



# 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

November \_\_\_\_\_ 2012



Bill Pond N0WP and Connie working at the rest stop at Wintergreen Summit during the International Race of Champions last month. (Photo by Dave Damon K4DND)

The club will meet on November 13 at 7:30 pm at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville. This meeting is the meeting the Bylaws state that a Nominating Committee is to be named to fill a slate of officers and directors for 2013.



Check out the goodies at the typical rest stop. (Photo by Dave Damon K4DND)

## A message from Jeff Demers, N1SNB.

I wanted to take a quick moment to tell you about a new

program to support a youth activity on the HF bands.

Chances are, if you were like me, getting on the air after getting your first license was a little challenging. Parents were bugged. Pennies were saved. Numerous "compromise" measures were taken to get that first station on the air! My company, Amateur Radio Supplies LLC, of Haverhill, Massachusetts seeks to help a few lucky young hams get on the HF bands and make some contacts! Do you know any

deserving young hams? We will be giving away 3 complete HF stations per year in order to support activity on the ham bands.

You can find the details at: <http://www.amateurradiosupplies.com/youth-s/222.htm>

My sincere hope is that you can spread the word to your club membership. Link the giveaway from your club website, mention it in your newsletter - anything you can do - to help make sure this program is a success is greatly appreciated. The more kids we can get on the air, the better!

If you have a young ham to nominate, email us. Otherwise individuals are invited to apply right from our website: <http://www.amateurradiosupplies.com>

Your support is greatly appreciated. The future of ham radio depends on youth activity. Please help spread the word.

73! Jeff Demers, N1SNB, President - Amateur Radio Supplies

## Ham of note has passed

By Ron Richey – K4RKA

John Bean Heltzel WA4EMP signed off on October 1, 2012. Though not an active member of the local radio amateur community, he was an important contributor to our repeater system as well as those of many other clubs across the state.

John became interested in radio communications and the use of radio repeaters in the 1950's as a member of the

Virginia State Forestry Department and was instrumental in the acquisition of radio units and frequencies, which until then, has been in the control of the U.S. Forest Service.

With this background, he was amenable to considering the presence of an amateur radio group at their tower sites, specifically Carter Mountain lookout tower which already

had some other services, all federal or state, located in the old ranger "shack". With the assistance of Cole Hendrix, K4FRV, then Charlottesville City Manager, and Ronny Dower, WB4YJZ, the local civil defense director, coordinated thru Jim Copony, WB4TOT (now W3WAC), who worked for John, the local repeater group, WB4KNX

received permission to install our equipment on the Carter Mountain lookout tower in exchange for providing grass cutting around the tower & some minimal maintenance of the old ranger "shack". Our relationship with the Forest Service was so satisfactory that soon other groups across the state were given permission to mount ham antennas on lookout towers as long as they were in some way associated with some emergency services group.

The name of our group, the Charlottesville Emergency Amateur Radio System (CEARS – pun intended) which appears on early QSL cards of the AARC. SO, in essence John Heltzel, WA4EMP, was indirectly responsible for the first

amateur radio repeater system in Albemarle county.. sk & qrt

## Frostfest 2013 set

The Frostfest 2013 is approaching! It will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at the Richmond Raceway Complex, from 8:30AM until 3:30PM. They are looking forward to a great hamfest with manufacturers' representatives, new radio dealers, accessory dealers, and many, many tables filled with amateur radio equipment of all descriptions. There will be VE Testing, forums and meetings, and much, much more.

They are offering something new this year: A special Early Bird Drawing for \$250 in Frostfest Buck\$, just for Early Bird ticket holders! They will also have the Grand Prize of \$1000 in Frostfest Buck\$. Also, Early Bird ticket holders will be able to enter at 7:30AM, one full hour before General Admission starts!

All the details can be found at <http://www.frostfest.com>.

Tickets and tables can be purchased online as well. Frostfest is sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society.

Our club has always had a two-table set up in the past with the exception of last year when only one table was reserved. From the load placed on the single table, it is evident that we really need two tables. What are your thoughts?

## President's Remarks

By Jim Crosby K4JEC

As the club bylaws state, the president must announce the appointment of three members to serve as the Nominating Committee to recruit a slate of officers and directors to serve the club during the calendar year of 2013.

This will be done at the November club meeting on November 13. The last modification of our bylaws changed the terms of the directors from one year to a two-year term. Last year we elected three directors to the full two-year term and three directors to a one-year to institute the staggering of terms where three directors will be elected each year thereafter.

