



The Beacon

A monthly newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club serving Central Virginia
Celebrating our 50th Anniversary
September _____ 2013

AARC 50th Anniversary Picnic and Silent Auction September 10 at 6 pm

In lieu of the normal monthly meeting in September, we will be having our annual picnic and silent auction. The location this year will be in the Elks Lodge Shelter. This will be the picnic shelter at the Elk's lodge on 389 Elk Drive where we have held our annual dinner banquet.

but most of what we have in our junk boxes will go out with the trash when we change from vertical to permanently horizontal.

Then I decided to take an inventory of the equipment that I own with notes about age, condition and replacement value. This was placed in a spreadsheet and also in a three ring binder labeled "K4DU Station"

Lastly I will take the time to write up instructions for my survivors. It will tell my wife and sons to contact the AARC and request assistance disposing of the equipment. I will also ask them to notify the ARRL, QCWA and the FCC and provide information about how to go about those tasks.

May you live long and prosper and may the bands be open and full of DX all the days of your lives!

73 de K4DU

President's Remarks

By Bob Pattison – K4DU

This month I will address a subject that most of you probably do not want to think about. I understand and if you do not wish to ponder your mortality I suggest you read some other column this month. However since none of us is getting any younger I humbly submit that what I am about to say is something you need to deal with.

When someone once asked Virginia what she would do with all of my ham equipment when I was gone, I recall her response had words like "open window" and "throw" in it. Oh my!

In the course of the past few months I have been involved with the dismantling and removal of ham radio stations for the widows and survivors of silent keys (SK). This task while not joyous is necessary and very helpful for those who are left to carry on.

We of the AARC are fortunate to have a Widows and Orphans (Survivors) program entitled Estate Committee headed up by Dayton Haugh AA4DH.

This recent experience with Bernard's station (K4PRT) has set me to thinking about what I might do to prepare for those who would have the unfortunate duty to clean up my mess. I immediately began rooting through my junk box (closet) throwing away things I really don't need anymore and organizing it in a fashion that would make it easier to find things and locate items of value. I hate to break it to you

Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.

By Stanley S. Hazen, K2SSB

The Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc., is a membership organization that was founded in 1947. It brings together licensed radio amateurs that were first licensed 25 or more years before the date of application for membership .

To learn of its founding, go to www.qcwa.org/founders.htm

QCWA is divided into local "Chapters" each of which serves members in a given geographical area. Chapter 155, the Virginia Chapter, is based in Charlottesville. (It is named the Virginia Chapter because it was the first one to be formed in Virginia.)

The following are the current officers of Chapter 155: Stan Hazen, K2SSB, president; Bill Phillips, AD6JV, vice-president; and Jim Owen, K4CGY, secretary and treasurer.

As no Chapter expenses are anticipated, there are no Chapter dues.

By vote of the members attending a Chapter meeting several years ago, meetings are held three times per year, generally in March, July and November. Recently they have been dinner meetings, at about 6:00 on a Sunday, at Ruby Tuesday in Barracks Road Shopping Center. Typical

attendance is about twenty.

In order to join, go to the QCWA home page, www.qcwa.org, and click on "Join/Renew". Alternatively, contact Stan, who has paper application forms.

Any questions may be directed to Stan at k2ssb@arrl.net

The HP 8935 Service Monitor is here - Agilent / HP 8935

E6380A Amtronix Instruments, Inc.



On Friday, August 30, 2013, William Pond wrote: "The club's new (to us) service monitor arrived yesterday! I'm a bit overwhelmed by all it's capabilities, but I'm getting a little start on understanding some basic capabilities. The HP 8935 family was originally intended to be used in the Cell Phone industry, so it has a ton of features that are specific to their needs. However, it also has everything we should need for our uses.

Here's a link to the configuration manual that I downloaded from the HP (Agilent) website. Please feel free to download it, or just review online at your leisure. If you have any further interest, there are more documents available at www.agilent.com."

