



The Beacon

A monthly newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club serving Central Virginia
Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

March

2013

Club Meeting Set for Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 pm

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club will meet in the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville, VA on March 12 at 7:30 pm.

The program will feature a workshop on soldering with the emphasis on coax connectors PL-259.

Bring your iron, solder, coax and connectors for the practical application. Make a coax pigtail. Pick the brains of the real experts of which our club has a good number included among the membership.

The president has called a board meeting for 7 pm. prior to the 7:30 General Membership Meeting.

Albemarle Radio Club Wins Virginia QSO Party!

By Bob Pattison K4DU

“We’ve never seen participation by a club at a level like this”, one official at the Sterling Park Radio club was quoted as saying. “The entire membership turned out and each work at least 100 contacts. Several members of the club earned the coveted Worked All Virginia Counties Award”, she continued.

Both PVRC and the Central Virginia Contest Club were rumored to be sending representatives to Charlottesville to recruit new members. The Frankford Radio Club and others were concerned about the impact the AARC might have to their standings in future contests.

Sounds like fun doesn't it? Of course this years Virginia QSO Party has yet to occur. Contesting can be a lot of fun. It is a quick way to pick up states if you are working on your Worked All States (WAS) award. It is also a very quick way to work counties if you are going after USA-CA.

The Virginia QSO Party takes place on the third full weekend in March each year. That means this year it will be on the weekend of March 16-17. For details go to: http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2013_VQP/2013_VQP_Main.html

It would be really neat to have a significant AARC presence in this

contest. We could and should compete in the Club Competition. Make it so!

2013 Frostfest

Saturday February 2nd found a goodly number of AARC members and friends at the Richmond (RATS) Frostfest. The event held at the Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 East Laburnum Avenue was well attended and free of weather hazards to keep attendees away.

Bob, K4DU said, “If you have never been to a hamfest this is a good one to attend. It is a medium size event and a good chance to meet and greet people you may have spoken to on the air. It is also a great opportunity to pick up that new piece of equipment that somehow did not make it under the tree or get a real deal on an item in the flea market. You may even win a door prize. (One year I did win a dual band VHF/UHF transceiver at this show!)



The AARC banner was prominently displayed at the Richmond Frostfest to identify the club's presence. (Photo by Jim Owen, K4CGY)



The club has a lot of items offered for sale at the club's table being manned here by Mike, K8RVR. (Photo by Jim Owen, K4CGY)



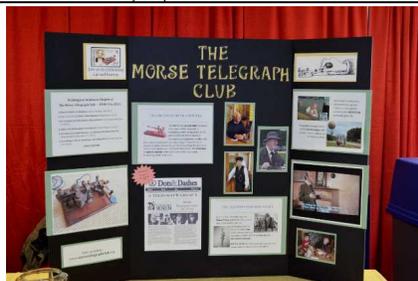
Bob, K4DU; Mike, K8RVR; and Bill, AD6JV helped staff the AARC sales tables. (Photo by Jim Owen, K4CGY)



Greg, N4PGS and Dave, K4DND were on the scene at Frostfest. (Photo by Jim Owen, K4CGY)



Teri, KT4UO and Bob, K4DU were caught dining together at Frostfest, (Photo by Jim Owen, K4CGY)



The Morse Telegraph Club display was staffed by Jim, K4BAV and his son, Matt at Frostfest. (Photo by Jim Owen, K4CGY)

President's Remarks

By Bob Pattison – K4DU

The Amateur's Code - A Review

Paul M. Segal W9EEA authored the Amateur's Code in 1947. It was copyrighted by the ARRL and included in many of the subsequent Handbooks. In 1988 the League recast the code which I submit to you for your consideration:

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE - *never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.*

LOYAL - *he/she offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.*

PROGRESSIVE - *with knowledge abreast of science, well built and efficient station and operation above reproach.*

FRIENDLY - *slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.*

BALANCED - *radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to her/his family, job, school or community.*

PATRIOTIC - *station and skill always ready for the service to country and community.*

Hold yourself up against these principles. How do your measure up? What areas need improvement? Are you a member of the ARRL? (Loyal) Is your station, antennas included, up to snuff (Progressive)? Is your radio life balanced with the rest of your life (Balanced)? I must confess that in earlier days W2HD, on more than one occasion gently reminded me to make certain that my life was balanced. Harry, thank you!

