



# The Beacon

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

**Celebrating our 52<sup>nd</sup> Year**

September

2015

**The September meeting will be our Annual Picnic/Silent Auction set for September 20 in the Pavilion at Darden Towe Park. The action will start at 5 p.m. with dinner being served at 6.**

At the August Board meeting, we discussed the possibility of the Club's sponsoring a Hamfest. We decided to start off small by inviting all hams in the Central Virginia area to attend our swap-fest and picnic. So please put out the word about this event to your fellow ham friends who are not members of AARC.

Speaking of the Club Website, the website has been re-hosted from Drupal to Word Press. This major upgrade was accomplished by our new webmaster, Mike McPherson, KQ9P. Word Press is more appropriate hosting software for our webpage, is much easier to edit, and has resulted in our website's being more robust and responsive, especially for those using a smart phone. Kudos to Mike McPherson, KQ9P for a job well done!

As we approach the fall, it is time to start planning our antenna projects. With declining sunspot activity, we can partially compensate for poor band conditions by enhancing our "antenna farms." As you plan your antenna projects, **THINK SAFETY**. Particular care must be taken if there are any power lines in the vicinity, even the relatively low voltage ones used for powering just one or two houses. The antenna should be sited so that even if the antenna were to fall, there would no possibility whatsoever of it's touching the line. Fairly recently, a well-known WV ham died from contacting a power line while installing an antenna.

When working on your antenna projects, use appropriate safety equipment, such as eye protection when using potato launchers or slingshots for your wire antennas, hard hats when serving as the ground crew on any tower projects, a full-body harness with proper lanyards when working on your tower, etc. Moreover, you should always have a buddy to assist you and also to serve as a safety observer.

Be cognizant of potential climbing hazards, overhead power lines, and damaged ladders. Your Club needs you all to remain in good health.

AARC will participate in this year's Boy Scout Apple Harvest event, sponsored by the Monticello District, Stonewall Jackson Area Council and held at Pleasant Grove House Museum and Welcome Center, Fluvanna County. On Saturday, October 31, we will set-up and operate a station to demonstrate ham radio to Cub and Boy Scouts. This will be a great recruiting opportunity. Dennis Terribile, WR4I, will serve as club chair for Apple Harvest.

## President's Corner

By Ed Berkowitz – N3US



The Board of Directors met on August 8, 2015 in a conference room at the new Northside Library. The conference room that we used at the library met our needs, there was no fee to use it, and it was reserved over the telephone. A summary of the discussions is included in this month's Beacon.

In lieu of a regular meeting, the September AARC meeting will be our Club's annual picnic.

Our annual picnic will be held at The Pavilion at Darden Towe Park, located at 1445 Darden Towe Park Road, Charlottesville, VA, on Sunday, September 20. Like last year, we will hold a swap-fest in the form of a silent auction. This would be a great opportunity to sell some of your "old toys" and buy some "new toys" related to Amateur Radio. We will start the festivities at 5 PM. Dinner will be served at 6 PM. Unless you sign up, we will not be able to purchase the correct quantity of food. Additional details including the sign-up sheet are at the top of the posts on the AARC website.

## Our VP's Report

by Larry - K4JZQ



Thanks to those 35 or so members who attended the AARC August monthly meeting and heard plans for the new MESH network advocated by Keith Elkin, KB3TCB of Frederick, Md. This certainly is something that could be helpful to our area during emergency incidents. It should give us all food for thought on how to go about it. We anticipate that further updates on this mode of communication will be provided to us by KQ9P, Mike McPherson, who was the inspiration for this particular presentation. Thanks Mike for all you do!

There will be no formal monthly meeting in September so no speaker is scheduled. However, for October and November please mark your calendars for the following speakers at AARC. On Tuesday, October 13 John Green, KX4P, will give a presentation including slides and video illustrating his work in restoring a Collins KWM-1 transceiver. He writes this about the rig:

"The KWM-1 was a historic milestone in HF radio communications ushering in the first commercially successful transceiver. Prior to its development, ham communications used separate receiver and transmitter equipment. By the mid 1950s, most stations were true "boat anchors" using 120 pound AM transmitters and 65 pound receivers, all connected together with relays, cables, wires, etc. The Collins "Gold Dust Twins" (KWS-1 and 75A4) were top of the line examples.

