



The Beacon

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

Celebrating our 52nd Year

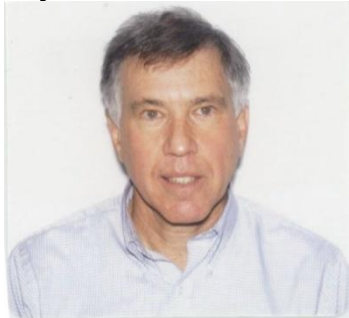
May

2015

Our May meeting is set for May 12 at 7 p.m. at NRAO. For May Ken Karr, NG2H will talk about his upcoming DX expedition to Heard Island.

President's Corner

By Ed Berkowitz – N3US



During the April meeting discussion about a new logo for our club, I mentioned that despite being a member of the ARRL since 1963, I was not familiar with the term “Special Service Club (SSC).” A few days after the meeting, Dave Damon, K4DND, provided me some background on the SSC Program and the club’s history as a SSC. I delved into the SSC program to ensure I now understood it and I submitted an online application to ensure we remain a SSC. I want to share what I learned with you.

The ARRL states on their website, “A club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio is what defines a Special Service Club (SSC). They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities.”

There is not a doubt in my mind that AARC truly is a Special Service Club because we excel in all the above requirements for a ARRL SSC. I have been an active ham since 1963 and a member of multiple ham clubs in six states

during my career. AARC is no doubt the best club I have ever been associated with for many reasons. I am amazed at the depth of our Public Service related activities, our strong Volunteer Examiner Program, the diverse technical interests of club members which are truly state of the art, the great social activities such as our Panera Bread gatherings and Wednesday lunch bunch, the willingness of members to help other members, etc. For example, I was just a member of the club a short while yet many members gave up a weekend to help me install my tower and yagi.

However, we do not want to rest on our laurels. We must continue to promote Amateur Radio by recruiting new hams and conducting additional license training classes. We must continue to support local Public Service Events. We must share our own individual talents by volunteering to provide presentations at our monthly meetings. We must sign-up and participate in our most important activity – Field Day.

Our VP's Report

by Larry - K4JZQ

Propagation was the topic of Dennis Mennerich’s K4THE talk at last month’s AARC meeting. I certainly got a lot of great websites out of the talk and have bookmarked many of them on my computer. We greatly appreciate the propagation information Dennis has collected over time on this important subject so now we can more easily reference it when needed. Thanks again Dennis.

For our May 12 meeting we had previously announced that we would have Yoram Gottesman, 4Z1GY talk to us on Ham Radio in the Holy Land. Unfortunately his travel schedule to the Dayton Hamvention causes logistical problems and he won’t be able to meet with us on that date. In the scramble to find another speaker, one of our own, Marty Wangberg, W4MBW, volunteered to give us a talk on Updating a Vintage Tube Amplifier”, specifically a Healthkit SB-200. Marty loves old tube amps and he probably has restored or built 20 or more high power tube amps in his 48 years as a Ham.

Then, all of a sudden, we had an embarrassment of riches when Ken Karr, NG2H in nearby Fluvanna County and

a member of the ARES Fluvanna Net advised me that he had recently been accepted as a member of the upcoming Heard Island DX expedition, starting November 10 from Perth/Fremantle, Australia and going to December, 2015. Ken is only available May 12 and has offered to speak to AARC on the DX expedition's plans and the challenges they will face. Hopefully we can get some tips from him on how to break through those pesky pileups. Marty, W4MBW, meanwhile has kindly agreed to postpone his talk and will speak to us later in the year. Our thanks go to Marty for being flexible.

Check out the following Heard Island website for this rare DX site at: www.heardisland.org for further information. The website gives one a good picture of the organization that has already gone into this DX expedition, both in the area of science as well as the communication/propagation studies. I'm certain many of our members will find this last minute addition to our program schedule to be timely and important to the hobby.

Remember, If you have a topic you would like to share with your fellow Hams, contact me and I'll be happy to schedule you at a mutually convenient date. All topics related to ham radio are welcome!

Field Day Weekend June 27-28

By Larry Eicher, K4JZQ,
VP and Chair, FD committee

The Field Day Committee continues to meet as time marches on towards June 27-28. I am grateful to those committee members and others who have already signed up to help us on Field Day via the Volunteer Spot on the AARC website. If you haven't done so already, please check it out and let us know what your preferences are so we can be sure to fit you in. There is more than enough work (and fun) to go around so don't be shy.

We especially need volunteers to set up our Field Day operations on Saturday morning, June 27. We have been approved to operate at the Emergency Communication Center this year, located at 2306 Ivy Road, Charlottesville.