I believe that members of the ARRC as a whole do a good job abiding by these principles. I also believe that it is our duty as a club to pass on these values to people who are new to the hobby. Of course we speak much more forcefully through our actions than our words.

Webster's Dictionary defines "Code" as a system of principles or rules (Moral code). If we all lived our lives by these values in a broader sense, the world would be a much better place. Please do not construe this piece as encouragement or a license to point out what you perceive as a violation of these principles by others you encounter on the bands. My notion of self enforcement is reflection and correction or adjustment of ones own behavior.

Throughout the course of this year you may notice articles and communications that hark back to core principles and values of our great hobby. The Amateurs Code is part of that series.

73 de K4DU

Cert Team Training Announced

The next session of the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) will start on Tuesday nights beginning on March 12th and will run for a total of nine weeks. Class meets from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm., and

we will meet at the Emergency Communications Center at 2306 Ivy Road, Charlottesville 22903.

The class topics include: Disaster Preparedness, Fire Suppression, Search & Rescue, Disaster Medical Operations, Disaster Psychology & Team Organization, Terrorism, Practical Exercise and National Incident Management System.

In the interim before class begins, you may find the new website [ReadyVirginia](#) interesting. There's also lots of information on our website: [CharlottesvilleCERT](#).

We would appreciate a reply indicating whether you will be able to make it on these dates and times. Please feel free to share this announcement to others who may be interested and feel free to contact me, Pamela Sprouse, CERTCville@gmail.com with any questions.

ARRL how to videos posted

By Jim Crosby, K4JEC

Three new "how to" videos have been posted on the ARRL website's Multimedia page at www.arrl.org/multimedia.

--How to attach a PL259 connector to coaxial cable

--How to use CTCSS in a typical FM transceiver

--How to enjoy split-frequency operating

All three videos are hosted by Joe Garcia, NJ1Q, the W1AW Station Manager. (There is a video tour of W1AW available on the same page.)

To view these videos your Web browser must support [Flash](#) technology. Also, some *Internet Explorer* browsers may have compatibility issues when attempting to view Flash video within *Windows 7* and *8*. If you do not see the individual video player screens on the Multimedia page, click your *Internet Explorer* "Compatibility View" icon located in the right-hand section of the *Internet Explorer* address entry window.

ARRL Board action is a big step forward

By Alan Swinger, K9MBQ

A "Logbook of The World" ad hoc Committee has been appointed. The ARRL Board voted to create the Logbook of The World (LoTW) ad hoc Committee. This committee has been tasked with reviewing policies and practices associated with how LoTW runs today (including the fixed and variable costs), issues concerning user interface and usability, and economic value of an LoTW award point or credit. The committee will provide the ARRL Board with a progress report and preliminary recommendations at the 2013 second meeting in July.

My "Elmer's Legacy"

By Marty Wangberg – K4MBW

Just how much does giving kindness to an aspiring Ham really influence their lives? Please let me tell you the profound influence my "Elmer" had over my entire life including my friends, career, hobby, and personal growth.

Lets go back to the mid 50's, for a moment, when Ham radio was mostly "home brew", transistors were just beginning to come out, and the diversity of "ready to operate" equipment just wasn't around yet....Heathkit was big along with mail order stores that specialized in supplying the Ham radio industry with all kinds of piece parts, tubes, sockets, chassis's, etc.

I first met my "Elmer" Lyndon (sorry can't remember his last name or Call Sign) in about 1956 while I was in High School in Montana....I was the typical "nerd" of the time with a "slide rule case" slapping my leg when I walked and "calculators" were not available for the general public. A friend of mine told me about the Ham radio operator that I just had to meet....of course I was instantly

interested and when I first walked into Lyndon's large "shack" I was instantly mesmerized and awe-struck by the racks of equipment, blinking lights, Morse code sounds, electronic equipment smells, and keys, mics, and other equipment. I'll never forget this first introduction to the world of "Ham Radio".

