



The Beacon

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

Celebrating our 51st Year

May 2014

Our next AARC meeting is set for May 13 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will convene at the NRAO and feature Dave Damon, K4DND, talking about IRLP and how it works.

President's Corner

By Jim Owen – K4CGY

Here we are almost ready to welcome May and the weather still seems to think its winter. This past month has been very eventful. We had a very successful Jefferson Cup Bike Race though it was icy cold. The riders were almost coming down with hypothermia and even your President had to abandon his station for a while and go home and get the car to keep warm. All in all it worked great and our team did a wonderful job. Thanks go out to all, especially KK4SHO Andrew, who organized the event and kept it going.

Your President operated as one station in the ARRL Centennial operating event. It is very insightful to be on the other side of the pile-ups. When the answering stations sounds like a swarm of angry bees you start to wonder "what did I get myself into"? All in all this was a great and fun experience and I had 1129 contacts in 16 hours of operation, a rate of 70.1 an hour.

Last month I asked what you wanted your club to be doing. I have received almost no response. Please think about it and let me or one of the Directors know what you think we should be doing. The Technician Class we planned had to be canceled due to NO INTEREST. Why, what did we not do? Somehow we need to connect with young people from 8-10 and up, how? Where? Ideas are welcomed and help would be appreciated to carry it out.

Some of us will be traveling to the Dayton Hamvention in about three weeks. Have you considered going at least once? If not, now's the time as many new pieces of equipment are likely to be unveiled. There's always the worlds largest flea market and as the saying goes if you can't find it at Dayton it likely doesn't exist.

Field Day is just around the corner. Have you thought about how you will help out the operation? Band captains are always needed to keep things going in proper order. Antenna's are needed as likely will be equipment and the set-up always requires quite a few strong arms. Get involved in some manor even if it's just operating as we need operators for 24 hours. Night time is always a time of need, in my case sleep.

After Field Day the next big event is the 100th Anniversary ARRL Convention in Hartford, CT. Have you thought about going? There will be a few from the club that I know will attend why not you. Need to get hotel reservations in ASAP unless you want to be a few miles away.

See you all at the next meeting.

73 Jim K4CGY

AARC Awards Committee

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club has established an Awards Committee to oversee the development and presentation of Club awards. The Committee is particularly interested in awards that recognize and thereby foster operating by new hams, encourage participation in Club activities, and increase the fun of amateur radio. The Board of Directors will approve all awardees proposed by the Committee.

The Awards Committee currently includes Michael KA4JJD, Dave K4DND, and Bob K4DU, but other interested club members are invited to join. Suggestions for additional awards would be much appreciated.

Opinion and correspondence regarding the Awards Committee should be sent to Michael KA4JJD: mfr6t@virginia.edu, 434-977-4281, 109 Sturbridge Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22901-2113

Operating Awards announced

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club Central Virginia Repeater Century Award

Purpose: To encourage use of repeaters in Central Virginia
Rules:

1. Only contacts made on repeaters in Central Virginia count for credit. Simplex contacts do not count for this award. Contacts may include those made through linked repeaters or through IRLP.
2. Each QSO counts as two points, but only one contact with each licensed amateur, even if on different repeaters, can be counted for credit.
3. 50 contacts provides the 100 points required for the award.
4. Documentation consists of the date, time, repeater used, and call sign of the station contacted. Logs may be submitted to the Awards Committee in any format, including .exc, .doc, .ppt, Cabrillo, legible handwriting, or other inventive formats. Logs are on the honor system.
5. Contacts made by a Net Control Operator (NCO) for the Monday Night Information Net, The Digital Net, or the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net maybe counted for award credit. An operator signing into a net may count the Net Control Operator once as a contact.
6. The award will be presented at or before the second regular club meeting following submission and approval.

