radio license holders may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing an application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must

supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

On July 20, the FCC announced the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 80 cents, from \$14.20 to \$15. The fee will increase 30 days after notice of the increase is published in the Federal Register, no date has yet been set for publication. Earlier this year, the FCC posted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM), seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs.

The vanity call fee has fluctuated over the 14 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order. During the current fiscal year, the FCC expects to grant 14,300 vanity call signs, bringing in \$214,500 from the vanity call sign program, and looks to recover a total of \$339,844,000 in fees from all the services it regulates.

The vanity call sign fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing for a new term. An interesting fact is those holding vanity calls issued prior to 1993 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call regulatory fee at renewal, as Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1996.

Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity calls for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although league members pay less. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

Using the ARRL is the easiest and most convenient way to renew your license and a just one real benefit of ARRL membership. ARRL monitors your license term and will send you a reminder when it is coming up for renewal. For complete instructions on how to have the ARRL renew your license for you or for how to do it yourself go to their call sign renewal or changes web page.



Bob K4DU, a long time leader of the club having served three different terms as president for a total of six years in that office listens intently during the meeting. (Photo by Jim Wilson)



David K4NZ and Jeffrey N4LFJ teamed up to work the bands during Field Day. Jeffrey, a former member of the club, returned to pile up a pretty good score for the club. (Photo by Jim Wilson)



TV news reporter, Frankie Jupiter, showed up at Field Day to make a news tape for the Charlottesville Newsplex that made it on at least two TV stations. (Photo by Jim Wilson)

My Crystal Set

By Joe Goevanelli W2PVY



Joe W2PVY and Vale arrived at Field Day escorted by Becky Wilson. (Photo by Jim Wilson)

In the summer of 1939 my dad gave me a crystal set made by Philmore. He put an antenna and a ground connection in my bedroom, which could be used to operate the radio. Tuning was done using the capacitance between antenna and earth and the inductance was a coil with a metal ball which could be slid along the coil's length which changed the inductance.

The detector was a little slug of galena mounted in a holder. There was a springy piece of wire which could be scraped on the surface of the galena until a spot was found which produced maximum diode action. (Of course, I

didn't understand these principles at that time.

I could pick up 3 stations, and often I could hear more than one of them at the same time.

In June of 1944 the Allied Forces were to launch the D Day invasion of France. Reporters were covering the event, and I wanted to hear it. I lived in a school dorm then, and there was no antenna. Ground could be found on radiators in the room. I wired up all 6 beds to form what I hoped would be a good antenna. I wound a coil on a toilet paper roll and tuned it with a variable capacitor. I was getting modern!! By then we had the 1N34 diode, a far better detector than the good old cat's whisker galena diode. The CBS station which was to carry the event was quite close to the school so I got a really loud signal in the headphones.

The only problem I had was that I fell asleep before the start of the coverage.

By 1949 I was in college and again I couldn't get crystal receivers out of my mind. By then I learned that radios became more selective when they employed more than a single tuned circuit.

I had not yet brought tools to the school so I had some friends in the engineering department make me a box which would hold a 2-gang variable capacitor and 2 coils mounted near each other. I wound a primary on one coil to which the antenna and ground were connected. Each coil was wired to a section of the variable cap. I couldn't find a 1n34 diode but found a radar point-contact diode. Rather than headphones, I wired it to feed the mike input of an audio amplifier.

I could receive all 5 stations which were on the air in Syracuse at that time.

Because the fidelity was so much better than any available super heterodyne receiver, I used it for all AM reception during my stay in college.

I decided that more could be had by using coils with tunable slugs. I could then trim both the low and high ends of the broadcast band and reception was much improved.

When I took the receiver home to New York, I found that I could receive 13 stations with no overlap.

This is just about the end of this tale. Sometime in the 1990's I revived my crystal set by adding an RF amplifier between the two tuned circuits and a second one at the output of the second circuit. I coupled the diode to that stage. This allowed me better selectivity because the final tuned circuit was no longer being loaded down by the diode.

I logged many DX stations from here in Virginia.

There was always a small amount of audio distortion because of the nonlinear properties of diodes. I changed the circuit to what is called an infinite impedance detector. I still had distortion because I had too high a resistor value in the source of the FET.

I no longer have a good shop so I have not pursued this project.

I hope you found this long ramble at least a little interesting!

AARC July 10, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting

Call to order – President Jim (K4JEC) called the board meeting to order at 7 pm.

The following members were present: K4JEC, K4PMC, AA4DH, KA4JJD, K4DND, N4UVA, K4BAV, AD6JV and K4CGY.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked for approval of the board meeting minutes from the June Board Meeting that appeared in the July Issue of *The Beacon*. Minutes were approved with the bank balance reported as \$6,846.70 amendment.