Of the current six directors, Dave Damon K4DND, Dayton Haugh AA4DH, and Jim Owen K4CGY were elected to a one-year term.

Bill Phillips AD6JV, Michael Rein KA4JJD, and Jim Wilson K4BAV were elected to a two-year term. Therefore, these three directors will retain their positions through 2013.

Of course, the offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer are restricted to one-year terms.

While the Nominating Committee is charged with presenting a slate of candidates for each office and three directors, the bylaws further state that nominations must be solicited from the floor prior to the vote.

This brings me to my last thoughts concerning the election.

This is a time for the membership to reflect on the type of leadership you want and who can best serve your interests. Beyond that it can be very difficult to identify those members who are willing to assume the responsibility for elected leadership. This has proven true through out the years. We have experienced having the Nominating Committee report they have failed to recruit a full slate of candidates for all the officers.

Through arm twisting, bartering and begging, we have had to enter into the very moment prior to the vote taken to fill the slate – leaving only the minimum candidates up for election. Of course, this leaves each candidate with the feeling that they got the job because no one else wanted it. This can be a bad situation for the club.

In almost every endeavor, competition produces the best product.

Now is the time for each member to assess their commitment to our club. Are you willing to step up and be willing to offer leadership?

Our club has a remarkable list of members of great talent, knowledge and experience. There is no reason to approach our annual elections with only the minimum candidates to fill the required offices.

Let's make an effort to offer a choice during the election. Let's give those who are elected a feeling that they won the office and didn't get elected because no one else wanted the job.

## 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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Jim Crosby K4JEC – Interim Editor  
Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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## AARC October 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting

**Call to order** – President Jim (K4JEC) called the board meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The following members were present: K4JEC, WD4AYS, K4PMC, K4DND, K4BAV, AA4DH, N4UVA, AD6JV and K4CGY.

**Secretary's Report** – Pat (K4PMC) asked for approval of the board meeting minutes from the September Board Meeting that appeared in the last Issue of *The Beacon*. They were approved without dissent.

**Treasurer's Report** – Don (N4UVA) filed this report for September:

Current Month	
Bal	\$6,395.52
Debits	- 0 -
Credits	125.05
Balance	\$6,520.57

Don acknowledged a \$400 donation to the club from the Devil's Backbone event.

**Vice President's Report** – Carter (WD4AYS) – The banquet was discussed and after hearing reports from different venue's, the board decided by unanimous approval to have the banquet at the Elks Club on December 11 at 6:30 pm with a ticket price of \$20 per person.

### Committee Reports

There were no committee reports for the board.

**President's Report** – Jim (K4JEC) – No report

**New Business** – None offered

**Old Business** – None offered

**Board Meeting was adjourned** at 7:24 p.m.

## General Membership Meeting

**Call to Order** -- President Jim (K4JEC) called the General Membership Meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

**Program** – Following the round of introductions, the meeting was turned over to Dave Damon K4DND to introduce our speaker. Ms. Kirby Felts, the 911 Center Emergency Management Coordinator, presented the program. The program was well received and our speaker fielded a number of questions.

**Secretary's Report** – Pat (K4PMC) asked that the minutes of the September meeting as published in *The Beacon* be approved. Remind everyone to

sign-in. The minutes were approved without dissent.

**Treasurer's Report** – Don (N4UVA) filed this report for September:

#### Current Month

Bal	\$6,395/52
Debits	- 0 -
Credits	125.05
Balance	\$6,520.57

Don acknowledged a \$400 donation to the club from the Devil's Backbone event.

**Vice President's Report** – Carter (WD4AYS) – Absent for the general membership meeting.

### Committee Reports

**Technical Committee** – Jim (K4CGY) – Things are moving along okay. We have all the pieces for the linking of the .895 and .760 repeaters.

**Fund Raising Committee** – Michael (KA4JJD) Absent.

**Education Committee** – Bill (AD6JV) – Advised that the General Class is proceeding on schedule and will complete in time for the November Examination Session on November 10 at 9 am at the NRAO.

**Public Relations Committee** – Jim (K4BAV) We are still looking for an editor of *The Beacon*. Thanked President Jim for filling in as interim editor.

