



The Beacon

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

Celebrating our 51st Year

April

2015

Our April meeting is set for April 14 at 7 p.m. at NRAO. For April Dennis Mennerich, K4THE, will speak to us on propagation, something that is important to all hams.

President's Corner

By Ed Berkowitz – N3US



At the March meeting, I tried a different format where we started the General Meeting at 7 PM. The meeting was kicked-off with an excellent presentation by Alan K9MBQ where we learned about the logistics and significant costs to organize and execute the recent Dxpedition to Navassa Island. After a short break, we conducted a brief General business meeting, and then broke-up into several informal “birds of a feather” discussion groups such as kit building, Dxing, repeaters, etc. A Board meeting was not conducted in March.

I would like to hear from each about the March meeting format. Please tell me whether you liked, disliked, your suggestions for further changes to the meeting format, etc.

Also, when I joined the club, I kept hearing about AARC being voted the “2011 National Club of the year, Charlottesville.” If we are to repeat this 2011 accomplishment, we need to do a better job marketing ourselves and we must adapt to 2015. In addition to our

webpage, we also have a Facebook page. Webpages do not have to be fancy but more importantly they must be current and accurate. Until recently, our AARC webpage had lots of obsolete and extraneous material. My philosophy is to keep things simple because we want to provide “Information” to perspective and current Hams rather than over saturate them with “tons of data” that only confuses the newcomer. Also, we may want to strictly use our Facebook page as a pointer to the AARC website. We simply do not have the “staffing” to properly maintain both the AARC and Facebook pages. My bottom line is that every AARC member, not just Committee Chairpersons is encouraged to contribute to our AARC website and to the monthly “Beacon” but please keep things to the point and short, if possible.

We also need to expand the role of the Director of Public Relations (PR) to strategically manage our overall marketing and communications strategy. This would include the traditional PR interaction with the print and broadcast media regarding Public Service Events and Field Day and also managing the overall structure and content of our website and Facebook page. Also, we should—revise the Beacon format and content where we could distribute it to Public Officials and community leaders outside of the club. Right now, I fear, few outside of the AARC community would find it relevant. So I am suggesting to the membership that the Director of PR take on the role of overall marketing and publicity strategy for AARC across all media. I want one belly button to push for the overall marketing and publicity strategy of AARC.

As the first step to improving the club image to outsiders, we need to re-design the Club Logo to make it more modern and more appealing to younger members of the community. I want this process to be as transparent as possible. I encourage all members to submit logo designs. If you intend to submit a design, please email your design concept to Bill Arnold at wpa@virginia.edu by May 8 and your final design by May 15. Also, if anyone would like to volunteer to serve on the Logo Committee, please email me. Selection of the final logo design will be by the General membership.

Lastly, I am looking for a volunteer to serve as our Photo Gallery Editor.

Our VP's Report

by Larry - K4JZQ

AARC Programs: At our last AARC meeting we were pleased to have Alan Swinger K9MBQ, Jim Owen K4CGY and Ed Berkowitz N3US discuss the recent DX'expedition to Navassa Island and the amount of planning and logistics that go into setting up any dx expedition. For our April 14 meeting Dennis Mennerich K4THE will speak to us on Propagation, something that is important to all hams; on May 12 we have Yoram Gottesman, 4Z1GY, Topic: Ham Radio in the Holy Land. On June 9 we will have Jim Crosby K4JEC, giving us a power point presentation on "Communications – The essence of human relationships" and on July 14 Bob Pattison K4DU will give us an ARRL DVD program of interest to all hams. Please put these dates on your calendar and be sure to attend.

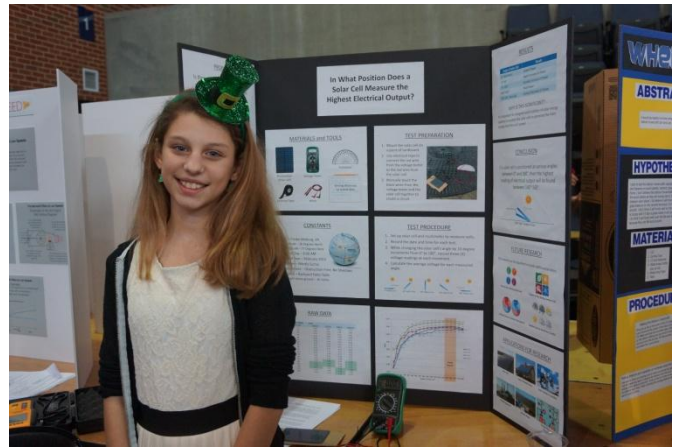
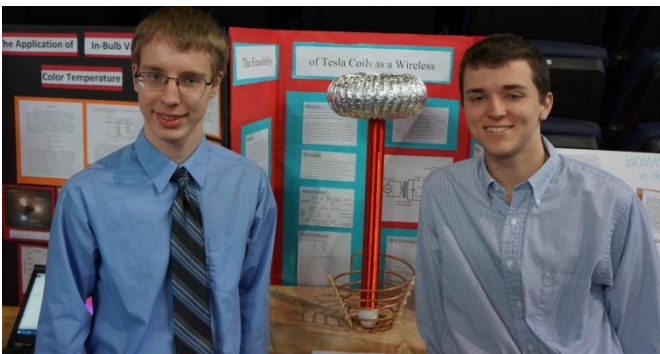
Important: We still have speaker openings for August through November. Let me hear from you if you have a topic you'd like to share with your fellow Hams. Check out the suggested list of possible topics on the AARC website, or add your own topic. Presentations generally run 30-45 minutes with 15 minutes or so for questions/answers.

