



The Beacon

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

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

January _____ 2014

AARC 51st Annual Meeting set for January 14 at 7:30 pm
This is a very important meeting where we elect new leadership for 2014 – the 51st year of our club. The meeting will convene at the NRAO.

President's Remarks

By Bob Pattison – K4DU

The 50th Anniversary year has come and gone. It was quite a year all things considered. Thanks to the efforts of many, improvements were made in our repeater system and in our ability to diagnosis problems and make critical adjustments. New initiatives were started with the Saturday gatherings and a digital net to help us explore new modes. Ham radio was promoted at Field Day, on WINA radio, to the Boy Scouts at Apple Harvest and at the Maker Fair. New hams joined our ranks and we said good bye to some old friends. We even had some fireworks at a meeting or two.

Rather than looking backwards on this occasion I suggest that we look ahead. There is much work to be done. As you read this do not think that I in any way am positioning myself for yet another term. In the words of President Lyndon B. Johnson, "I will not seek, nor will I accept my parties' nomination for another term as your president". I do however believe that having occupied this post more than any other mortal living or dead I am in a unique position to see a future path.

We must make serious strides promoting ham radio. We should recognize that there are several audiences to address and our message must be tailored for each of these audiences.

There are hundreds of hams here in central Virginia and many do not know that we are here. We need to reach out to all of the licensed amateurs in Charlottesville, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Nelson, Louisa, Madison and Orange Counties. There are young people in each of these communities who have no idea of the fun they could have or

the doors to the future that could be opened through amateur radio.

There are also a large number of people who used to be members of the AARC but are not currently active. We ought to identify those folks and ask them what it will take to get them back.

School systems need to know about how amateur radio could be integrated into their math, science and social science curricula. They also should know about the support that is available for schools that want to start radio clubs. (My junior high school had a ham radio station) Did you know that Tandem School has a radio Club? We need to reach out to the UVA Amateur Radio Club.

We must start an enhanced program to promote amateur radio within the central Virginia community. The goals here are many. We need to make officials in the communities where we live aware of what we can and will do in the event of a disaster. Ground work must be done to loosen the grip that "boiler plate" documents used by developers in community planning which has inhibited our abilities to erect antennas. People who serve on planning commissions have to be sensitized to the impact these restrictions are having on the hobby. And we by all means should recruit new hams to the hobby.

I still believe that we need to reach out and develop a mechanism to share information, resources and programs with ham radio clubs in surrounding communities. This is an idea that I have had for sometime and one that I plan to work on in 2014. A *Central Virginia Council of Radio Clubs* could help increase VE opportunities, share programs and planning for public service events and perhaps form a springboard for a regional hamfest here in Central Virginia.

I realize that I have just described a large amount of work. It will take all of us years working together just to scratch the surface. I just have two questions: If not us then who will do this? If not now then when will this be done?

It has truly been an honor to serve as president of the AARC. There are many radio clubs, but not many that measure up to the AARC. I suggest that the key to the future is found in our past. We are a group of people who love this great hobby and hold each other in high esteem. We are a group who willingly shares what we know while eagerly seeking to add to our knowledge. I am honored to be among you.

73 de K4DU

Dinner pictures to share from Mike Whatley / wa4d

[CLICK HERE for LINK to PHOTO ALBUM.](#)

Through this link, you can view all 233 pictures from the 50th Annual Awards Dinner. Take a peek, it is almost like being there.

Dinner Awards

Bob K4DU presented his "Ham-of-the-Year" Award to Bill Pond citing his relentless efforts to organize a Technical Committee Team to completely revitalize our repeater system and link the 146.760 and 146.895 repeaters for and even more impressive coverage of our operating area.

President Bob also recognized two additional members for their outstanding efforts on behalf of the club during the past year. They were Mark Wittis AK4OL and Mike McPherson KV4MB.

Frostfest 2014 News

Frostfest 2014 is approaching! It will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at the Richmond Raceway Complex, from 8:30AM until 3:30PM.

