



The Beacon

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

Celebrating our 51st Year

March _____ 2014

Our next AARC meeting is set for March 11 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will convene at the NRAO. During the March meeting, Jim Wilson, K4BAV will talk about telegraphy.

President's Corner

By Jim Owen – K4CGY

February started out at a fast pace with the Frostfest in Richmond. The turnout from the club was in a word GREAT! I don't know how many attended but must have been at least 15-20 and most manned the tables to the point there wasn't room to move around. Many personal and Estate items were sold but we still have more from the estates so if you need anything look at the swap sheet first.

The February meeting went fine though I made many mistakes on my first try at running the meeting—I don't think it will happen again next month but keep my feet to the fire. There was a tabled amendment that was disposed of easier than I had expected. The presentation by Mike KQ9P on ARES and how it relates to us serving Albemarle County was informative and interesting and I hope most of us derived a little more understanding of the problems and solutions we face. At this time I will present a problem I see and hope all of you will think of how it might be solved. The latest snow fall and the interest in helping was great, thankfully we were not needed by the county to man any of the shelter sites or EOC. Here is the problem that most of us face with this type of call up. How do we get there if the roads have 6+ inches of snow? It appears that we can man these locations only if we can get there by walking. For me that would be a minimum of 10 miles or so, not likely. Think about it and let Mike know your thoughts.

The other need we have as a club is to pay our dues. Many have not paid this years dues and if not paid soon will not be in the directory. We also need to keep our ARRL special service club appointment in force and to do that we need 51% of our paid club members as ARRL members. Please pay both you dues to AARC and ARRL as soon as

possible. For the younger members you might consider becoming a life member of ARRL as it will pay off in the future. You will have no dues to pay, ever, after becoming a life member and though the break even time is considered 20 years it is actually less, usually 12-15 years due to rising dues.

The Education committee also needs you to be an Elmer as per K4JEC's email to the club. I think this is an excellent suggestion and encourage everyone to become an "Answer Man". Some of you might think you don't have enough knowledge of amateur radio and electronics but you at least have the essentials and many because of their occupation have knowledge of related items. Computer interfacing is but one example. I also encourage those that feel they know a subject to consider teaching in the upcoming license study sessions.

On the 30th of March is the Jefferson Cup bike race for which we need volunteers to man the corners, staff follow cars and other positions. Please get with Andrew KK4SOH to get your name on the list. If you need a parking spot or rest stop you can use my house since the race goes right by my driveway. I'm just about 800' west of the Blenheim corner.

Don't forget about the Virginia QSO party on all bands on March 15th and 16th. We need to make a good showing for Albemarle County and Charlottesville. Those of you in town need to give Stan K2SSB a little competition as he wins it every year by default as he is the only one on from Charlottesville. Since C'ville is a multiplier, others in the contest will thank you for more than one chance to get it. As far as contest software goes I recommend using the N3FJP suite. This is the software we use for Field Day and everyone needs to get more familiar with it. It's cheap \$49.99 for the whole package of contest software plus AC log and this is a lifetime cost, you never have to pay a cent later as all updates and additions are free.

And now to end this rant lets go back a little in time. I don't expect most of you to remember, only if you lived in VA and were licensed in the 50's or early 60's. How many remember the "Goody Pile" in Volens? This site was just south of Brookneal on Rt 501 in Halifax County. He bought Government surplus electronic equipment by the trailer load and then dumped the contents into several buildings and a large field. For the price of 20 cents/lb you would sit on a pile of 3-5 feet of parts in the paper wrappings, ripping them open and dropping the parts you wanted into the box you

brought. There was also test equipment usually decommissioned using a cutting torch on the case and it was reported that in a separate building he had Collins KWM2's and S-lines that he sold only to special people. I still have quite a few 6C4 tubes that I bought there. I have forgotten how many 807's were in a lb. Those were the days then! These are the days of 40 years in the future, make the most of them.

73 Jim K4CGY

VP REPORT

By Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY

Greetings,

It's been some time since my call has appeared on these pages. Why is it here now? Better still, why am I Vice President?

This last question is easy to answer: You, you, and certainly YOU, didn't step up when the Nominations Committee asked for your help. Because of this, you're stuck with me!

With that out of the way, here's the good news, hot off the press, or at least hot out of my PDA:

PRESENTATIONS Scheduled for the REMAINDER of the YEAR

March: Jim Wilson, K4BAV: about telegraphy.

April: Ed Berkowitz, N3US: about contesting.

May: Dave Damon, K4DND: about IRLP.

June: Field Day discussion.

July: Jim Crosby, K4JEC: about Echolink.

August or September (depending on picnic): Marty Wangberg, W4MBW: about magnetic loop antennnas.

November: ron Richey, K4RKA The history of the AARC.

I have thoughts about things to present next year. If future presentations are to reflect your interests, I need to hear from you. I prefer email because this gives me a written record of your thoughts, which I can then paste into my notes.

My email is: joegio1@earthlink.net

As I have confirmations from presenters, I'll publish them in the BEACON.