Members of the Field Day Committee meet with Tom Hanson, director of the 911 Center. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)

Our thanks go to Tom Hanson for giving us permission to operate at that location. Normally we set up on Fridays, but this year, in order not to interfere with ECC weekday operations, we'll only have from 8AM to 2PM Saturday for setup before Field Day commences. Please sign up and put this date on your calendars. The more Hams we have helping to set up the less stress on everybody - including me.



On Tuesday, April 21st, 9 members of the Field Day committee met at the ECC to lay out site plans for antennas and tents as well as volunteering equipment needs to operate. As always, I will be announcing more updates on Field Day via our ham nets, the Beacon newsletter, or through our AARC general email list as events evolve. In the meantime, check out the Volunteer Spot on the AARC website to see where you can help AARC this coming Field Day weekend.

We will be having SSB, CW, and Digital operations, as well as inviting the public to utilize a Get on the Air (GOTA) station. If you're not up to operating on air, we still need folks to meet with the public, hand out ham literature and encourage visitors to join the ranks of ham radio. And remember, spouses are welcome too!

Item of Interest

By Michael Rein – KA4JJD

CAPE TOWN -- More than 500 research abstracts are being presented at the 19th World Conference on Disaster and Emergency Medicine this week, representing a range of topics from clinical care to training and education.

Here are three that caught my eye:

Ham Radio and Disaster Response

When all else fails, count on a worldwide system of amateur radio operators to get the message out.

Susan Speraw and colleagues from the University of Tennessee College of Nursing presented a qualitative survey of a small group of American amateur ("ham") radio operators -- an often overlooked and potentially critical asset in post-disaster communications.

Thousands of ham radio operators worldwide operate voluntarily, responding to disasters with communications capabilities that often remain robust after Internet connections, cell service, land lines, and satellite links have been disrupted. The researchers found that the ham radio operators are sometimes able to make lifesaving connections

simply because they have the ability to pass a message along.

All of the radio operators interviewed were part of a global network, and had the skills to connect with colleagues rapidly during disasters -- often working without external power supplies.

Bottom line: Ham radio operators worldwide are an underutilized and critical component of disaster response systems. Emergency managers should understand what they do and integrate them into disaster plans

AARC Minutes for the April 2015 Meeting

Board Meeting – The board meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by President Ed Berkowitz.

All board members were present.

Reports: There was a discussion of food for Field Day. The committee recommended the club offer chicken and drinks for the Saturday evening picnic with members asked to bring a side dish to share. K4DND, Dave, made a motion that \$275 be allotted for food for Field Day. Larry, K4JZQ made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

The board meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Dennis Mennerich, K4THE, presented a program on Propagation.

General Membership Meeting -- Following the program, the meeting was called to order by President Ed Berkowitz at 7:30 p.m. with 37 members present. He called for introductions of those present.

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

Larry gave the Treasurer's report for N4UVA as follows:

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance: \$5,498.20, debits-\$415.35, credits-\$218.19 with an ending balance-\$5,301.94.

Larry offered his Field Day report stating Field Day will be held at the 911 Center at 2306 Ivy Road on Route 250.

He asked members to check in on the sign-up sheet on the club's web site to help with all the field day activities. He announced that the club will have a pot luck supper Saturday at 6 p.m. with club providing chicken and drinks. He stated that the board had approved up to \$275 for food for field day. He asked that members attending bring a side dish to share.

Larry reported that members of his committee had recommended the club purchase a hex bean for use during field day with an approximate cost being \$600. The report was put on the floor as a motion. After some discussion of the pros and cons, the motion was approved to fund the bean up to \$600 by a majority vote.

Larry reported that he had obtained a commitment from a local company to provide two port-a-johns for field day. He also asked about power for the site and Dave Damon acknowledged he will provide his generator.

President Berkowitz announced the board had approved making Kenneth Kang an Honorary Member in recognition of his continued service to the club after having moved to California. The approval of the club was placed on the floor. The designation was approved unanimously.

A.J. Miller reported that the evening's raffle had produced \$54 for the club.

Bill Phillips reported the 2015 Science Fair was one of the best he had ever participated in. The club awarded four prizes of \$50 each and a copy of the book *Riding the Short Waves*. The seniors were also given a *License Manual*.

There was no old business to be brought up.

The club broke into small sessions of personal concern.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy S. Crosby, secretary

Our Monthly Photo Album

By Jim Wilson, K4BAV



A happy crew celebrating the dismantling of Harry's tower which Marty is going to become the new owner.



Marty is presented the bean controller as the final act of acquiring W2HD's tower and beam.



Jim Wilson, K4BAV says, "This 1991 photo had been forgotten until my cousin Debbie mailed it to me. Son Matt was only age 10 in this photo and he was enjoying his new ham call KD4COA. Ah, memories!"



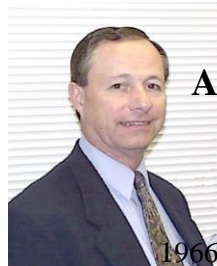
Alan Swinger presenting his program at the March meeting.