We 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.

Our Grand Prize is \$1,000 in Frostfest Buck\$. Also, Early Bird ticket holders will be able to enter at 8AM, 30 minutes before General Admission starts!

All the details can be found at <http://www.frostfest.com>. Tickets and tables can be purchased online at <http://www.frostfest.com>.

Be sure to check out our 'Recommended Accommodations' at http://frostfest.com/wp/?page_id=154

Frostfest is sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society

Programs for Future AARC Meetings

By Bob Pattison, K4DU

At the October meeting of the AARC those in attendance were asked what they would like to see as programs at our monthly meetings. You will find the list we collected below (along with some of my comments in parentheses). If there are other items that you would like to see addressed please let your AARC Vice President know. More importantly if there is something on the list below that you believe you could speak on either individually or as part of a panel please step forward to make that known to the vice president.

1. A club "building" project. (**We cannot do this at NRAO!** A project could be planned there and

projects could be tested there, but soldering in the meeting rooms we have access to would jeopardize our relationship. A club build is a great idea. Plan to do the actual building elsewhere.)

2. A member "Show and tell" night.
3. IRLP or Echolink explained in plain English.
4. Emergency Communications
 - a. What the EOC expects
 - b. What a full blown drill looks like
5. Interacting with UVA. (I assume this would be a joint meeting with the UVA Amateur Radio Club)
6. How to work DX.
7. Using a computer in the shack.
8. EQSL and Logbook of the World set up and use explained in plain English.
9. Antennas for HF (We could spend a whole year on this and not scratch the surface).
10. The care and treatment of batteries and battery technology explained.
11. Setting up a station.
12. Propagation
13. The world's oldest novice (Seriously this is on the list).
14. Operating Courtesy and operating techniques (How they change by mode).
15. Repeater Linking, the basics explained
16. Strategic planning for the club. (Where do we want to be in 5-10-20 years)
17. Recruiting Young people to ham radio.
18. Recruiting and retaining folks to the hobby and members to the club.
19. Software Defined Radio Explained
20. Raspberry PI! What's it all about?
21. Develop a "Handbook for New Hams"
22. Introduction to the American Radio Relay League and its services

What an exciting list! I know that we have members within this club who are knowledgeable in almost all of these areas. I can't wait to see what you do with this.

The Afton Mountain Top Radio

The Waynesboro Repeater Association of Virginia, sponsors of the 147.075/147.675 repeater on Bead Den Mountain near Waynesboro had their annual business meeting on Thursday, December 5. The following items may be of interest to hams here in the local area.

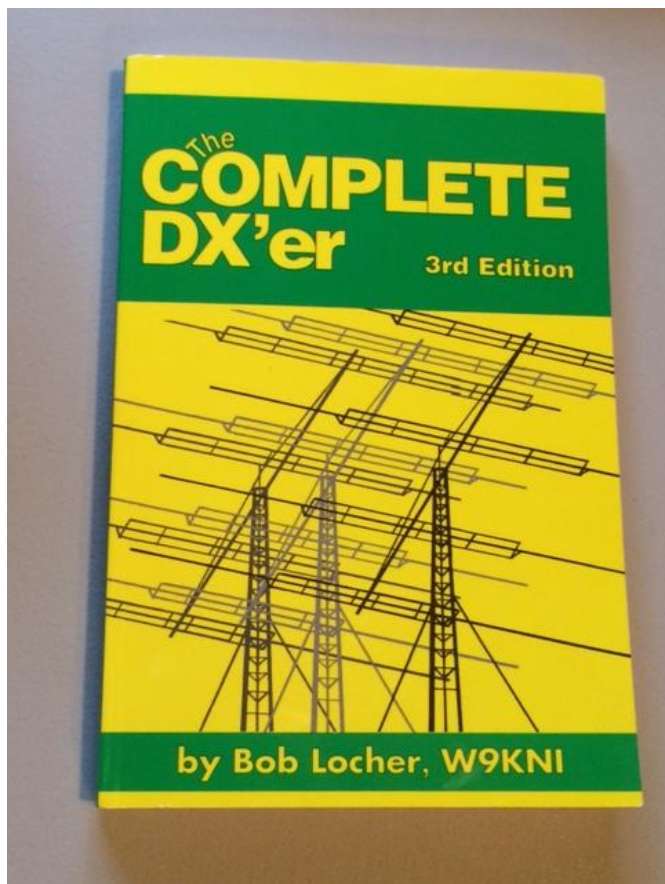
The back up battery system is now 8 years old and need to be replaced next spring. It consists of 8, 6 volt batteries in a series/parallel configuration. Each battery will cost about \$72. The WRA of VA is open to receiving donations for this replacement project. Several attendees at the business meeting have agreed to fund one or more batteries.