Well, I was hooked....but when I expressed my desire to Lyndon to become a "Ham Radio Novice" he told me it was a learning process I had to agree to before I could get my Novice License...back then Novice was crystal controlled, limited privileges, 5 WPM code test, basic theory test, etc. When I asked what that entailed, he told me "well, first you have to build a two tube receiver and two tube transmitter and then I'll teach you the Morse code".

Build a receiver and transmitter?? Really?? Well, turns out Lyndon owned the local TV repair shop so the array of junk chassis's provided a scrounger a whole storehouse of parts. But the hard part was yet to come and that was learning how to read resistor color codes, capacitor values, what the various parts did, etc....the next step was learning the parts of a transmitter and receiver....local oscillators, RF/AF amplifier stages, detectors, etc. all the while scrounging for parts while laying out the parts and punching the holes in steel chassis. Finally finished and then on to the Morse code and radio theory and FCC laws...and thanks to the instructions in *QST Magazine*.

Unfortunately, our family moved before I was able to get my Novice license but the electronic theory Lyndon taught me was the basis for my future career(s). When I took the qualifying tests in 1959 for the USAF of course I scored at the top in "electronics"....so off to 9 months of advanced electronics tech school I went after "basic training".

That advanced electronics training led to being able to pass the FCC 2nd class license the first time and ultimately the 1st class after a review of broadcast laws....and that led me to be hired "on the spot" when I was in my mid-20's by AT&T...primarily due to the fact I had an FCC license.

That was the beginning of a long and successful career with AT&T and the love of Ham Radio that has stayed

with me since 1967 when I finally took the Novice License and received my "ticket" in the mail shortly afterwards.

So, does the kindness and leadership we show to aspiring Hams, both younger and older, really make a difference? My answer is an overwhelming "YES"....it certainly did in my case and I'm sure what we pass on to other's will make a difference to them as well.

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 – Editor
Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Post Office Box 6833
Charlottesville, VA 22906
www.albemarle-radio.org

Classified Item Listing

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To place an item in the Classified Listings just send an email to k4rka@juno.com

FOR SALE

reposted 2/17/2013

I have three pieces of Andrew Heliac LDF4-50A (50 Ohm) coax cable for local pickup only.

- 1 Piece is 80 feet +/-
- 1 Piece is 77 feet +/-

1 Piece is 42 feet +/-

All three pieces have been stored indoors and test normal capacitance (.5 to 1.5 nf) and very high DC resistance between the center conductor and corrugated copper shield.

I don't know the history of these cables as they were part of a SK estate.

Lengths are approximate and if you need exact footages please let me know and I can unroll them and measure more precisely.

\$80 for all three or swap for ??? or "make me an offer I can't refuse"

Marty W4MBW, 434-547-9642, W4MBW@ARRL.net

Ham Gear For Sale 02/25/13

Antennas: Cushcraft (I think) 11 element 2m beam, weathered, rust on through the boom bolts, 3 sections. \$35, Antenna Specialists "Mighty Magnum III"

1/2 wave vertical 10/11m. New in worn box never assembled, and a spare one without hardware or ground plane. \$40

Receivers: Heathkit HR-1680 80-10 with extra set of plug-in boards and complete assembly manual with schematic. Needs TLC-works, sort of. \$20

Grundig Satellite 700 Portable receiver 150khz-353.9khz, 528khz-30mhz and FM Stereo AM SSB FM with original AC adapter and 3 optional ROM chips for 512 X 3 memories.

Read here:

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/grundigradioboy/s700.htm> \$75

6m FM Radios:

Vertex-Yaesu FT-1011 99 channel LCD full feature display 40w. with nice hand mics and short power cords. Programmed

for VA and surrounding states repeaters.

\$75 each (2 of them).