Worked Lotsa States Awards

Purpose: To encourage new HF operators

Rules:

1. HF contacts made with 15 of the 50 United States made from one's home station or mobile.
2. Contacts may be made with any mode and on any band.
3. Contacts may be made during contests
4. Submitted documentation may consist of physical or email QSL cards or via Logbook of the World
5. The award will be presented at or before the second regular club meeting following submission and approval.

Big 10 Award

Purpose: To encourage new HF operators

Rules:

1. HF contacts with all 10 United States call areas made from one's home station or mobile.
2. Contacts may be made with any mode and on any band.
3. Contacts may be made during contests or with special event stations.
4. Submitted documentation may consist of physical or email QSL cards or via Logbook of the World.
5. The award will be presented at or before the second regular club meeting following submission and approval.

All American Award

Purpose: To encourage new HF operators and fellowship in the Americas

Rules:

1. HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with one station outside Virginia in the United States, one station in Canada, one station in Mexico, one station in Central America, and one station in South America.
2. Contacts may be made with any mode and on any band.
3. Contacts may be made during contests or with special event stations.
4. Submitted documentation may consist of physical or email QSL cards or via Logbook of the World.
5. The award will be presented at or before the second regular club meeting following submission and approval.

Worked All Border States Award

Purpose: To encourage new HF operators and knowledge of geography

Rules:

1. HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with operators in each of the states bordering Canada, Mexico, the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the Gulf of Mexico
2. Okay, that's: ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL MS, LA, TX, NM, AZ, CA, OR, WA, ID, MT, ND, MN
3. Contacts may be made with any mode and on any band.
4. Contacts may be made during contests or with special event stations.
5. Submitted documentation may consist of physical or email QSL cards or via Logbook of the World.
6. The award will be presented at or before the second regular club meeting following submission and approval.

Worked All Suffixes Award

Purpose: To encourage new HF operators and knowledge of the alphabet

Rules:

1. HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with operators with suffixes beginning with each letter of the alphabet
2. Okay, that's: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, V, W, X, Y, Z
3. Contacts may be made with any mode, on any band, and to any country.
4. Contacts may be made during contests.
5. Submitted documentation may consist of physical or email QSL cards or via Logbook of the World.
6. The award will be presented at or before the second regular club meeting following submission and approval.

Worked My Call Award

Purpose: To encourage new HF operators and knowledge of the alphabet

Rules:

1. HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with an operator with one's own suffix
2. Okay, so for KA4XYZ, that is working a ham with any prefix and from any zone or country, who has the suffix XYZ.
3. Contacts may be made with any mode, on any band, and to any country.
4. Contacts may be made during contests.
5. Submitted documentation may consist of physical or email QSL card or via Logbook of the World.
6. The award will be presented at or before the second regular club meeting following submission and approval.

Paper Chaser Award

Purpose: To introduce new and older hams to the process of working special event stations.

Rules:

1. HF contacts will be made from one's home station or mobile with operators of 20 special event stations.
2. Contacts may be made with any mode, on any band, and to any country.
3. Submitted documentation will consist of QSL cards or certificates from special event stations worked.
4. The award will be presented at or before the second regular club meeting following submission and approval.

Worked Nearby States Award

Purpose: To encourage new hams and hams with lower power stations and smaller antennas.

Rules:

1. HF contacts made from one's home station or mobile with operators in states bordering on Virginia
2. Okay, that's: MD, DE, NC, TN, KY, WV (special endorsement for DC)
3. Contacts may be made with any mode, on any band.
4. Contacts may be made during contests.
5. Submitted documentation may consist of physical or email QSL cards or via Logbook of the World.
6. The award will be presented at or before the second regular club meeting following submission and approval.

Service and Recognition Awards

AARC Public Service Participation Certificate

Purpose: To encourage and recognize participation in AARC public service events

Award: The award consists of a certificate presented at the Club's Annual Awards Banquet and recognizes the number of AARC public service activities in which the member has participated during the calendar year. Half-day events count as one, and full-day events count as two. Data are provided by the Director for Public Service (currently W4BXG) and the coordinators of the individual events (currently KK4SHO).