In 1956 Collins produced the KWM-1. It was the first commercially successful transceiver, replaced AM with SSB and offered a complete 100 watt mobile/desk-top station in a small 16 pound cabinet. Only a few were made because, being immediately popular, it was redesigned and produced for both the amateur and military market as the famous KWM-2 (1958-1978 ?). It was later redesigned as the all solid state KWM-380 (1979-1983). Collins then exited the ham radio market."

On Tuesday November 10 we will have Rob Capon, W3DX, give us a talk on Remote Ham Operations as well as

an overview of Summits on the Air radio communication. And then of course we have our Holiday Social on Tuesday, December 8 at the Elk's Club in Pantops and that will round out the year for programs and presentations.

Please remember however that speakers and topics are needed for the upcoming New Year of 2016 so if you have a topic you would like the club to present at one of its monthly meeting, please let us know. Also, if you would like to give a presentation on any topic related to ham radio, we are happy to give you that opportunity. We try to give a range of topics that will appeal to a wide range of interests but without your input, the choices become limited. **So please help us to help you stay interested.**

Larry K4JZQ  
VP



The antennas at the Trump (Marshall Manor) repeater site were replaced with new Hustler G6-2/70 units. So far, everything looks fine and I believe the 146.760 repeater is operating very well. In order to be very cautious, I'm not turning the outgoing tone back on for a week or more just to get a feel for how it sounds without it in different situations and times of the day. The new arrangement has both antennas in the same vertical



plane as the old 2 meter only unit, so coverage should be very similar to what we had before.

Having both antennas as dual band units gives us tons of options for duplexing, or splitting the receive and transmit functions. We'll probably be experimenting with those options a bit as time goes on, and as we learn how well they are working now. Many thanks to Benny Peterson of BP towers for a great job with the replacement project, and to Ed Berkowitz and Dave Damon for helping with the swap.



Our meeting was well attended with over 30 members and guest present. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)



B&O Railroad Museum Curator, Dave Shackelford, poses with their current exhibit on Morse code on August 4th. Both the American and International Morse are presented for viewers to study and to hear. This museum, located in Baltimore, is extensive in its exhibits. During mid-September, a film crew from the BBC's "Great Railroad Journeys of the World," will film a documentary on Samuel Morse and the American invention of the telegraph. British Broadcasting Producer, Laura Ellis, will direct production of this television series film. Our own Jim Wilson will serve as a consultant for Morse code on this documentary film.



Mike Richardson, KJ4MFN, has the whole world in his hands. Yes, Mike won this globe in the monthly club raffle at the August 11th meeting. (Photo by Jim K4BAV)



Alan Swinger said, "Since DX conditions are marginal now, I decided to get back to old style AM using vintage equipment. By the way, I was first licensed in 1957 and worked CW and AM then. Pictured is the new "Old" AM station at K9MBQ which includes (R to L) an Hallicrafters SX-101A Mk3 Receiver, Johnson Viking II 100W AM/CW Transmitter, and Viking MF-122 VFO - all vintage 1957. They are aptly named "Boat Anchors" since the 101 weighs ~ 70 lbs and the Viking ~ 85 lbs! They work great and enjoying working AM on 40 and 80M. So K9MBQ has three complete

stations: the 1957 vintage AM above, a vintage '70s position - TS-520 & VFO w/ Heath SB-200 amp, and the modern Elecraft K3 & P3 w/ ALPHA 8410 amp. All are operational and switchable to all antennas. (Photo by Alan K9MBQ)

## A Shared Visit

By Jim K4JEC

Brian Fox, W1FOX, visited the Amateur Radio Lunch Bunch at the Woodgrill Buffet a couple of weeks ago. He is a former member of the AARC and remembered by many. We worked together at The Miller School for several years. I asked him to send me a picture of him and his shack for the newsletter and this was his email response when he got back home:

“Hi Jim. I was very pleased that you came out to visit me when I came to Charlottesville. We have known each other for a long time. I'm very happy that you're still active in amateur radio. I am hesitant about sending a picture to you of my shack. We are in the process of moving and it is not very neat. . . When I get set up in Dallas a year from now I hope to send you a more pleasing picture of my shack. In the meantime please know that I'm very grateful for your friendship. What a wonderful camaraderie we have in amateur radio. I am currently using a Kenwood TS 850 for my HF work. I still love making contacts with CW although my skills have become rusty. Hopefully I can hone those skills as I move into retirement. Thank you again for going The extra mile to see me. It will not be forgotten.”