Midland 70-050c 48ch 40w. mobile 2 digit display programmed w/mic and power cord. \$20

VHF Radios: Yaesu FT-530 dual band 2m/440 HT as new in box with NC-42 drop-in Desk

Charger, FNB-27 aftermarket 12v. 1100ma NiMH battery, and MH-29a26 remote speaker mic with full control LCD digital screen (\$100 accessory). This radio was tested and is full

duplex cross-band also. \$225 Kenwood TH-K2at 2m HT as new in box with 6 AA battery case. This is the perfect grab and go HT. Just use 6 AA batteries. you can also plug in 12v for power. Optional rechargeable batteries and charger is available on-line. \$50

Santec LS-202A SSB and FM 2m HT, yes HT. No sub-tone module for FM. BCD thubwheel display and fine tune control for SSB (Usb AND ISB). I think the power output is 2w.

The case is worn (finish partially rubbed off, scratches) but works fine. The ultimate backpack 2m portable. This radio works fine, but needs minor work on battery case (6 aa). With manual and schematic. \$50

I have a Mirage B23S All-Mode 2m. amp to use with the Santec. 2w in gives 30w out. \$15

Contact me (Tom):

WA4ESI@gmail.com

for further information.

REPEATER STATIONS IN CENTRAL VIRGINIA/CHARLOTTESVILLE

-- a brief, limited history --
— by K4RKA —

The earliest reported repeating station (as reported by Ken Sessions in the Radio Amateur's F-M Repeater Handbook, published in 1969) was an AM repeater located in Los Angeles. This repeater was established in 1956 and operated with 146.98 input and 145.22 output. The earliest repeater which is known to be operated in Virginia was a (presumably FM) repeater operated by W4DYE. It was located on Candler's Mountain near Lynchburg in the 1959-1960 era. This repeater station was operated with 145.68 input and 145.26 output and used GE Progress Line equipment.

By the mid to late 1960's, the most active repeating station in Virginia (from the FCC's standpoint, a remote base station, since REPEATERS were not recognized as yet), was operated by WA4VQH. It was located on Tobacco Row Mountain north of Lynchburg and provided coverage over a wide area, reaching from Culpepper to Richmond and into North Carolina. The input frequency was 146.34 and the output was 146.94. It provided valuable service in August, 1969 during the famous Nelson County flood which was a result of the hurricane Camille.

The experience of the Nelson County flood encouraged many groups to establish repeater stations in their own areas for emergency communications. Charlottesville joined the activity in the spring of 1970 with a repeater station on 146.34/146.94 which soon changed frequency to 146.28/146.94 (since many early receivers were single frequency, a common output frequency was desirable). The repeater was first operated as K4RKA/RPT until a "Club" license, WB4KNX, was obtained. With the cooperation of the Charlottesville Civil Defense Office and the Virginia

Forestry Service, the repeater was moved to the Carter's Mountain location. Our Club was the first non-government group ever allowed on a Virginia State Forest lookout tower. The success of our installation opened the door for several other repeater groups across the state. Soon the growth of repeater stations dictated a change of the Charlottesville repeater to a "band plan" pair of 146.28/146.88 which was rapidly gaining popularity as the second most popular frequency pair. This was later changed to 146.16/146.76, which we are still using. By 1972, 11 Virginia repeater stations were listed in the ARRL Repeater Directory.

The increased activity of this type of station caused the FCC to establish a special category for stations designed specifically to repeat signals on a single frequency band. Charlottesville obtained the call WR4ADV which was changed around 1976 to WR4ATL due to a change of trustee. Another change by the FCC and the merger of the Charlottesville Emergency Amateur Repeater Society with the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, resulted in a call change to WA4TFZ/R under which we are still operating.

Meanwhile the fun of playing with remotely operated stations resulted in a repeater on 444.25in/449.25 out with remote base capabilities on 52.525 simplex. This station was put on the air in about 1977 and operated with the call WR4AYG from WA4FZV's QTH. The need for a 220MHz or higher control receiver on the 2 meter repeater spurred the development of a complete UHF repeater on the mountain which was put into operation in June 1980 with the input/output frequencies reversed to conform the "southern" band plan. The loss of the remote base capability resulted in a second 2 meter repeater and remote base located in the AARC Club Room at the City Courthouse. This repeater operated with an input of 146.325 and an output of 146.925 with remote base capability on 52.525. It was put into operation in December, 1981 with master control from a telephone line interface. Remote base operation was

changed to 29.6 in 1985. The remote base was changed to 223.5 in 1987. Many very interesting contacts were made from these remote base stations.

