



The Beacon

A monthly newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club serving Central Virginia
Celebrating our 52nd Year

June

2015

**Our June meeting is set for
June 12 at 7 p.m. at NRAO.**

President's Corner

By Ed Berkowitz – N3US



This year I attended the Dayton Hamvention for the first time in several years. Yes, it seems to always rain when I attend, but I still marvel at its organization and the professionalism of the volunteer staff of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). Hamvention was started in 1952 with a budget of \$100 and has grown to the world's largest amateur radio gathering, attracting about 30,000 hams from throughout the globe. Hamvention has evolved with the times, with its administration now highly computerized, provisions for those with disabilities, and great local and national press coverage. The first Dayton Hamvention had over 600 attendees, and there were only 7 commercial exhibitors and 6 forums. The Flea Market has grown from 200 to more than 2000 spaces.

What is the key to Hamvention's success? The growth and success of the Dayton Hamvention can be attributed to caring, energetic people who enjoy being on a winning team and volunteering during the planning, execution, and wrap-up phases of this world class hamfest.

So in a word, the success of the Dayton Hamvention is due to Volunteerism. If we want the AARC Field Day to be a success, to continue to grow, to facilitate growth of Amateur Radio in central Virginia, and to make the general public and local governments more familiar with our hobby, then we

must volunteer and participate in the AARC Field Day.

The Field Day Committee urges each of you to sign up now so we can have the best AARC Field Day to date.

In addition, volunteering for public service events as well – also fosters success of ham radio.

Our VP's Report

by Larry - K4JZQ

Greetings from France where my XYL Vicky and I are currently helping to liberate wine cellars in both the Champagne and Bordeaux districts of that great Country. We are really in France to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI and honor those souls who fought and died during that era. Of course the wine and good food helps too. I'll be back June 5 so in the meantime, if you have any questions on Field Day, check with Ed N3US for any clarification.

Our thanks to Kenneth Karr, NG2H for his most interesting presentation on the upcoming DX expedition to Heard Island during November/December 2015. Each one of us has probably fantasized about becoming a member of a DX expedition and here is one of our own, so to speak, actually doing it. I know I'm quite envious. We wish Ken and his colleague's good luck and all the best in propagation and number of successful QSOs 'down under'. Hopefully he will keep an ear out for some of the home town crew trying to break through the pileups. I know I'll be trying even with just my 100 watts and OC dipole.

For June's meeting we have an interesting duo presentation lined up. Mike McPherson KQ9P will give us a short 15 minute presentation on ham radio digital mode which will be a brief overview in advance of our Field Day activities. Mike is also preparing an educational seminar on the digital mode which will take place 'on site' at the Emergency Communication Center to further educate hams and the general public on what we can do with digital mode today. Following Mike we will have Bill Pond, NOWP, who will be happy to test your HTs with the club's new service monitor that the club now has available for just this purpose. This can be a brief presentation or it can take up the rest of the meeting time period depending on how many HTs are available for testing. Take advantage of this great

opportunity and bring your HTs to the meeting.

Finally, we welcome volunteers who want to give AARC members a talk on some aspect of ham radio. Send me an email at <tuzlu@comcast.net> and we'll fit you in.

Field Day is Coming!

By Larry Eicher, K4JZQ
Field Day Chair

As you read this your Field Day Committee is busily working on final details of our upcoming Field Day event at the 911 Emergency Communication Center, 2306 Ivy Road in Charlottesville June 27-28. We still need volunteers to sign up on the AARC website Volunteer Spot for various categories so please let us know the best times when we can expect you. Because we don't want to overload the ECC parking on a work day, the setup will only be Saturday morning June 27 from 7AM to 2PM and then the fun begins for 24 hours straight. We'll also need volunteers to tear down from 2PM to 5PM Sunday June 28 so please sign up and help AARC.

I have been pleased at the excitement and enthusiasm we have experienced from members as we try out this new site this year for Field Day. Also new this year: Because we will be working with the ECC location, our call sign will be a bit different this year. It will be: W4DO 3 Fotxtrot instead of 3 Alpha! This should put us in great contention for higher points but only if we get volunteers to man all 3 modes - CW, SSB and Digital for 24 hours. I'm also encouraged by the publicity effort being put on by Jim Wilson K4BAV and Jim Crosby K4JEC in getting VIPs to attend this event. If you know anyone in the public area who can help promote ham radio, encourage them to come to our Field Day exercise. Let Jim Wilson know their names so he can send them a personal invitation. Without a team effort here, we will certainly fail and no one likes that idea in ham radio.

Dr. Michael Rein is going to be our GOTA coach this year and he looks forward to having members of the Public joining us in talking to hams throughout the US and Canada. Tell your neighbors about this great opportunity, especially for the kids! Probably the best times for the GOTA station is 2-5PM Saturday June 27.

We are also looking forward to the pot luck supper again this year, to be held on the grounds on the ECC center at 6PM Saturday June 27. AARC is providing the baked and fried chicken from Wayside Chicken, just like last year, as well as the drinks and paper products for the dinner. For paid up AARC members, your ticket of admission to the supper is to bring a side dish of veggies, salads, and/or desserts suitable for about 6-8 people. No other cookouts are feasible at the ECC site however.

When you come to the ECC center on Saturday June 27 to help set up, the small parking lot directly in front of the building may be used to off load, but AARC members are then asked to park their vehicles in the larger parking lot off Reed Lane, adjacent to the ECC center. Do not use the parking lot in back of the ECC center as that will be reserved

for police and other emergency vehicles. All participants are asked to bring ice, coolers and any spare card tables and chairs just to be sure we can seat all the people we expect. As I said earlier, we look forward to an exciting Field Day this year!