<https://app.box.com/s/ge6z9n9xc32fjn5gcmtl>

73,

Bill NOWP

Early 2 meter FM activity in the Charlottesville area

By Ron Richey

Here are some memories from the past from Bob VanFossen, K4DJG, the first AARC President and one of the leaders in early 2 meter FM activity in the Charlottesville/Albemarle county area. He is helping me with recalling some old names and officers of the AARC and sent this brief story of the early days. For all you recent folks (younger than maybe 60!), the Link radios were tube type mobile rigs with one frequency transmit and one frequency receive, crystal control, no tone, loctal tubes (does anyone remember those), about 30 watts output from an 829 vacuum tube with vibrator (receiver) and dynamotor (transmitter) power supply in three separate boxes. Total weight was probably 50 pounds. Sensitivity was about 2 microvolts (compare to today more typical 0.2 microvolt sensitivity).

Carbon microphones were used which you had to bang on the dash or floor periodically to keep the carbon granules from sticking together. Frequency "netting" was a common problem in those days as components aged and people "diddled" with the crystal oscillator trimmers.

The frequency counters which were available were laboratory instruments and weighed more than the radio and cost more than an hf rig today. Anyhow, here is a brief memory from the past. Maybe it will entertain a few of you..

73, ron, k4rka

Road trip memories from the early 1960's

By Bob VanFossen, K4DJG

Frank, W4NUA and I took a trip to Lynchburg in his Rambler Station Wagon and brought back about 20 of those Link radios. We had a tune-up party at my house at Rio to get everyone on the correct Freq. It all started with Dick, W4OFR (now K4VY - rkr) and Carter, K4GPK (now W4FZV - rkr) having GE radios on 2 meters FM (146.94 - rkr).

They tuned to each other, and when we got the third and more radios on the air, we couldn't all talk to each other. They were just far enough off so we could hear one or the other but not both. After the netting party we were all good to go. A name that I remember, although not a member at the time I left, was Tom Kelsey, WA4UXD. He took a lot of pictures at our gatherings. I have one of me at the CW station on Field Day in an old house in Earlysville. I think that was our first. I remember two others. One is at someone's summer place, and the other at the old WINA Transmitter site. (courtesy of Gene Bossieux, W4IWW).

Get ready, JOTA is coming

Scouting's 56th Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) 2013 takes place the weekend of October 19-20 from 0000 local time Saturday to 2400 local time Sunday. Held each year on the third weekend of October, JOTA provides an opportunity for members of the Boy Scouts of America to experience Amateur Radio firsthand, perhaps planting the seed for a lifetime of hamming. Take a listen and offer a scout a contact.

JOTA is the largest Scouting event in the world, with nearly 750,000 Scouts participating from 6000 stations in 150 countries around the world. Not a contest, JOTA's goal is to foster Scout-to-Scout communication across borders. "The idea is to contact other Scout stations and allow as many Scouts as possible to talk to other Scouts and learn about who they are and what they are doing," the BSA says in its JOTA guidelines, which offer suggested frequencies. Licensed mentors often open their stations to Scouts on JOTA weekend, serving as control operators.

Radio operation will be on 80 through 6 meters and 2 meters and 70 centimeters FM simplex, all modes. Through its Radio Scouting sponsorship, Icom America is providing stations for JOTA and other Scouting events, including the loan of five stations that will be on the air for JOTA 2013. In 2012 more than 18,500 US Scouts took part in JOTA from more than 200 stations, up by nearly 500 percent from a year earlier.

(Courtesy of ARRL News)



This photo has been held over from the previous issue because of its sheer pictorial quality. This 370 foot GBT, the world's largest steerable radio telescope offers a landmark that can be seen for miles around. On a trip some years ago, Pat and I were returning from West Virginia and spotted this huge landmark from miles away, and it drew us to visit the Green Bank facility. This was a wonderful experience we will never forget. The museum has lots of interesting displays including a full length distortion mirror. I sneaked a picture of Pat standing in front of the fat mirror and she threatened to shorten my life span. (Photo by Jim 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 – Editor

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Minutes of the August Meetings

Board of Directors Meeting

Board Meeting 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order 700

Board Members Present:

Jim Crosby k4jec

Don Eason n4uva

Joe Flamini w4bxg

Teri Henderson kt4uo

Jim Owen k4cgy

Bob Pattison k4du

Bill Phillips ad6jv

William Pond n0wp

Don Eason moved and Joe Flamini seconded a motion to approve the board minutes as they appeared in the most recent issue of the Beacon. The motion passed unanimously.