A GREAT WINTER READ

By John Green, KX4P

With the cold of winter firmly set in, it is a good time to get a cup of hot chocolate, settle into a quiet spot and read a good book. Here is one I just finished that I highly recommend: Keith Larson's Thunderstruck. This is a non-fiction adventure combining Scotland Yard's Chief Inspector Walter Dew with Guglielmo (*Goo-yee-ail-mo*) Marconi and his wireless telegraph. Reading this book describes a world famous murder (second only to Jack the Ripper), detailed account of 1910 style forensic science, two ocean liners racing across the Atlantic, and the whole world listening in to series of events through spark-gap wireless telegraphy communications. And all this just prior to "The World War."

Of special delight to anyone interested in early wireless operation, you will be captivated to the detail of trans-Atlantic cable telegraphy and, of course, Marconi and his

wireless apparatus. Read about the high-voltage keys, thunderous sounds and lightning sparks from the antennae (English spelling). And those antennas! Imagine the circular arrays of twenty two-hundred foot masts draped with "Umbrella" arrays consisting of miles of cable/wires! Wow - think of the sway in the wind storms and the ice buildup in winter! And 75,000 watts - really?

Physicists of the day ridiculed trans-Atlantic wireless because they theorized all electro-magnetic radiation traveled in straight lines like light. Once launched into the ether, radio transmissions would be limited in the distance it could be useful due to the curvature of the earth. Marconi said later that he never paid much attention to the claims of every theory of Physics. At best theories are incomplete and subject to change, at worst they are simply not true.

Upon receiving the Nobel Prize, December 10, 1909, Marconi delivered a banquet speech stating, "I might mention that I have never studied Physics or electrotechnics in the regular manner, although as a boy I was deeply interested in those subjects." Also, "Many facts connected with the transmission of electric waves over great distances still await a satisfactory explanation." The description of his funeral in 1937 reveals contrasting aspects of his personality, rather sad for such a famous person.

Later in life he understood that a single horizontal wire, properly tuned, could easily outperform any of the colossal antenna structures he had ever erected. I am glad for that. As I write this little review I can report that, with 100 watts and a simple inverted V wire antenna, I have communicated with an amateur radio DX operation, FT5ZM, on Amsterdam Island in the southern Indian Ocean, 12,000 miles away, yes, the opposite side of the earth. And I did it using a telegraph key, Morse code, 100 watts and a simple wire antenna hanging in the tree just outside my warm attic room!

Get this book - you will enjoy it!



Harry, W2HD, lectures the members on the advantages of ARRL membership. (Photo by Jim, K4BAV)



Albemarle had a very good representation at the Richmond Frostfest

Minutes not available at press time.



Mike, K4WDV; Bob, K4DU; and A.J., KE4AJM checking it out at Richmond Frostfest.



Mike, KV4MB, presented the program at our last meeting as the Albemarle ARES Coordinator. (Photo by Jim, K4BAV)



Skip, WD4LT and Mark, AK4OL confer at Richmond Frostfest.

Minutes of AARC Board of Directors Meeting of January 14, 2014 at 7 pm

Minutes not available at press time.

Minutes of the November AARC Meeting – November 12, 2013

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 1/25/2014

FOR SALE: MA-40 US Tower 40 foot tower posted 11/30/2013

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 <marty_wangberg@yahoo.com>

FOR SALE - W4RAE estate sale items
11/27/3013

posted

contact Bob Pattison, K4DU at rep4@aol.com

Bird 611 vhf/uhf dummy load & watt meter (60/15w scales) works
 5w scale reads high \$50.00
 Conar model 211 VTVM works \$25.00
 Weller TC-202 Soldering Station works \$20.00

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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
 B&K Model 606 tube tester works w/chart \$50.00
 Industrial Instruments Model 1A resistor decade box works accurate \$7.00
 Heathkt Harmonic Distortion Analyzer works needs cleaning \$20.00

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FOR SALE - W4RAE estate sale items
 contact Marty Wangberg at marty_wangberg@yahoo.com

Yaesu FT-901DM SSB HF Transceiver works 901 package \$350 tot W4MBW
 Yaesu FTV-901R VHF/UHF Transverter 901 package W4MBW
 Yaesu FV-901DM Scanning VFO 901 package W4MBW
 Yaesu Speaker w/901 package W4MBW
 Yaesu Mike (4 pin) w/901 package W4MBW

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FOR SALE - W4RAE estate sale items revised 1/25/2014
 contact Ron Richey, K4RKA at wb4rbw@embarqmail.com

Clough-Brengle 282A sweep audio generator works \$30.00 K4RKA
 Eico 324 RF signal generator w/400hz modulation works \$20.00 K4RKA
 GR Impedance Bridge type 1650-A w/manual, looks new. w/manual \$50
 HP 5226B counter, prob 50Mhz as a guess. seems to work ok. make offer.
 HP 5245L w/5253 50-500 MHz freq converter. needs a little mechanical work on prescaler knob & dial but basic counter seems to function. not sure about prescaler yet. make offer
 HP 1kHx - 150 MHz Amplifier model 461A. found on eBay from \$25-\$65. \$10
 Kepco ABC 30-0.3 variable voltage, variable current limit power supply. works. \$20

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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