Treasurer's Report – Don (N4UVA) filed this report.

	Current Month	Previous Month
Bal	\$6,846.70	\$6,936.43
Debits	410.99	___589.78
Credits	64.31	___500.05
Balance	\$6,500.02	\$6,846.70

Vice President's Report – Carter (WD4AYS) – Absent. Asked via the president for program ideas for Sept/Oct Meetings.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY)— Nothing for the board.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJD) – Listed the items for the raffle.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV)— Nothing for the board.

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) – Nothing for the board.

Public Service Committee – Dave (K4DND)— Nothing for the board.

Estate Committee – Dayton (AA4DH) – Nothing for the board.

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC) – Asked the board approve up to \$175 for food and drink for the August Picnic. The motion was carried unanimously.

New Business – None

Old Business – None

Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

August Picnic & Silent Auction all set for August 14 at 6 pm at the Darden Towe Park on Stony Point Road ¼ mile from the Route 250 intersection. Park is signed from Stony Point Road. When entering the park make all right turns and that will take you back to the large pavilion. See you there!!!

July 10, 2012 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Call to Order -- President Jim (K4JEC) called General Membership Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and invited everyone to introduce themselves. He called on Michael KA4JJD to present the items to be raffled off this evening.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked that the minutes of the June meeting as published in *The Beacon* be approved with the following correction: . One digit was missing from the treasurer's report in the closing balance which stated \$646.70. It should have read \$6,846.70. They were unanimously approved with the correction.

Treasurer's Report – Don (N4UVA) filed this report.

	Current Month	Previous Month
Bal	\$6,846.70	\$6,936.43
Debits	410.99	589.78
Credits	64.31	500.05
Balance	\$6,500.02	\$6,846.70

The treasurer recommended the club make a \$200 donation to the Earlysville Fire Department as we have the past two years. The motion was seconded by Dave K4DND and carried unanimously.

Vice President's Report – Carter (WD4AYS) – On behalf of Carter, the president asked for ideas or programs for the month of September and November meetings.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY) – Reported on Field Day and thanked everyone for their support. He suggested we might consider competing as a 4A class station next year.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJD) Outlined the items available for the raffle. He reported that we were doing "good" and thanked everyone for their support.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV) – Bill stated he would like to offer a General License Class this fall and asked for a show of hands from those who would be interested in taking the course. Interest was shown by the number of hands raised.

Public Relations Committee – Jim (K4BAV) reported that Marty W4MBW has resigned as editor of the club newsletter and the now we must launch an effort to find a replacement.

Public Service Committee – Dave (K4DND) thanked the members who helped work the public service event last weekend. He pointed out that everyone was glad it was a short one because of the heat the afternoon would have offered. He circulated a clip board for members to sign up to work the upcoming public service events.

Estate Committee – Dayton (AA4DH) reported that a number of estate items have been listed for sale on the club website and he is still working on another estate to be added to the list.

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC) – Jim read a letter from the Earlysville Fire Department citing their pleasure in our using their site for our Field Day and extended an invitation to use the site again next year. He reminded everyone that the next meeting would be our August Picnic and Silent Auction at Darden Towe Park at 6 pm on Tuesday, August 14.

Old Business – None

New Business – Stan K2SSB, president of the Quarter Century Wireless Association local chapter announced that the chapter would be having a meeting at Ruby Tuesdays in Barracks Road Shopping Center next Sunday at 6 pm.

Program – Dr. Michael Rein KA4JJD presented a program on the summertime hazard of ticks and the diseases they potentially carry.

Adjournment – The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

President's Remarks

By Jim K4JEC

I am truly sorry that Marty W4MBW could not continue with the club newsletter. Recognizing that sometimes we ask a lot of our members and occasionally we ask for more than they have to give. I am so pleased that while he is withdrawing his newsletter efforts, he is not withdrawing from other club activities. We so much look forward to his smiling face behind that big camera at the picnic for one up coming event..

Of course, we are looking for a member who is able to step up to the project and take over the club newsletter. In the meantime, it will continue with various members pitching-in to make it happen.

The big club event this month is the Annual August Picnic and Silent Auction. Good food, good fun and good fellowship are the theme of the day with some really great auction pieces to inspect and place a bid on. Silent auctions are a lot of fun with the last minute flurry of activity to get the best bid in just before the cutoff time of 8 pm.

We have found in the past that many items contain a minimum bid sought by the buyer and so if you don't want to meet the minimum, you don't bid. In some cases, we have seen items sold for less than the minimum bid so it is still a good idea to place a bid for what you are willing

to pay even if it is below the minimum stated bid. Sometimes the seller will accept the lower bid upon second thought and you both leave happy. The difference is this: 1.) If you meet the minimum bid and are the highest bidder, you are entitled to purchase the item for your bid amount. 2.) If you bid below the minimum, the seller is not obligated to accept your bid but could upon second thought.