The president asked if any committee chairs or board members had items to present at the board meeting.

a. Public Service - Joe Flamini, W4BXG will report at the general meeting.

b. Estate Committee - Dayton Haugh, AA4DH was not present.

- c. Technical Committee - Bill Pond, N0WP:
 1. Need to make significant changes to Marshall Manor
 - 2.895 issues – We have a replacement antenna but delayed by weather
 3. MJH issues - Kenwood has receive problems
 4. Spectrum Analyzer – We really need a portable service monitor. Will provide details in the general meeting
- d. Education Committee - Bill Phillips, AD6JV
- e. Fund-raising Committee - Michael Rein, KA4JJD was not present
- f. Public Relations - Jim Wilson, K4BAV
 3. Old Business -none
 4. New Business - VE Session date Sept 14 at NRAO Annual dinner – The president appointed a committee Don Eason, Carter Elliot and Joe Flamini to choose a place for the Annual dinner.
 5. Board Meeting Adjourns 7:23 pm

General Membership Meeting

General Meeting 7:30 PM

1. Call to Order 731 k4du
2. Introductions
3. Program – “My trip to Greenbank and what I learned about radio astronomy” by Jim Wilson K4BAV.

(10 minute break)

4. Secretary’s Report –
 - a. The secretary asked for a motion to approve of general meeting minutes for July as printed in the Beacon. Bill Pond moved, Jim Owen seconded and the motion carried.
 - b. Secretary presented the application of Mark Brownhill, KJ4MWV for membership. Joe Giovanelli moved, Harry Dannals seconded and the motion passed.
5. Treasurer’s Report - Don Eason N4uva

Beginning Bal.: 8,027.10
 Debits: 24.65
 Dep: 180.73
 Ending Bal: 8,183.18
6. Vice Presidents Report - We need one more presenter between now and end of year

7. Committee Reports

a. Public Service - Joe Flaminni, W4BXG
 I want to sincerely thank everyone who made the Miller School event a communications success. This includes Marty, W4MBW; Andrew, KK4SHO; Mike, KQ9P; Don, KE4DDR; and Mark, AK4OL. Greg, N4PGS was never far away. And David, KK4SHJ tried to be part of the action and got misdirected by the race folks--- but thanks anyway, I'll need you for the next one (info coming this week). Andrew, KK4SHO had his trial by fire and did a creditable job of coordinating the comms.

Boys and Girls Club on Sept 15 and will need bodies - 100 mile race

b. Estate Committee - Dayton Haugh, AA4DH
 not present

Harry and Bob and Michael picked up k4prt's equipment last week and are in the process of cataloging it.