We Salute Alan Swinger, K9MBQ

Contact info:

awswinger@earthlink.net

Ph: 434-975-6237



Alan W. Swinger - K9MBQ

Blandemar Drive
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

1966-1988 Naval Officer:

1966 U.S. Naval Academy graduate and served 22 years as a Surface Warfare Officer. Alan Swinger's Navy career encompassed a wide range of operational, administrative, programmatic, and analytic activities including two tours of duty in Chief of Naval Operations' (CNO's) Program Resource Appraisal Division (N81) in the Pentagon. His operational experience includes Carrier Battle Group Staff Operations Officer, Commanding Officer of an FFG-7 class guided missile frigate, and various operational sea tours in other warships. He also served an in-country tour of duty in Vietnam in the Naval Advisory Group. During his first tour of Duty aboard USS Ozbourn (DD-846), the ship was involved in numerous combat actions with North Vietnamese gun batteries off of North Vietnam. In one, the ship was hit several times. He was controlling ship movements at the time and successfully maneuvered it at Flank speed out of harm's way, thus avoiding further damage. Then Ensign Swinger as Damage Control officer led his fire-fighting teams to successfully douse the resulting fires, prevent secondary ordnance explosions, and prevent casualties to the crew. He retired from active service in 1988 with the rank of Captain.

1988 – 2007 Defense Consultant:

Captain Swinger then went on to a 20+ year career in the Defense Analysis business as part of the Navy and Defense Department team. One of his major achievements was to lead a team in performing the pioneering analysis on how the Navy could contribute and accomplish Ballistic Missile Defense of the Homeland. This effort subsequently led to the upgrade of most of the Aegis Cruisers and Destroyers in the Fleet today with this Strategic Defense capability. He left the Defense business as the Senior VP of a major Consulting and Analysis company after having built a \$25M business with an 85 member staff.

2007- Present - Shift Colors Associates: He continues to use his expertise today in analysis-based Decision Support and Resource Allocation, with emphasis on Naval policy, issues, and systems.

Education:

Mr. Swinger holds a Master Degree in Operations Research from the Naval Post Graduate School and a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy. He was a Federal Executive Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and he is a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Naval War College.

Family: Sandra, his wife of 45 years, is an Antique dealer in the Charlottesville area; his daughter Pamela Knight is a professional horse trainer in Boyce, Va; and his son Commander (select) Mark Swinger, USN is a Navy Fighter pilot. They have two granddaughters, Olivia and Madelyn.

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.

==== NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of 4/25/2015 =====

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FOR LOAN posted 4/8/2015
ICOM IC-730 FOR A LOANER

Ms. Alice Bond, XYL of SK Socky Bond (K4GWL) has asked me (through Denny Avers W3DRY) to offer a nice Icom IC-730 as a "loaner" to a local Ham who wishes to try HF and perhaps doesn't wish, or is unable, to make an investment in a HF rig at this time.

It is Socky's wish that the radio be used to benefit ham radio and is not to be sold or modified but kept under my control (W4MBW) so that it doesn't get lost or end up on a basement shelf somewhere and not used. I've ordered a name tag with Socky's call sign that will be affixed to the front of the radio so that his memory will be preserved.

If you wish to borrow this nice 80-10 transceiver (100W output on SSB & CW and lower output on AM) under the above understanding, please let me know.

73, de Marty W4MBW 434-547-9642

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FOR SALE posted 4/8/2015

I've got a radio that I'd like to post for sale in AARC's swapfest. Its a Hammarlund SP 600 Radio Receiver. Was asking \$700 but would take \$550 from an AARC member. Thanks so much, William Rousselet Canup University of Virginia School of Architecture Candidate, MA Architectural History 2015 LEED AP (804) 484-2027

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Wanted - HF Amplifier any brand or condition posted 3/7/2015

Marty W4MBW 434-547-9642

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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	eberkowitz@sbcglobal.net
Larry Eicher – K4JZQ	Vice President	tuzlu@comcast.net
Pat Crosby – K4PMC	Secretary	patcrosby73@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

Larry Eicher – K4JZQ	Field Day Chairman	tuzlu@comcast.net
Mark Gorlinsky – WA1A	Vol Exam Liaison	mgch@mac.com
Michael McPherson – KQ9P	ARES/RACES	mcperson@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	jamescrosby073@gmail.com
Michael Rein – KA4JJD	Awards Committee	mfr6t@cms.mail.virginia.edu
Dave Damon – K4DND	Public Service	dnd@virginia.edu
Mark Whitis– AK4OL	Webmaster	markwhitis@gmail.com
A.J. Miller– KE4AJ	Director Fundraising	aj@ke4ajm.us
Jim Wilson – K4BAV	Director Public Relations	telegraphjim@gmail.com

-The End -