AARC Elmering Award

Purpose: To encourage new members of the AARC and to encourage elmering by more experienced (dare one say "more senior") members.

Award: The award consists of a certificate presented at the Club's Annual Awards Banquet and recognizes help and support provided to another member of the Club. Any member of the Club who has been elmered by another member may nominate potential awardees. The nomination consists of a one page letter or email describing the elmering that has taken place. Elmering may be strictly related to amateur radio, and new hams are particularly encouraged to recognize and provide thanks for such assistance. Elmering may also include assistance with computer-related activities.

AARC Ham of the Year Award

Purpose: To recognize a member of the AARC who, through dedication and hard work, exemplifies the best of what an amateur radio operator should be.

Award: any member of the AARC may nominate the recipient with a letter describing the accomplishments of the nominee. The winner will be selected by joint action of the Awards Committee and the Board of Directors. The award will be presented, to thunderous applause, at the Club's Annual Awards Banquet.

The President's Award

Purpose: To allow the President to provide special recognition to a member of the AARC.

Award: the President presents this award only when he or she feels that a member of the Club deserves such special recognition. The award will be presented, to thunderous applause, at the Club's Annual Awards Banquet.

Life Membership

Purpose: To recognize individuals who have, over time, demonstrated a continuing high level of dedication to the Club and to amateur radio.

Award: Life Membership can be conferred upon a Full Member who has rendered notable service to the Club or Amateur Radio and has been a continuous Full Member for a minimum of eight years or has a total of ten years as a Full or Associate Member. A Life Member shall be entitled to all of the privileges of a Full Member, and shall be exempt from paying dues. Any member proposing another Member for Life membership shall submit the name of the person and the justification for such membership in writing to a member of the Board. The Board shall review the application to assure that the person meets the qualifications for such membership, and, if determined to be appropriate, submit the application at the next regular Club meeting. An affirmative vote by a three-quarters majority of those present is required for acceptance.

VP REPORT

By Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY

Have you read the schedule of programs for the entire year of 2014? Did you like what you read? Did you like what's been presented thus far? Please let me know how I'm doing.

Those who know me best realize that I won't rest on what's been done and what has been planned. Here's where you can make 2015 presentations even better than those you saw or will see for the rest of the year.

Some time ago Bob Pattison, K4DU, took a survey about possible presentations and project which the AARC should bring about. Below is a partial list of possibilities:

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.) A member "Show and tell" night.

Interacting with UVA. (I assume this would be a joint meeting with the UVA Amateur Radio Club) Using a computer in the shack.

EQSL and Logbook of the World set up and use explained in plain English.

Antennas for HF (We could spend a whole year on this and not scratch the surface).

The care and treatment of batteries and battery technology explained. (I might have this one covered.) Setting up a station.

Propagation

The world's oldest novice (Seriously this is on the list).

Operating Courtesy and operating techniques (How they change by mode).

Repeater Linking, the basics explained

Strategic planning for the club. (Where do we want to be in

5-10-20 years) Recruiting Young people to ham radio.

Recruiting and retaining folks to the hobby and members to the club.

Software Defined Radio Explained

Raspberry PI! What's it all about?

Develop a "Handbook for New Hams"

Introduction to the American Radio Relay League and its services

Well, what do you think? Do you have thoughts as to people who can present any or all of these ideas?

Persons do not have to be AARC members in order to be presenters.

Wouldn't it be terrific if we had almost two years of excellent presentations ready to go? Wow! Does that mean I'm out of a job?