c. Technical Committee - Bill Pond, N0WP
 146.760 repeater site: On July 24, N0WP, KF4AGT, KK4SHN, K4CGY, and AK4OL visited the Marshall Manor site. We made several improvements to include Real Time Clock installation and programming, New weather radio installation, 440 repeater hardware replacement, and most importantly, the identification of many grounding issues. Some of the grounding issues were corrected, but quite a bit more work remains. We were not able to completely resolve some issues with the new weather radio, squelch level of the new 440 hardware, and more work needs to be done on grounding. This is planned to be addressed during another visit in August. We made a significant improvement in the usability of the 146.760 during this visit, but more work remains, and I'm hopeful we can address many if not all of the remaining issues in August. 145.895 repeater site: On July 27, N0WP, K4DND, KQ9P, K4CGY, and AK4OL visited the Buck's Elbow site to address some long standing needs. We installed the new real Time Clock, upgraded firmware, installed the new link radio, and planned to replace the current antenna that is broken at its base in addition to a few other details. Unfortunately, we had some issues with the link radio that requires it to be reprogrammed for proper operation. Due to weather and manpower problems, we were not able to replace the antenna. We have put the antenna replacement part of the work on hold for the time being, and the link radio is being given to Elmer Scott for reprogramming. We don't have a date set aside yet for the next visit. 444.250 repeater site: On August 7, N0WP and K4RKA visited Martha Jefferson to address a few minor issues with the repeater there. A code upgrade was performed, and programming updated to eliminate extraneous ID'ing. We worked on remote base sensitivity issues, and have determined that the Kenwood TM-271a radio seems to transmit fine, but the receiver is not nearly as sensitive to practically all signals as a test receiver brought for comparison. Ron Richey took the Kenwood back home with him for investigation. Fortunately, the 444.250 does seem to work well as a repeater. 146.925 repeater site: We have on hand the repeater controller case that still needs to be installed at Heard Mountain, and the building still needs to be painted. The 2 meter repeater seems to be functioning well. After the 444.000 repeater audio is brought up to satisfactory performance, we will need to adjust the link radio audio levels to the proper levels at the Heard Mountain site for proper link operation. We also need to install the Real Time Clock and program for it's operation. No date is yet set aside for this work. Miscellaneous: I believe the club should consider the purchase of a good used service monitor. This would be in place of the spectrum analyzer that was previously approved, but not purchased. This would provide

us with the tools needed to adjust and verify repeater receivers, deviation levels, verify duplexer tuning, and help to identify and understand many interference issues.

Having issues with reptiles at the repeater site.

We would like to purchase a service monitor which would do more.

Can probably buy one for ~\$2,000, which is recommended
Jim Crosby moved to spend \$2,100, Harry Dannals seconded and the motion carried

d. Education Committee - Bill Phillips, AD6JV
Nothing to report VE Session Sat 14

e. Fund-raising Committee - Michael Rein, KA4JJD
Nothing to report, No raffle tonight as Michael is out of town

f. Public Relations - Jim Wilson, K4BAV

8. Old Business – Our annual picnic will be at the Elks lodge, on Route 20 North Sept 10 6pm. Participants are to let Don Eason know how many and what you are bringing. The club will provide burgers and drinks. You provide the desserts, side dishes, chips and pretzels. A silent auction will be a part of the fare.

9. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm

Classified Item Listing

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

NO NEW ITEMS this month.

For older listings, please go to albemarleradio.org/swapfest

Items from our friends over in the valley.

Help Needed for the Shenandoah 500

The Shenandoah 500 is again asking for communication assistance from hams.

This is a two day motorcycle ride that begins Saturday Oct 5th from 7:30 am until around 6:00PM. Then on Sunday Oct. 6th from around 8:00am until 5:00pm. We would need 7-8 folks each day unless someone is willing to do an early shift then relocate for a late shift. Most shifts last about 3-4 hours but some are shorter. However, the locations for placement are mostly in the GW National Forest and various access roads. A 4 wheel drive is not required except for Net Control, but would be helpful if the weather gets bad ;-). You will need a good mobile radio capable of 35-50 watts, an HT will not work in the mountains. If you are interested in helping out please email Bryan K4RMY (k4rmy at comcast.net)

Solar Panels Wanted

Anyone have unneeded, unwanted, used or unused 18v 40w to 120w solar panels for sale? Maybe a charge controller too. I'm looking to charge a few batteries for portable use and this would handle what I want to do. Me and my camper would be happy to hear from you. Let me know what you have and your asking price and see if we can come to terms. I've checked E-bay and even Craigslist and there are some good deals out there but a little leery about shipping and possible damage, so thought I'd just check locally first. Please reply to me individually,
Thanks, Tom, WA4ESI

Swap Meet listings are always available on the Club Website: www.albemarleradio.org

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	oeflamini@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

Submit your input and/or ideas for the newsletter to:

jecrosby@comcast.net

434-823-2277