Yours,  
Brian W1FOX (Formerly KE4HIA)

## AARC Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2015

Our August meeting began at 7 PM on Tuesday, August 11 at NRAO on UVA grounds. We started off with our program followed by a General membership meeting, ending with our informal break-out and rag chew sessions.

**Board Meeting** – There was no board meeting.

**General Membership Meeting** -- The meeting was called to order by President Ed Berkowitz at 7:04 p.m. with 32 members present. He called for introductions of those present.

President Ed introduced the program with, “Broadband over radio wireless mesh networks and the future of Amateur Radio to be discussed by our speaker, Keith Elkin, KB3TCB. Keith lives in Frederick, MD, so he's making a big effort to join us here in Charlottesville.

**Business Meeting Called To Order** -- The business meeting was called to order at 8:25 p.m. following the program and a five-minute stretch break.

**Secretary's report:** Requested approval of the July minutes as published in the newsletter. Minutes were approved as printed by unanimous vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer filed the following report with the club.

Balance as of 6/31/2015:	\$6,850.49
Debits:	\$1,629.21
Credits:	\$ 417.83
Balance as of 7/31/2015:	\$5,640.11

### **Other Reports**

JJ reported the raffle for the evening earned \$58.

Larry Eicher reported that the EOC was very satisfied with our being there for Field Day. He said Teri Henderson had volunteered to do pulled pork barbecue next year and EOC said we could grill and cook in the area where the big truck got stuck.

President Ed said he had a suggestion that we look into having a ham fest in Charlottesville. It was pointed out that a ham fest was a lot of work and required a grand commitment from the membership to support and work for it. He said he felt like a study committee might be in order.

He said we could email announcements of our picnic/auction to the area clubs to advise them all amateurs are invited and that non-members would be expected to pay \$5 for a dinner ticket. The club's annual picnic/silent auction is scheduled for Sunday, September 20, in the pavilion at Darden Towe Park.

**New Business** -- Having a mini Field Day at the Boy Scouts Apple Harvest scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> has been recommended and Ed said he would follow up on that.

**Old Business** – None brought up.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Patsy Crosby  
Secretary

## A summary of our Board Retreat

By Ed Berkowitz N3US

On August 8, the Board of the AARC met to conduct a Board Retreat. The purpose of this off-site meeting was for the leadership team to brainstorm and discuss possible future activities for our Club.

The board met in the Northside Library, conference room 4, at 10 a.m. – noon

Attendees: Ed Berkowitz, N3US; Larry Eicher, K4JZQ; Jim Owen, K4CGY; AJ Miller, KE4AJM; Don Eason, N4UVA; JimWilson, K4BAV

### 1. **Wrap-up of Field Day 2015 and recommendations for next year's Field Day.**

Overall, the Board members were satisfied with this year's FD location at the Emergency Communications Center. Recommendations for next year include: better separation of

antennas; not using Icom rigs, due to their phase noise; having a barbeque with setting up our grills in the field where the large truck was parked this year; considering reimbursement of a club member to provide a slow cooked pork butt; and inviting some smaller, surrounding clubs, such as UVA, to join us for Field Day 2016.

## 2. Club Equipment Custodian.

Ed pitched the need for a Club Equipment Custodian to keep accurate records of the location of club-owned equipment. The Board members concurred but also requested that Ed convert the current Word listing of equipment to a spreadsheet. Also, the Board members requested that club documents, such as Proclamations, SSA certificates, etc be scanned and posted to the Club website.