General Meeting - Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 7:30pm

LOCATION: Held at NRAO, Regular Room

1. Call to Order -- Jim Owen, K4CGY, called April 2014 Board Meeting to order at 7:41pm

2. Officers and Leadership Attendance:

* President - Jim Owen, K4CGY - Present

* Vice President - Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY - Present

* Secretary - Mike Elliott, K4WDV - Present

* Treasurer - Don Eason, N4UVA - Present

* Director, Technical - Bill Pond, N0WP - Present

* Director, Public Services - Joe Flamini, W4BXG -

ABSENT - left

* Director, Estate Services - Dayton Haugh, AA4DH -

ABSENT

* Director, Education - Jim Crosby, K4JEC - ABSENT

(at Police Academy again)

* Director, Fundraising - A.J. Miller, KE4AJM - Present

* Director, Public Relations - Jim Wilson, K4BAV -

Present

3. Introductions & Special Projects (30 seconds or less)

* Went around the room and everyone present

introduced themselves.

* Notables

* Jim, K4CGY will be operating tomorrow, April 9, as W1AW/4 -- check the bands.

* Mark, AK4OL - indicated Skyward class coming up -- see website.

* Bill, K4IB - Falcon 9 launch w/ KickSat program scheduled to launch April 14th -- see website.

4. Minutes from Last Meeting (March 2014)

Mike Elliott, K4WDV read a summary of the minutes from the March 2014 main meeting

Jim Owen, K4CGY requested a

> ****MEMBER VOTE -- PASSED****

MOTION: Accept minutes for the March 2014 General Meeting, as read by Mike, K4WDV

MOVER: Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY

SECOND: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM
DISCUSSION: None.
RESULT: **PASS** (Yea: Majority; Nay: 0)

- * Pair of Epson PictureMate printers
- * Consolation – Old straight practice key

5. Misc. Reports

* Jim, K4CGY congratulates Andrew, KK4SHO for excellent operations at recent Bike race. Andrew added that we experience minor problems, but mostly went well. A follow-up "Post Incident Critique" is being scheduled w/ Ruth. Note that Ruth wants Amateur Radio volunteers to only report medical/emergency issues only -- no more need to report stragglers. Miller School Race is next.

* Jim, K4CGY indicated the Club Directory is being printed soon -- get in your dues if you haven't paid and nudge fellow members not present to do the same. We'll print 100 copies.

* Jim, K4CGY reports he received a W4DO QSL card from ONAKW in Belgium from a Dec. 10, 2013 contact. He believes it was simply an incorrect recording of the callsign -- nobody claimed operation. Jim noted that anyone who'd like to sue the W4DO callsign for contesting is welcome to do so -- they just need to check w/ Jim who will run it by the Board. Should be no problem.

* Joe, W2PVY announced that an article in the forthcoming Beacon will suggest future topics for presentations and urged members to consider any outside (non-club) folks who could come in and present.

6. Treasurers Report -- Don Eason, N4UVA says:

Amount	Description
\$5,648.25	BALANCE as of Mar. 1, 2014
- \$437.30	Debits - Repeater items and Science Fair award donations
+ \$173.86	Deposits - Member dues and repeater fund donations
\$5,384.81	BALANCE as of Mar. 31, 2014

- * In April, Don has paid \$200 to renew liability insurance and backup batteries for repeaters.
- * Currently have approximately \$4,900 in bank.

> **MEMBER VOTE -- PASSED**

MOTION: Accept Treasurers report
MOVER: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM
SECOND: Bob Pattison, K4DU
DISCUSSION: None.
RESULT: **PASS** (Yea: Majority; Nay: 0)

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Fund Raising Committee Report, A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

- * Club insignia coffee mugs are still available for \$3.00
- * Raffle Items include:
 - * Canon Flatbed Scanner
 - * Ham Radio Sensor Ham Keyer ??
 - * Pair of 8 Ohm Speakers
 - * Pair of Bendix Aviation Synchro motors

7.2 Education Committee Report, Jim Crosby, K4JEC

* Jim is not present - continuing Police Academy sessions

7.3 Estate Committee Report, Dayton Haugh, AA4DH

- * Dayton is not present
- * Ron Richey, K4RKA reports that the Estate Sale for Colin Rae, W4RAE (SK) has netted approximately \$2,500 for Colin's wife, and he and Jim Owen, K4CGY still have a few items to sell.