So don't fail to bid on an item you are interested in purchasing because the minimum bid is too high. Place your bid and hope for the best. You may be surprised.

From the other point of view, if you have items you want to sell, fill a box and place the items in the auction. You may find someone who is looking for just the item you want to dispose of – what a great surprise.

The Annual Awards Dinner for our 49th year is looming on the horizon and plans are underway to offer a great event for the club by a committee of dedicated members who are working toward making it special as a forerunner to our 50th Year Annual Awards Dinner in December of 2013.

Put the date of December 11 on your calendar right now to ensure your availability for this great club activity.

Good Memories

By Joe Don Fritz KD4RWX

As a former Newsletter Editor, I smile at your request for content submissions.

Although I do not recall how many years I produced the newsletter, it was a much different process in those days. That is except at the very end when I tried moving it into the digital world using pdf files for distribution. Even then I still had to produce some paper copies for those who were not on the Internet. Over the years I did have some nice submissions from club members.

My "fondest" memories are from the completely paper days. Of course the original was done on my Mac and a single paper copy was printed out. Then I would take it to Office Depot where a kind gentleman would make the necessary number of copies. Then those were taken home and the fun really began. I would sit in front of the TV and watch some shows, while I folded, stapled, attached mailing labels (after printing them out) and finally attached stamps to about 100 newsletters. At that point, I would bundle them up and place them into the mail at the Main Post Office.

It then seemed that I very quickly started the next month's issue. Month in and month out it became the same routine for several years. Finally the postage costs got so high that I began to think about pdf files. But first, I gave up the development and turned that over to Eileen Dean, WD9EIA. She just produced the original and then delivered it to my house and I did the copying, folding, stapling, labeling, stamps and mailing. Finally, she turned it back over to me and I in turn let the club find a new Editor-Bob Dorsey, W4RQ. Bob eventually completed the process of producing the newsletter using the pdf format and provided for 12-13 months to be accessible through the AARC web site.

All in all, I got to watch a lot of TV while doing the newsletters. I did get to do a side activity. I did the annual AARC Directory for about the same number of years. Again, original, copying, folding, adding the cover, labeling, stapling, stamping and delivering to the post office – only once a year.

I feel better now that I have reflected on all of this. Good luck with finding the new editor.

Editor's Note: Joe is living on 222 State Highway C in Senath, MO 63876. His email address is joeedfritz@aol.com

Classified Listings

The below listed items are being sold from the estate of WA4IUN for the widow by the AARC Estate Committee. These items will be available for purchase at the club picnic and silent auction:

COLLINS 75A1 (yes ONE)
\$125

COLLINS 32V2 \$250

both items work but need cleaning, tuning, TLC.

contact WD4AYS or AA4DH

Heathkit DX-60 CW/AM transmitter and HG-10 VFO, good physical condition, a little low on output power.

Package price, \$100 cash, pick up in Charlottesville.

Contact K4CGY or AA4DH.

Heathkit SB303 w/manual and SP600 speaker, good physical condition, missing power cord. Package price \$200 cash. Pick up in

Charlottesville. Contact K4CGY or AA4DH.

Drake 2b receiver Drake HF Receiver w/manual. works \$150

Drake Q-Multiplier 2-BQ incl w/2B

contact WD4AYS or AA4DH

Items offered for local sale

Contact Dayton AA4DH or Ron K4RKA

D104 Mike & stand clean/unkn 30@

Heath SWR bridge paint flaked off, noisy pot \$10

TR-44 Rotator Heavy duty

Rotator no work/ fair condition \$60

U-100 Rotator Light duty

Rotator U-100 no work/poor condition \$10

Voltmeter, Auto range Radio Shack 22-163 \$10

Voltmeter, Pocket Radio Shack 22-182 \$5

NOTE: Other Heath pieces and some older Collins equipment will be available soon. Check back. Also note the Swap Items listed on the club website.

Take The Test!

As you read this issue of *The Beacon*, count the number of times a club member's picture or name appears excluding the meeting minutes and Classified listings. Email your count to jecrosby@comcast.net and find out how close you came to the total. Those coming closest to the total will be listed in the next issue.

Or Try These . . .

1. Who can name and number all the types of membership offered by the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club?
2. How many members constitute the Board of Directors?
3. How many articles constitute the AARC Bylaws.
4. How many repeaters does the club own and maintain?
5. What time and day is the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net called?
6. What time and day is the AARC Information Net called?
7. Who were the last two amateurs voted into membership by the club?
8. What date, day and time will the next License Examination session be offered?
9. On what date was the last Annual Meeting of the AARC held?
10. At what price do we sell raffle tickets at our meetings?

Copy and paste the questions above along with your answers into an email to jecrosby@comcast.net.