## 3. Rehost Club Webpage from Drupal to Word Press.

Based upon discussions with Mike McPherson and Kenneth Kang, Ed would like to migrate our webpage from Drupal to Word Press as the underlying hosting language.

Word Press is more appropriate for our type of site and will make it easier to manage and modify our webpage content. The cost will be between zero and \$50. The group concurred.

## 4. Annual Holiday Party and Awards Banquet.

AJ has reserved the Elks Club for our Holiday Party on December 8 and anticipates keeping the cost per person at \$25. AJ, the chairperson for this event, will probably provide raffle prizes similar to last year's, which were Baofeng HTs purchased from Amazon and some of the better, small accessories in the Club's inventory of raffle items. Ed has scheduled this event on the Club Calendar.

## 5. Improving club member participation in Public Service Events.

Most likely, participation is dropping off due to the aging of the membership. Accordingly, all the Board officers must really "talk-up" the importance of members' participating in events. In addition, we must attract new, younger hams, as discussed below.

## 6. Marketing the Club to attract new members, including new and existing hams.

Jim Wilson stated that the local CERT organization typically markets itself at monthly health fairs, farmers markets, etc. Jim will research upcoming events for the Club to set up a booth. AJ will research compiling an email list of local hams, using the FCC database. This would be used for targeted recruiting emails that invite hams to join AARC and will include a link to the Beacon. Larry will pursue placing more announcements about the Club, including VE sessions, on various community online bulletin boards and also recruiting Boy Scouts to become hams. Don Eason proposed that we consider sponsoring a hamfest held indoors at the Earlysville Volunteer Fire Department, with the FD running the food concession. Don will explore a club sponsored hamfest and will ask K4DU to assist him.

# Buy + Sale + Swap

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

[www.albemarleadio.org](http://www.albemarleadio.org)

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NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of  
8/22/2015

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For Sale or Trade for ??? posted 8/22/2015

8 Element 2 Meter beam - Fair to Good condition - About 12 feet long Marty 434-547-9642

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The following Equipment is for sale by Carter WD4AYS:  
posted 8/18/2015

**Knight R-100A General Coverage Receiver & matching Speaker** €€ \$150

**Radio Shack 10 Meter Mobile Transceiver** €€ \$100

**National NC-109 receiver and matching speaker-**

**Sencore TR-139 Transistor Tester** €€ \$30

**Hickok tube tester (needs shorts switch)-** \$125

**1940â€™s 37-620 Console Radio** €€ \$30

Contact Carter at 434-979-7383 or by email at

[celliott14@aol.com](mailto:celliott14@aol.com)

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**FOR SALE from AG4N, contact person email listed below**

**100 MHz Frequency Counter \$25.00 K4DU With power cube and probe, powers up**

**VLF Converter \$30.00 K4DU**

**Model 444 Microphone \$30.00 K4DU Lacks Screen, 4 Pin female plug**

**Vibroplex Original Bug \$75.00 K4DU From New York era, chrome base**

**HD-1410 Heath Electronic Keyer \$45.00 N3US Works and in excellent condition**

**Magnifying work light-adjustable \$25.00 N3US clamps on worktable, very nice, heavy duty**

**Temp controlled soldering station \$20.00 N3US Excellent condxn; 48 watts, small tip**

**Versa Tuner II 941E 300 watt \$60.00 K4CGY Excellent condition**

**3020 Sweep & Function Generator \$85.00 K4CGY Excellent condition**

**IG-5282 AF Signal Generator \$35.00 K4CGY Excellent needs 2 9V batteries**

**Variac \$20.00 K4CGY Excellent**

**IO-4550 Oscilloscope \$75.00 K4CGY Works, Needs cleaning including pots, sweep intermittent, alignment**

**N/A VFO \$20.00 K4CGY Works, Cal right on, needs controls cleaned**

**k4du at [rep4@aol.com](mailto:rep4@aol.com), n3us at**

**[eberkowitz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eberkowitz@sbcglobal.net), k4cgy at [k4cgy@yahoo.com](mailto:k4cgy@yahoo.com)**

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**FOR SALE posted 8/5/2015**