The membership voted to implement CTSS tone activation. We will use 131.8 Hz when it can be implemented.

Further information can be found on the WRA web site at www.qsl.net/wrav

73 Gordon Batey WA4FJC

Book Review –



“The Complete Dx’er”

by Bob Locher, W9KNI

3rd Edition published by Idiom Press

So you think you want to be a Dx'er. If so that must mean you need a super expensive transceiver, gigantic towers with the biggest possible beams for each of the bands and of course a linear amplifier running the full legal limit. That sounds nice but the answer is “NO”. Frankly that approach is akin to dragging a howitzer into the woods and waiting for an elephant to saunter by. A better approach would be to start with a copy of W9KNI's book and sit down for a careful read. You will want to take notes.

Being a Dx'er is like being a rare game hunter. You have to know your prey, study the conditions on the ground and then know how to increase your odds of snagging that rare one when and where he or she appears on the band. It involves getting up at odd hours in the night or taking time off from work in the middle of the week or the middle of the day because that is when the propagation will be best to Scarborough Reef or some other isolated rock with a radio operator.

W9KNI will give you important tips on how to listen. He will tell you how to operate split in a way that you will more likely be the one who gets the call and how to make certain that you get confirmation of the QSO.

The original edition of this work was written before the **DX Cluster** and before **Log Book of the World**. Bob's advice has been updated to include these developments and more. You will get a glimpse into working long path and grey line propagation and advice on tuning and calling techniques that will improve your odds. W9KNI will tell you how to stay on top of the rare ones that are about to come on the air and he will tell you how to be the one who posts rare DX on the cluster after you have worked them rather than standing in line on the edge of a pileup competing with everyone else who saw the post on the cluster and is now trying to make the contact. (He has tips for that too.)

W9KNI also has some solid suggestions on assembling a station, antenna and tower systems and special language techniques. Even if you are a casual DX'er or someone who is thinking about hunting countries I strongly recommend that you read this book.

And if after reading the book you have questions, you can travel to the Dayton Hamvention and ask the author directly to discuss your experience and ask for advice. You will most likely find him at a DX Forum, the Idiom Press booth or at the Bencher Products display.

73 and DX de K4DU



Alan Swinger, K9MBQ, joined his son, LCDR Mark Swinger on board the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) for a cruise.



Hey, spaceman what did you do with Alan? Opps, it is Alan. Who would have guessed?

Alan offered:

I have attached 2 pics from my K9MBQ/MM trip on 1-3 July aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) on the Tiger Cruise from Mayport, FL to Norfolk on their way home from a 10 month deployment to the Mid-East where they flew support missions over Afghanistan for the Army and Marines on the ground. My son, LCDR Mark Swinger, was the Operations Officer of Fighter Squadron 103 (VFA-103) - a Super Hornet squadron on the Ike. The attached photos show me with Mark in front of one of the Squadron Super Hornets (F/A-18F) in front of the "Island" on Ike, and the second is me suited up with Float Coat and Cranial with Ear protection so I can watch his launch for home from only 20 ft from the jet on the Catapult. I also arranged a tour of the Carrier's Radio Central while aboard . . . incredible changes since when I was an active duty Navy Captain on the Strike Group staff in the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) in 1983. The radio equipment is almost all satellite and tactical UHF/VHF. The transceivers are all Freq-capable and power share automatically. "Radiomen" that I knew in the '80s don't exist in the same form in that nobody tunes up a receiver and transmitter to bring up a voice or rtty circuit. This is all done via computer. That said, at my request the ship did bring up a SSB HF (around 2MHz) circuit and I made a Radio Check with the Cruiser that was escorting the Ike. However, even the old Chief Petty Officer running the comm center (someone with whom I had experiences in common re Radio) said that HF was rarely used in the Strike Group.

