



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

December _____ 2012



The antenna farm atop the Martha Jefferson Hospital that we have to compete with for space and interference from other services there. (Photo by Ron Richey K4RKA)

The club awards dinner will be at the Elks club on December 11 at 6:30 pm. Send your reservations to VP Carter Elliott at celliott@aol.com



Dave Damon K4DND and Jim Owen K4CGY work on the radios

now located at MJH. (Photo by Ron Richey K4RKA)

Our MJH Repeater Site

By Ron Richey K4RKA

Dave, Jim & I went to MJH to look at the 450 remote base which I thought I had determined why it was working so poorly and erratically on .52 simplex. The premise turned out to be

wrong, but we did go through all the preset channels which were different from any list we had, so we wrote those down. For some reason we could key the .76 repeater but could not hear it. Dave messed with the .76 receiver memory but every time we controlled it remotely it went back to the receive CTCSS setting which should have been OK but wasn't. Dave spoke to Elmer who suspects that there is a substantial spurious signal either blocking the receiver or overloading the receiver front ends on all three of our installations on the building, making at least the 450 repeater & remote base unusable. Hopefully the problem will be found and rectified soon.

As a side note: when the remote is working, it can be heard in Lovington but cannot hear the responding signal at this point.

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

I announced the appointment of the 2013 Nominating Committee of three at the November Club Meeting as prescribed in the Bylaws.

Harry Dannals W2HD has agreed to chair the committee with Ron Richey K4RKA and Joe Giovanelli W2PVY.

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.

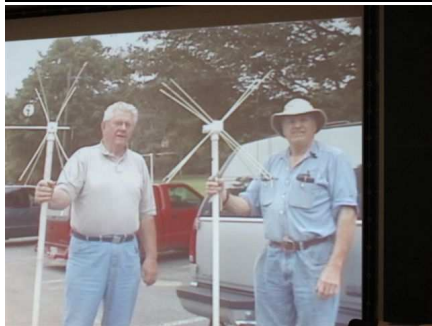
Delay Explanation

You will all note that this edition of the Beacon is running a little later than my previous ones and that is due to a little setback I have had to endure. I had two hours of surgery at MJH on the 15th and today is only 12 days from that event – the very first I have felt well and strong enough to tackle this project.

As the days go on, I look forward to getting back to some form of normalcy in my daily routine.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Awards Dinner at the Elks Club as the next big event on the horizon for our club.

I was very impressed with the enthusiasm that developed among the club members that resulted from the Fox Hunting presentation. We have a large number of members working on a Fox Hunting interest group and it looks like we have enough interest to schedule an event this spring.



This screen shot of the Fox Hunting Video presented at the club meeting shows some of the quads used in serious hunting. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)



President Jim K4JEC presided over the Fox hunting discussion and Harry W2HD told a story of Fox hunting and how its skills can be useful in tracking down illegal transmissions. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)



During the November meeting, Dennis K4THE offered some interesting thoughts on equipment and resources for t-hunting. This is an event that has been undertaken by the club in the past, however not in recent times. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)

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
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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 7:07 pm. The following members were present: K4JEC, WD4AYS, K4PMC, K4BAV, KA4JJD, N4UVA, AD6JV and K4CGY.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked for approval of the board meeting minutes from the October 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	\$6,520.57
Debits	84.00
Credits	405.05
Balance	\$6,840.70

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

Vice President's Report – Carter (WD4AYS) – Dinner tickets will be available during the meeting for those who would like to purchase them ahead. The dinner will be at the Elks Club on December 11 at 6:30 pm with a ticket price of \$20 per person. The main offering will be prime rib and crab cakes.

Committee Reports

Michael KA4JJD reported he would like to purchase a door prize for the annual banquet. It was resolved that he was authorized to spend up to \$200 for door prizes.

President's Report – Jim (K4JEC) – Announced his appointment of the Nominating Committee. Harry Dannals W2HD will serve as chair with Ron Richey K4RKA and Joe Giovanelli W2PVY.
New Business – None offered
Old Business – None offered
Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

General Membership Meeting

Call to Order -- President Jim (K4JEC) called the General Membership Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and invited everyone to introduce themselves. To honor Veteran's Day all veterans present were asked to raise their hands. A moment of silence was called to honor Kay and Harry Dannals in their time of trouble, as well as all members of the US Armed Forces who

have died fighting for our freedom.

Raffle

Michael outlined the items for tonight's raffle and encouraged the purchase of tickets.

Secretary's Report – Pat (K4PMC) asked that the minutes of the October 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	\$6,520.57
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Don acknowledged a \$400 donation to the club from the Devil's Backbone event.

Vice President's Report – Carter (WD4AYS) – Offered dinner tickets this evening for \$20 each.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim (K4CGY) – Dave, Ron and I went to MJH to work on the antenna and moved it away from some potential interference. Still working on the .925 system.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael (KA4JJD) Displayed the items for tonight's raffle and invited members to pick up their tickets.

Education Committee – Bill (AD6JV) – Advised that the General Class has been completed with two gaining their license upgrade. At the November Examination Session on November 10.

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) Not present to report.

Estate Committee – Dayton (AA4DH) Not present 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. The offering will include prime rib and crab cakes. Announced his appointment of the Nominating Committee. Harry Dannals W2HD will serve as chair with Ron Richey K4RKA and Joe Giovanelli W2PVY.