We are a friendly club interested in all things ham radio. We don't throw tomatoes! That's a personal Promise.

Field Day Weekend is fast approaching end of June so remember that you can now sign up for various volunteer spots for this activity via the Volunteer Spot on our AARC website. We need everyone including members/spouses & other family members to assist us in this effort if we are to have a well-rounded program that demonstrates our ability to operate under emergency conditions. Most importantly we all still want to have fun doing this activity! Can you help in setting up/tearing down, loan of equipment, publicity, and/or provide logistics for supplies and food preparation? This is not just a weekend of on the air operational modes of Phone, Digital and CW. We hope to gain points by working a variety of activities new to ham radio. Sign up today. We expect to have an update on our Field Day location to announce shortly, either in the Beacon or via our general membership email list. Stay tuned!

The Science Fair, AARC, and Ham Radio

By Jim Wilson, K4BAV



After great consultation, members of the AARC judging team choose these winners. Our club judges said this was a hard job, deciding between so many qualified student exhibits.

Recall this was the 34th Virginia Regional Science Fair. In summary, 427 students from 39 schools prepared 368 project exhibits. The AARC judges were Bill Phillips, Bill Pond, Bill Arnold, Mike McPhearson, and Michael Rein!

The Fair was held at the JPJ arena on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17th.

Lauren Surette (wearing a cute green hat) won for her exhibit on solar cells.

Jacob Werner won for his exhibit "Bigger is not always better," which compared wire diameters to resulting magnetism.

And an exhibit with the Tesla coil was manned by two young men: Alexander Gardner (not wearing a tie) and Wesley Daugherty (yes, wearing a necktie)

Bill Phillips presented the three project awards and promoted amateur radio to the crowd in the JPJ bleachers.

Each winner received a certificate, a check, and a book "Riding the Waves." Of course, each winner was invited to attend any future meetings of the AARC.

AARC Minutes for the March 10, 2015 Meeting

Board Meeting -- No Board Meeting.

General Membership Meeting -- The meeting was called to order by President Ed Berkowitz at 7:01 p.m. with 27 members present. He called for introductions of members present.

The program was introduced: Alan Swinger presented a program on working DX and the rare station on Navassa Island report.

Secretary's report: Requested approval of the February minutes as published in the newsletter. Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: As of February 1, 2015: Beginning balance-\$5,289.43, debits-\$51.05, credits-\$259.82 with an Ending balance-\$5,498.20.

President stated the Member Directory will be posted on the website and printed on paper for now. He also reminded members that the kit building activity will be held on March 25th at the old reactor building on Observatory Hill.

Dave Damon reported the first public service event will be coming up at the end of March.

AJ announced the raffle produced \$68.

Larry Eicher reported that the Field Day Committee met at the Emergency Communications Center to look it over for a possible Field Day site for 2015. They are waiting permission from UVa to hold it there.

Bill Phillips reported that the Science Fair will be held on March 17 at JPJ. He said he has judges and that the event is open to the public in the afternoon and urged members to check it out.

No Old Business or New Business was presented.

The president urged members to take their old issues of QST to waiting rooms around the area and check the suggestions and guidelines posted on the website.

The club broke into small sessions of personal concern.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy S. Crosby, secretary

IARU Releases a New Emergency Telecommunications Guide

Courtesy of ARRL's ARES E-Letter

A new version (January, 2015) of the emergency telecommunications guide was developed by the IARU to provide ARES amateur's around the world with materials suitable for training their members to participate in emergency or disaster events. It is also designed to provide guidance to the individual Amateur Radio operator who has little or no experience in handling emergency communications but desires to enhance their ability to participate in such events or to simply have a better understanding of the process. IARU member-societies are encouraged to distribute this guide among their membership and, if necessary, to provide a translation into a language used within their own country. This guide can also be used in conjunction with other training materials by leaders within the emergency communication community to train radio operators in the basic theory and practice of handling emergency telecommunications traffic. For a download, go to:

<http://www.iaru.org/emergency-telecommunications-guide.html>.