Unsubscribing from the AARC Email List

To unsubscribe from our email list, do as follows:

1. From the address with which you subscribed (your email address) to the list, send a message to sympa@virginia.edu.
2. In the subject line of your email, type in: unsubscribe aarc
3. Leave the message body blank.

To subscribe to the AARC Email List do as follows.

1. Go to the club website at: www.aarc.org
2. Go to the item Becoming A Member in the left-hand column of the front page
3. Scroll down to Item 3. And click on the link.
4. Follow the instructions appearing there.

<https://lists.virginia.edu/sympa/help/user>

Minutes of AARC Board of Directors Meeting – November 12, 2013

No meeting of the board was held due to the Annual Awards Dinner.

Minutes of the November AARC Meeting – November 12, 2013

There was no meeting held because all of the time was devoted to the Annual Dinner.

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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Classified Item Listing

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

NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of 11/27/2013 =====Held over in the absence of the guru!

FOR SALE - W4RAE estate sale items.
Contact Bob Pattison, K4DU at rep4@aol.com

Yaesu FRDX-400 Receiver (w/6m & 2m converters) works
noisy pots \$100.00

Bird 611 vhf/uhf dummy load & watt meter (60/15w scales)
works 15w scale reads high \$50.00

Conar model 211 VTVM works \$25.00

Heath Decade Resistor Box EUW30 ok \$5.00

Heath Decade Resistor Box EUW3 ok	\$5.00	FOR SALE: MA-40 US Tower 40 foot tower posted 11/30/2013 It includes: US Tower MA-40 mast...two section US Tower Rotor plate and 6' long pipe that its into the top of the MA-40 Mast Two coax rings to hold the coax to the mast when raising/lowering and when raised. Approximately 6 Ft. Base unit with 1/2" steel plate to mount to a concrete foundation - with template 12VDC winch and cables to raise and lower the entire mast which pivots down to the ground. Asking \$1000 on eBay or best offer....value to over \$3000 if purchased new. Will consider any reasonable offer from a local ham. Weighs about 250# for the mast and another 50# for the base unit. Will deliver for \$1.50 per loaded mile. Thanks, Marty Wangberg Please Note -- Go to: www.albemarleradio.org/swapfest for additional listings
Weller TC-202 Soldering Stationworks	\$20.00	
FOR SALE - W4RAE estate sale items contact Jim Owen, K4CGY at k4cgy@yahoo.com		
KLM 70CM SSB/CW Transceiver 432/435 only works 6w/3w on CW	\$20.00	
Syntest Freq. Synthesizer .1-16Mhz Si-102/015 works square wave output	\$20.00	
Eico 1100 Resistor Decade Box ok	\$5.00	
HP Oscillator Model 200CD works	\$25.00	
Heathkit AC Power Supply HWA-202-1 w/manual	\$10.00	
B&K Model 606 tube tester works w/chart	\$50.00	
Industrial Instruments Model 1A resistor decade box works accurate	\$7.00	
Heathkit Harmonic Distortion Analyzer works needs cleaning	\$20.00	

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FOR SALE - W4RAE estate sale items
contact Ron Richey, K4RKA at

wb4rbw@embarqmail.com

Clough-Brengle 282A sweep audio generator works
\$30.00

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	oefflamini@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

The End

That's all I have
for this month.