**MFJ Versa Tuner II 941E in like new condition \$55.00 contact K4CGY@ Yahoo.com**



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The following SWR/Power Watt meters are for sale from the W2HD Collection:

posted 7/9/2015 revised 7/31/2015

Swan SWR-3 Meter \$20.00

Diawa CN-801 Meter Cross Needle SWR/Watt \$75.00

Lacks Face plate

Heathkit HM-2140A Meter Dual HF Wattmeter \$65.00

AMD 76860 Meter Field Strength \$25.00

M.C. Jones Micro-Match Meter Power Meter \$40.00

Heathkit HM-15 Meter Reflective Power Meter \$20.00

Tucker TM-3000 UV Meter SWR & Watt Meter \$200.00

Heathkit AM-2 Meter SWR Meter \$8.00

Tec Tec AC-4 Meter SWR Meter \$45.00

Kenwood SW-100 Meter SWR Power \$65.00

Micronta 19-320 Meter SWR Power \$20.00

Pace P5453 Meter SWR Power \$8.00

Palomar M835 Meter SWR Power \$75.00

Hy-Gain 421 Meter SWR Power Meter \$10.00

Vanco SWR-2 Meter SWR Power Meter \$15.00

Pyramid Phase III Meter SWR Wattmeter \$5.00

Swan SWR-1 Meter SWR-Power Watt \$10.00 In Box

Bird ThruLine Model 1000a Meter Wattmeter \$125.00

Palstar W150M Meter Wattmeter \$60.00

If you wish to purchase one of these contact Bob Pattison, K4DU at [rep4@aol.com](mailto:rep4@aol.com) or 434-960-3344. Please no calls after 9 pm. This is first come first served.

73 de K4DU

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FOR SALE posted 7/6/2015

I am going to sell my Yaesu FT-7800R dual band 70cm/2m mobile radio in like new condition.

Reason for selling is that I want to buy a second Kenwood dual bander so I don't have to deal with two sets of programming procedures, it's a pain. This way I will have the same radio in my truck as in the house.

The radio, mike, mounting bracket, original box, operator's manual and separation kit (never used & in the box) all for \$280. Email me if you are interested. Bill K4FZE William Steo <[redshift219@gmail.com](mailto:redshift219@gmail.com)>

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The following power supplies are FOR SALE from the collection of W2HD: posted 7/3/15

1 MFJ MFJ-1116 Power Strip \$35.00

2 Alinco DM-112MVT Power Supply \$100.00

3 Jetstream JTPS28M Power Supply \$55.00

4 Ten Tec Model 210 Power Supply \$20.00

5 Diawa PS50-TM Power Supply \$30.00

6 Astron RS-12A Power Supply \$38.00

7 Astron RS-7A Power Supply \$15.00

8 Astron RS-7a Power Supply – 7 amps \$15.00

9 Micronta Power Supply 12 Volts \$15.00

10 Radio Shack 22-508 Pwr Sup 13.8 Volts, 15 amps \$30.00

If you would like to purchase one of these please contact Bob Pattison, K4DU either

By email at [rep4@aol.com](mailto:rep4@aol.com) or call 434-960-3344, please no calls after 9 pm.

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Jim Wilson, K4BAV, reports: "Upon eating dinner at the Phillips Seafood Restaurant at the Baltimore Inner Harbor last week, I discovered that their restaurant lighting was created by the use of many former telegraph pole insulators. When I asked the waiter about the unique lighting, he commented that they finally figured out what to do with those old telegraph pole insulators. I thought this was ingenious.

*Editor's Comment: I started eating Phillips Steamed Crabs in Ocean City, Maryland in the early 60's when I was the city's PR Director. They threw a Crab Fest at the end of each season for the volunteer firemen as a thank you for their efforts to keep the city safe. Their famous crab cakes are now available in the frozen food sections of many local grocery stores.*



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@arll.net
Jim Crosby – K4JEC	Director Education	1-YR K4JEC@arll.net
A.J. Miller – KE4AJM	Director Fundraising	1-YR aj@ke4ajm.us
Jim Wilson – K4BAV	Dir Public Relations	1-YR elegraphjim@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
Michael McPherson – KQ9P	Webmaster	mcperson@acm.org

-The End -