The loss of the Club Room in 1989 caused these latter operations to be shut down until a new site was found. In order to continue to provide local coverage, the 146.925 repeater was relocated in the spring of 1990 and operated as a split site repeater between the residences of N4WJQ and N4KEI for a short time. After being converted to solid state by N4WJQ, it operated from K4RKA's home for several months until N4FWA arranged for a site on Observatory Mountain. It continues to operate from there and gradual improvements are being made. Parts from the old .76 repeater will be used to improve it even more in the future.

The formation of MARA saw another 2 meter repeater in the Charlottesville area. After a short period, the MARA repeater was sold to the AARC and the more modern solid state repeater put on Carter's Mountain on .16/.76. Just before this, the 450 repeater was completely rebuilt and the entire system arranged to operate from battery power. A packet repeater was installed and just recently a 220 MHz repeater has been added. The new controller on 2 meters has contributed to the ability to add an emergency phone patch which has been well received and has already proven quite useful. Thanks to the new equipment and lots of work by many people, the Charlottesville Emergency Amateur Repeater System can be proud of a well established and reliable communications network.

CALLING ALL HAMS!!

You may have missed, as we did, the "Behind the Call" and "Key Down" articles this month. Unfortunately, no one sent anything in for these to columns and so we had nothing to print. Please contact Joe Fritz, KD4RWX, with your information for "Behind the Call" and Melissa, KD4GRM, or Ed Lang, KC4YLX, with your "Key Down" issues. Thanks for your support!!

PACKET PACKET



The WA4TFZ PBBS has recently changed its 145.01 port to 145.61. This change has been made to allow users in the valley to gain access to our bulletin board via WA4BLD-2. This change will not affect any users in the Charlottesville area since they usually connect on 145.03 directly or via MACHO. Since the last Bulletin, the callbook feature has been reinstalled on the board and can be accessed by either doing a "CB callsign" or going through the servers by using the "F" command. As always, if you have questions or comments, about the PBBS, please send a note to me.

Ed Lang - KC4YLX

February 12, 2013 minutes

by Teri Henderson, KT4UO Board meeting

Call to order @ 7:03pm Bob
K4DU

Treasurer's Report - Don n4uva
Beginning Balance 1/01/2013:
\$8,000

Checks: \$70

Credits: \$1,500

Ending Balance 1/31/2013:\$
9,430

VP report - Carter Elliott,
WD4AYS – We need a speaker
for next month

Public Service - Joe Flaminni,
W4BXG - Jefferson Cup is
coming up April 7. Would like
folks to start thinking about
participating in it now; will have
sign ups next month.

Estate Committee: Dayton
Haugh, AA4DH - nothing to
report

Tech committee - Bill Pond
N0WP - Everything is fine. We
plan to visit all sites to do
controller upgrades, inventory
equipment and make sure the
weather radios are working.
Also we will list what
maintenance needs to be done.
There is currently no real system
to track continuity of problems,
solutions, activities; planning to
change that.

Education Committee - Bill
Phillips, AD6JV - There is a
class at the Rivanna station
(NGIC) for their employees.
AD6JV is concerned at to how
many folks are available for a
club run class. Next VE Exam is
3/23, then June 22; a course
could be started near the end of
April. Discussion: 6/22 is Field
Day. It is suggested that we

move the VE Session to a
different date.

Once again the AARC will
sponsor awards at the Science
Fair on March 13 - Bill has a
couple folks interested in helping
out.

Fundraising, Michael Rein
KA4JJD - Has 3 items for
tonight and is anticipating others.
Public Relations – Stan, K2SSB
as a proxy for Jim Wilson
K4BAV said that there is
nothing new to report.