Old Business – None reported.

New Business – None reported.

Program – President Jim lead a discussion of the merits of staging a fox hunt following a presentation of a video covering the subject. Harry Dannals spoke about the advantages of fox hunting as a great fun event as well as a training exercise for finding illegal transmitters. The discussion gained great enthusiasm among the members and an impromptu committee for formed to pursue the activity.

Adjournment – The Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

High Altitude Ballooning

The AARC has been once again requested by the Science Club at Charlottesville High School to assist with a high altitude project. Jim K4CGY will be heading that up.

Along that line, you might be interested in this item from the ARRL:

The Amateur Radio High Altitude Ballooning **ARHAB** is the website “for near space explorers and enthusiasts dedicated to the education and study of aerospace science” via ham radio high-altitude ballooning.

Billing itself as “the poor man's space program,” this website is the place to turn to for information about the latest ham radio balloon missions, as well as a repository of data and records of past missions, such as a record-setting mission last December, when a balloon traveled more than 5200 miles in 57 hours from San Jose, California to splashdown in the Mediterranean Sea near Algeria. Pertinent links, for example, to [prediction](#) and [tracking](#) websites, populate the ARHAB website.

Something interesting about LED lightbulbs

By Rick Oliver W3KDR

A letter in a recent issue of a publication called TV Technology described a reader's difficulty receiving ABC TV27 (VHF channel 10) in Lancaster PA, which he traced to a new LED light bulb that he was using in a motion sensor fixture which illuminated the way from his garage to his house entrance. One of the staff of TV Technology obtained the same model bulb, which is sold at Home Depot, and looked for signs of radiated interference. The spectrum he observed extended from just above the FM radio broadcast band through the high VHF band, decreasing significantly around 250

MHz. It was very weak at and above 470 MHz. This bulb was labeled to indicate that it meets FCC Part 15 rules.

With TV over the air broadcasts now digital, the interference from this bulb completely knocked out reception on this channel until the lamp was turned off by the timer of the motion sensor.

The publication went on to speculate about the potential interference that might exist to aircraft from a million of these lamps operating simultaneously. Likewise, we might want to speculate as to the interference we might observe on VHF ham band frequencies. And because these lamps are still quite expensive, you may want to save your receipt for a return, until you satisfy yourself that yours is not causing any reception problems.

QCW Meeting pictures

By Jim Wilson K4BAV



Phil Lawrence W4DGN and Bob Pattison K4DU visit with Ellsworth K4LXG from the other side of the mountain.



Harry W2HD visits with Steve K4EU.



Jim K4CGY and Mary dine Micheal KAJJD and Bill AD6JV in the background.



Michael KA4JJD, Bill AD6JV and Stan K2SSB caught at the QCWA meeting.

Ongoing education opportunities

By Dennis Mennerich K4THE

If you are a teacher (or know one) or are a STEM student, definitely see the free educational simulations covering diverse topics designed by the University of Colorado available

in 28 languages. These are fun, interactive, research-based simulations of physical phenomena from the PhET project. Lots of lesson plans for teachers too.

<http://phet.colorado.edu/>

There are quite a few of interest to hams here.

Don't forget these outstanding free education sites:

<http://www.academicearth.org/>

<http://www.khanacademy.org/>

<http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>

<http://see.stanford.edu/see/courses.aspx>

FCC Actions

On Tuesday, November 20, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that proposes to amend Parts 1, 2, 74, 78, 87, 90 and 97 of the Commission's rules. Part 97 governs the Amateur Radio Service. These changes will implement allocation decisions from the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) that concern those portions of the radio frequency spectrum between 108 MHz and 20.2 GHz and make certain updates to the rules in this frequency range.

Most of the *NPRM* does not concern the Amateur Radio Service, but the FCC is requesting comments on the three parts that do: changing the allocation to the amateur portion of the 160 meter band, allocating a new Amateur Service band at 135.7-137.8 kHz and cleaning up the rules for the 10.0-10.5 GHz band. Comments on these proposed rules changes will be accepted until 60 days after the *NPRM* is published in the

Federal Register that can take up to six weeks after release of the *NPRM*. Reply comments will be accepted up to 90 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

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Classified Item Listing

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NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of 11/24/2012

LAB FURNITURE FOR SALE posted 11/7/2012
FOR SALE: Used Symbiote engineering design lab work stations, shelves and work benches. This equipment is suitable for an electronic hardware and/or software design lab and includes AC outlet strips and ESD protected work surfaces. Visit the Symbiote website for description: www://symbiote.com. This equipment is surplus to my needs, is "like new," and can be assembled in various arrangements. It is suitable for a home workshop or small business. If interested, email John Green (KX4P) for a five page pdf document with photos and full description atradio1956@embarqmail.com .

If you have questions, please email or call me, 434-465-5825.

73, John Green, KX4P

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FOR SALE: I have a quantity of 2, 2 meter base antennas for sale.

posted 11/3/12

The first is a brand new never used, Hustler G7-144, I would like \$150.00 for this one.

The second is the Spectral Isopole, It's exactly like the old AEA only by the company that is currently making them called Spectral. I would like \$75.00 for this one
Thanks, Jaime, KA3NXN, 825-5034, ka3nrxn@comcast.net

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To have a listing placed here, contact Ron K4RKA k4rka@juno.com