Our Monthly Photo Album

By Jim Wilson, K4BAV



Bill Arnold, K4IB, and Al Bogden, KF4AGT confer.



Jim Owen, K4CGY, visits with Jim and Patsy Crosby, K4JEC and K4PMC.



Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY, checks out one of the raffle prizes.



Bill Phillips, AD6JV; Al Bogden, KF4AGT; Jeff Bogden, KK4SH; with Dr. Michael Rein, KA4JJD, in the background.



Stan Hazen, K2SSB; Don Eason, N4UVA and Jim Owen, K4CGY caught at the March meeting.



Dr. Michael Rein, KA4JJD; Bill Arnold, K4IB, and Bill Phillips, AD6JV visit.



Dave Damon, K4DND and Dr. Michael Rein, KA4JJD discuss things at the March meeting.



Dennis Mennerich, K4THE, examines one of the raffle prizes at the March meeting.



Alan Swinger presents his program at the March meeting.



George Grotz, AA4D, and Dave Damon, K4DND, sign-in at the March meeting.

Buy + Sale + Swap

For the latest list, be sure to check our listing on the club website:

www.albemarleradio.org

Please notify k4rka@juno.com when an item has been sold or pulled from availability and can be deleted.

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NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of
3/23/2015
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Wanted - HF Amplifier any brand or condition
posted 3/7/2015

Marty W4MBW 434-547-9642
W4MBW@ARRL.net
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FOR SALE posted 3/2/2015
Icom IC-V8000 transceiver. Less than 20hrs RX only
(never keyed up). Never installed in a vehicle.
Includes HM-133V mic, and original power cable.
Mobile mounting bracket has been lost. \$150
[thought I was going to get a license, never
happened]

Will Brown
wbrown9000@gmail.com
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FOR SALE posted 1/27/2015 updated 2/13/2015
Below you will find a list of equipment for sale that
belongs to Ernie, W2EIU.

- Contact Bob, K4DU, 434-960-3344, rep4@aol.com
- Manufacturer Model Type Est Value
- Alinco DJ-S11 144 Handheld \$30.00
- Alinco DJ-S41 440 Handheld \$40.00
- Ameritron RCS-8V Remote Switch Control \$75.00
- Autek WM-1 Computing Meter \$80.00
- Kenwood TH-315A 220 Handheld \$40.00
- Kenwood KSC-1Y Rapid Charger \$10.00
- Kenwood PC-1A Phone Patch Controller \$40.00
- Master Charger MC-1 Rapid Charger \$10.00
- MFJ MFJ-492 Memory Keyer \$40.00
- MFJ MFJ-916 144/440 Duplexer \$20.00
- Opek SWR-3P SWR/Watt Meter \$20.00

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Photo by Jim Wilson, K4BAV

Elected Leadership 2015

Ed Berkowitz – N3US	President	edberkowitz@sbcglobal.net
Larry Eicher – K4JZQ	Vice President	tuzlu@comcast.net
Patsy Crosby – K4PMC	Secretary	patsycrosby73@gmail.com
Don Eason, Jr. – N4UVA	Treasurer	deason@comcast.net
Dave Damon – K4DND	Director Public Services 2-YR	dnd@virginia.edu
Jim Owen – K4CGY	Dir Estate Services 2-YR	k4cgy@yahoo.com
Bill Pond – N0WP	Director Technical 2-YR	n0wp@arrl.net
Jim Crosby – K4JEC	Director Education 1-YR	k4jec@arrl.net
A.J. Miller– KE4AJM	Director Fundraising 1-YR	aj@ke4ajm.us
Jim Wilson – K4BAV Dir	Public Relations 1-YR	telegraphjim@gmail.com

Appointed Leadership 2015

Mark Gorlinsky – WA1A	Vol Exam Liaison	mgch@mac.com
Michael McPherson – KQ9P	ARES/RACES	mcpherson@acm.org
Jim Owen – K4CGY	Club Stations Trustee	k4cgy@yahoo.com
Ron Richey – K4RKA	Swap Fest Coordinator	k4rka@juno.com
Jim Crosby – K4JEC	Beacon Editor	jecrosby@comcast.net
Michael Rein – KA4JJD	Awards Committee	mfr6t@cms.mail.virginia.edu
Larry Eicher – K4JZQ	Field Day Chairman	tuzlu@comcast.net

-The End -