7.4 Public Relations, Jim Wilson, K4BAV

- * Field Day coming up: June 28-29
- * Need a Field Day committee
- * Directory is being finalized thanks to Jim Crosby, K4JEC

7.5 Public Services, Joe Flamini, W4BXG

* Joe is absent -- departed after the board meeting

7.6 Technical Committee, Bill Pond, N0WP

- * Everything budgeted has been purchased, installed, and is operational -- big month!
- * 220 Repeater has been refurbished.
- * He has the slightly used Alinco 235 mark 3 radio to sell -- should be worth \$200 -- he'd like a club member to buy it if possible. It will be available after he verifies transmitter operation.
- * 440 link is now on the new frequency - thanks to Elmer.
- * Backup batteries and charging apparatus is up and running at Marshall Manor repeater site.
- * Tweaks to various settings and audio levels to come, but for the most part, we're set.
- * Jim, K4CGY gave BIG THANKS to Bill, N0WP and Dave, K4DND

8. Old Business

8.1 Balloon Launch

* Mark, AK4OL - indicated a test launch may occur the weekend of April 11th. Also noted that 6 of the new licensees from the recent VE session were folks from the Balloon Launch group. He will keep us informed.

8.2 Radio Use Encouragement Ideas

* Mike, KA4JJD - not present - left some notes with Jim, K4CGY who read a few but noted the full set will be covered in a future meeting by Dr. Mike.

9. New Business

9.1 Non-Member Request for Assistance

* Jim, K4CGY indicated club members have received a Roanoke Hamfest - Fund raising opportunity

* Jim, K4CGY was contacted by the Chairman of Roanoke Hamfest

* He offered to us any number of tickets we can sell (\$6 each) where we can keep \$1 per ticket. So we make money and they get increased ticket exposure. We don't have to prepay...just send any proceeds along with any unsold tickets back.

* The Roanoke Hamfest is always scheduled the day before the Berryville Hamfest. Vendors come to Roanoke on Saturday and then head to Berryville for Sunday

* It will be held this year on Aug. 2nd, 8am to 1pm @William Byrd High School in Vinton off of 460 (this is on AARC Calendar).

* Don't have to be present to win door prizes.

* Don suggested we get 75 tickets.

9.3 Field Day Committee

* Field Day – Volunteers? 4th weekend in June – June 28 & 29

* No one stepped up for the Chairman position

* Committee volunteers:

* Mike Elliott, K4WDV

* A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

* Bob Pattison, K4DU

* Mark Whitis, AK4OL

* Larry Eicher, K4JZQ

* Jim thought that Last year – not enough focus on operating – maybe too much on food

* Jim made it clear that he and Bill, N0WP, would not be chairman.

* Jim is not bringing 20m beam nor tower

* Someone suggested we should support their BBQ, especially since they support us – Date will be posted on the Website.

10. Vote on New Member

* Visiting guest Anita Web has applied for membership

> **MEMBER VOTE -- PASSED**

MOTION: Accept Anita Web as new club member

MOVER: Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY

SECOND: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: **PASS** (Yea: Majority; Nay: 0)

11. Presentation - Contesting by Ed, N3US

* After a 5 minute break, Ed presented on Contesting

* Mark, AK4OL will post the slides to the website

12. Raffle Drawing

* \$69.00 was collected for tickets.

* Prizes were awarded...people were happy.

13. Meeting Adjourned at 8:50pm by Jim Owen, K4CGY

> **MEMBER VOTE -- PASSED**

MOTION: Adjourn Meeting

MOVER: Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY

SECOND: A.J. Miller, KE4AJM

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: **PASS** (Yea: Majority; Nay: 0)

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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The End