Two Items of Interest

via ARRL Letter of May 28

Hurricane Watch Net Sets On-Air Anniversary Celebration: The Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) will hold a 2-day, on-air special event on June 13-14 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. HWN members will be using the call sign WX5HWN, operating on 14.325 MHz but with stations active on or near 7.268 MHz as well. "Our net control stations located around the continental US, eastern Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Honduras will all use WX5HWN as we pass the virtual baton from member to member," explained HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV. This will mark HWN's first on-air activity using WX5HWN. Electronic certificates are available by [request](#) (by June 30) for valid contacts. Visit the [HWN](#) website for more information. -- *Thanks to HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV*

Updated Amateur Radio Emergency Service Manual Now Online The [latest edition](#) (March 2015) of the *Amateur Radio Emergency Service*® ([ARES](#)) Manual now is online. This edition includes various Incident Command System (ICS) forms for ARES use, clarifies the role of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), contains an improved chapter on ARES training, and includes all current ARRL memoranda of understanding/agreement. ARES consists of Amateur Radio licensees who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communication duty in the public service, when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of ARRL membership, is eligible to apply for ARES membership.

Editor's Note: *The manual is downloadable as a pdf and can be saved to your computer.*

AARC Minutes for the May 2015 Meeting

Board Meeting – No board meeting called.

Ken Karr, NG2H presented his talk about his upcoming DX expedition to Heard Island.

General Membership Meeting -- Following the program, the meeting was called to order by President Ed Berkowitz at 7:01 p.m. with 29

members present. He called for introductions of those present.

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

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance: \$5,301.04, debits-\$292.53, credits-\$2,099.73 with an ending balance-\$7,108.24. Don explained the income came from Harry's tower of \$1,450 and \$325 from Ernie Sardie's account.

Bill Pond reported that the Heard Mountain repeater needs replacing. Buck's Elbow is in great shape. Yeasu is offering repeater clubs a new style repeater for \$500. After a discussion, N4UVA (Don) made a motion to authorize up to \$800 for the needed replacement equipment for our repeaters. W2PVY (Joe) seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Ed asked for any new ideas for a club logo to be submitted.

K4DND (Dave) asked for signups for the upcoming public service event on May 31.

KE4AJM (AJ) reported the raffle raised \$78 for the club.

K4JZQ (Larry) offered a lengthy report on Field Day activities (copy filed with minutes and posted on website) that has everything on target for arrangements with publicity reaching far out with 28 letters sent to invited guests with some acceptance already received. He asked if the club was interested in ordering Field Day hats, t-shirts, etc. No response indicated a lack of interest in a club order.

Old Business: None offered.

New Business: None offered.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. and the club broke into small sessions of personal concern.

Respectfully submitted,
Patsy S. Crosby, secretary

Our Monthly Photo Album

By Jim Wilson, K4BAV



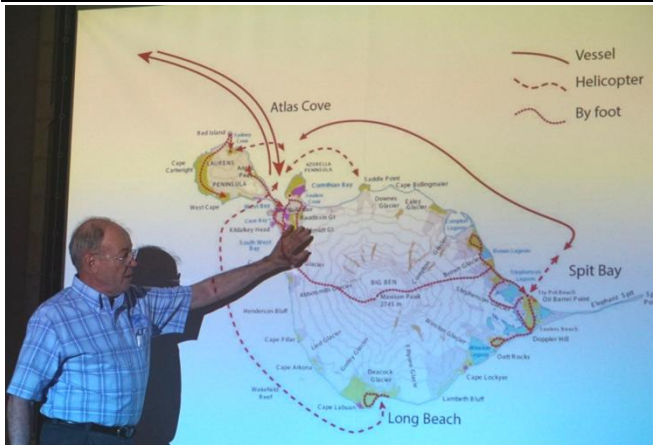
Member Jim Wilson, K4BAV, staffed the Emergency Management display along with Allison Farole at the GE Safety Day. Check the new and up dated ***Amateur Radio Emergency Service Manual*** referenced above for the current relationship between FCC Licensed Amateurs and CERTS.



Greg Faust, N4PGS, caught in camera at the GE Safety Day viewing the exhibits.



Harry Dannals, W2HD, and Jeffrey Seay, N4LFJ, chat about ham radio at the master studio for Spirit FM in Lynchburg. Fifteen subordinate stations will broadcast this interview in mid-June.



Ken Karr, NG2H, describes his upcoming dxpedition to Heard Island during our May meeting. Ken noted that he originally wanted to become a musician, but that he wound up as commander of a nuclear submarine! "All this was because of amateur radio," he stated.



Bill (K4IB) and Alan (K9MBQ) chat with Linda Uilein (KM4JIO) during the AARC May meeting.



Ed (N3US) and Larry (K4JZQ) get Ken Karr, NG2H, set up for his presentation.

Please Note

The question has been asked, "Why do we even have a newsletter? Does anyone read it?"

Only you can answer these questions. If you are reading this, you are obviously a newsletter reader. If you are a newsletter reader, please send an email to k4jec@arrl.net and advise that you do read the newsletter and wish to see it continued. It is a lot of work and if no one is reading it or feels it is not necessary; maybe we are expending a lot of wasted effort. Your email or lack thereof can go along ways toward making a decision as to whether or not it is worth continuing.

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 to add new items or when an item has been sold or pulled from availability and can be deleted.



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 -