**Public Service Committee** – Dave (K4DND) Nothing to report.

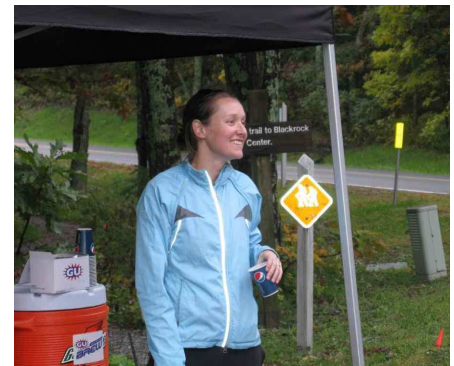
**Estate Committee** – Dayton (AA4DH) Nothing to report

**President's Report** – Jim (K4JEC) – Advised the members that the board had approved the Annual Awards Dinner to be held at the Elks Club again this year and the price of tickets has been approved at \$20 per person.

**Old Business** – None reported.  
**New Business** – None reported.  
**Adjournment** – The Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.



Information sign shown in front of the runner's bag drop at the White Rock Aid Station of the IROC. (Photo by Dave Damon K4DND)



Shannon KJ4VJR offers a very welcoming smile during the IROC. (Photo by Dave Damon K4DND)



Kirby Felts, the 911 Center Emergency Management Coordinator, presented the program. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)



The above pictures were taken by Jim Wilson K4BAV while participating in the Prince William County Heritage Festival with his friend Ballard Jewell, age 90 in November. Ballard was a railroad telegraph operator in the good old days.



Dennis K4THE shows us his home station. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)

# Last Minute News Flash!!!

We have just discovered the website of the ARRL's Virginia Section is back up and running after a long absence.

Old bookmarks seem to work to take you to the website, however if you don't have it bookmarked on your computer, the address is:

[www.aresracesofva.org](http://www.aresracesofva.org)

The site has a new look but seems to contain all the features of the former one. You should check it out!

# Classified Listings

FOR SALE, TRADE, or WANTED ITEMS as of 10/23/2012

For other items go to [www.albemarleradio.org](http://www.albemarleradio.org) SWAPFEST.

Send new items to [k4rka@juno.com](mailto:k4rka@juno.com)

FOR SALE: Here is a partial list of the things that I am trying to sell. posted 10/14/2012

2 ea 4CX250B's, \$40.00

2 ea 4-400A's \$150.00

Hunter Bandit 2000C linear amplifier with spare 3-400Z and manual, \$150.00

Collins 51J4 receiver with manual, \$350.00

HP 5326B counter, timer, DVM with manual \$125.00

Tom W4RAE (434) 978 2003

FOR SALE posted 10/9/2012  
Coleman Series 54 Generator;  
4KW 120V/240V. Briggs & Stratton  
8HP engine model 190432. Very  
clean and mounted on cart.  
Purchased about 1980-85 and  
used very little.

Has new carburetor, plug, air filter,  
fuel lines &  
fuel cutoff valve. Runs fine!  
\$199.00 OBO

Jim K4CGY 434-296-3044

FOR SALE: Cushcraft R5 5 band  
vertical antenna. new cost today  
about \$600, asking \$200.

can be near ground (10 ft) or roof  
top mounted. This antenna has  
worked the world.

contact Sam, N4WJQ, 973-6384,  
or [sam@spit6.com](mailto:sam@spit6.com) posted  
10/5/2012

# A definition worth noting

Newsletters are successful when they are staffed with a good number of reporters and photographers. Unfortunately, many readers do not consider themselves as reporters. They think the roles of reporter and editor are one in the same.

Every member of the club should consider themselves as reporters for the newsletter.

## Late breaking news of interest to hams



Boeing

### Boeing Now Has A Missile That Destroys Only Electronics And Leaves All Else Intact

While the U.S. geared up for the second presidential debate last Tuesday, a building sat pulsing with computers, electronic surveillance, and security systems in the Utah high desert.

The unoccupied site was awaiting the test of a weapon the Pentagon requested [four years ago](#) to the day on 16 October, 2008.

The Counter-Electronics High Power Microwave Advanced Missile Project ([CHAMP](#)), led by Boeing's

Phantom works, promised to change the face of contemporary warfare, and its test was a complete success.

CHAMP flew over the [Utah Test and Training Range](#) last Tuesday, discharging a burst of High Power Microwaves onto the test site and brought down the compound's entire spectrum of electronic systems, apparently without producing any other damage at all. Even the camera recording the test was shut down.

Struggling to contain his enthusiasm, Boeing's Keith

Coleman says, "We hit every target we wanted to. Today we made science fiction into science fact."

Read more:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/beoings-counter-electronics-high-power-microwave-advanced-missile-project-2012-10#ixzz2AJsGFSTJ>