Old Business – Nothing brought
forth

New Business - A budget for
recurring expenses is to be
submitted for the club to vote on
at the March meeting so each
individual item does not have to
be presented to the membership
for approval.

Bob, K4DU suggest that the
technical committee conduct a
review and develop a master
plan for the repeater system.
Look at what we have, is it what
we need?

Ron Richey, K4RKA has a
friend with IRLP who wants to
link the 925 repeater
Bob, K4DU would like to
consolidate the meeting agenda
by possibly having each
committee head submit notes via
some electronic means like
Dropbox®, so the membership
could read it beforehand then ask
questions and discuss items of
interest at the meetings.

The board meeting adjourned at
7:23 PM.

February General Meeting

Called to order at 7:32 pm by
K4DU.

Raffle items were previewed by
Dr. Mike KA4JJD

- 3rd attempt for the “Elmer
Scott special”

- Mystery item from k1ee (power
supply)

- 2012 “Flying Horse” call book
CD

- “Fabulous” cord control kit
Each person in attendance
introduced himself.

KA4JJD moved, and K4RKA
seconded the motion to accept
the minutes as presented in the
Beacon. This was passed by the
membership.

Three candidates for
membership were presented and
approved:

Tom Loach, KK4NIJ

Mike McPherson (Call pending)

Steve Sellers, KD4ZPF

Treasurer's Report - Don n4uva
Beginning Balance 1/01/2013:
\$8,000

Checks: \$70

Credits: \$1,500

Ending Balance 1/31/2013:\$
9,430

Vice Presidents' report - We
need speakers / topics for future
meetings. If you know anyone or
have ideas contact Carter Elliott,
WD4AYS.

Public service report -Joe
Flaminni, W4BXG - Jefferson
Cup bike race April 7th starting
at daylight; sign up sheet will be
circulated next month.

Estate Committee - Dayton
Haugh AA4DH, nothing to
report.

Tech committee - Bill Pond,
N0WP - Sent email to club for
members to join committee and
will utilize email for
communication to the group. The
committee is still in the process
of learning how the controllers
work, etc.

Elected Leadership 2013

Bob Pattison – K4DU	President	rep4@aol.com
Carter Elliott – WD4AYS	Vice President	celliott14@aol.com
Teri Henderson – KT4UO	Secretary	kt4uo@earthlink.net
Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA	Treasurer	deason@comcast.net
Joe Flamini – W4BXG	2-year Director of Public Services	joeflamini@gmail.com
Dayton Haugh – AA4DH	2-year Director of Estate Services	dayton@compuserve.com
Bill Pond – N0WP	2-year Director – Technical	wdpond@mac.com
Bill Phillips – AD6JV	1-year Director – Education	billp1048@earthlink.net
Michael Rein – KA4JJD	1-year Director – Fundraising	mfr6t@virginia.edu
Jim Wilson – K4BAV	1-year Director – Public Relations	jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net

Appointed Leadership 2013

Mark Gorlinsky – WA1A	Volunteer Exam Liaison	mgch@mac.com
Don Bush – KE4DDR	Sergeant-at-Arms	ke4ddr@hotmail.com
Dave Damon – K4DND	ARES/RACES Liaison	dnd@virginia.edu
Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA	Finance Committee	deason@comcast.net
Kenneth Kang – KJ4KIH	Club Webmaster	ksykang@gmail.com
Jim Owen – K4CGY	Club Stations Trustee	k4cgy@yahoo.com
Ron Richey – K4RKA	Swap Fest Coordinator	k4rka@juno.com
Marty Wangberg – W4MBW	Photo Gallery Editor	marty_wangberg@yahoo.com
Jim Crosby – K4JEC	The Beacon Editor	jecrosby@comcast.net

Please Note

Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Please consider what you would like to share with your fellow club members. It could be unique knowledge or approach to solving an amateur radio problem. It could be a piece of history you discovered related to the club and/or its members. It could be a photograph of some club activity or individual member activity – all ideas are welcome. In all cases electronic submissions are appreciated because my keyboarding can introduce gross errors. Submit your input and/or ideas to:

jecrosby@comcast.net

434-823-2277

The End

That's all I have
for this month.