



# The Beacon

A monthly newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club serving Central Virginia  
**Celebrating our 53<sup>rd</sup> Year**

January \_\_\_\_\_ 2016

**The AARC Annual Meeting will be held at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville, VA, at 7 p.m. on January 12.**

## President's Corner

By Ed Berkowitz – N3US



The Holiday Season is typically the time of year when many of us receive new ham radio toys as gifts. When I got started in amateur radio in 1963, equipment was very intuitive, and one could un-box a new transmitter or receiver and within minutes have it connected and up and running. Often this was accomplished without even opening the technical manual. Today, the average, modern HF or VHF/UHF transceiver is extremely sophisticated and is often really a computer with an RF section, encrusted with dozens of knobs on the front panel and many connectors of every type (RF, USB, phono-jack, etc) on the back apron. So before you start playing with your new “toy” you may want to study the owner’s manual. If I do not use either of my HF rigs for a few weeks, I have to conscientiously think about how to turn them on! Yes, today’s ham radio equipment can have a steep learning curve, but their performance is remarkable. Do take your time connecting your new rig to your computer, linear amplifier, antenna, ground, keyer, speaker, power supply, etc. Pay special attention to your power supply’s connections. I often find it very useful to

download a PDF version of the manual and search for particular features I want to study in depth.

Our January 12, 2016 meeting will be the most important of the year, during which we will vote to elect the club leadership for the coming year. Before we know it, it will be time to attend the Richmond Frostfest on February 6, 2016.

At our recent Awards Dinner, I reviewed some major AARC accomplishments of 2015. I will repeat them here for those unable to attend the dinner.

1. Club members participated in 8 public service events
2. Our VEs conducted four licensing and upgrade examination sessions
3. We held a very successful Field Day operation despite rainy weather and poor band conditions. We surpassed the scores of 82% of all other 3F entries. Page 51 of the December 2015 QST featured our eye-candy display, designed by KQ9P. This mapped our QSOs directly from the logging software, so visitors could watch our activity on a USA map in real time on a large monitor. Page 97 of the September 2015 QST included an article and picture of Harry W2HD spreading the word about our Field Day on Spirit FM radio
4. In order to recruit youth into the ranks of ham radio we: presented a session on many aspects of ham radio in the 2015 Tech Tour; demonstrated ham radio at the BSA Apple Harvest Camporee; and staffed a table on ham radio at the Barnes and Noble Mini Maker Faire
5. The Club engineered major upgrades to our repeater system, including a new Fusion 2-meter system for the Bucks Elbow site and new antennas at Marshall Manor site.
6. We implemented a complete makeover of our website, including migrating it to Word Press and automatically updating the online Club directory
7. Members of the AARC assisted multiple local hams and their families with disposal of equipment.
8. We established an Antenna Team to assist members.
9. The AARC retained its status as an ARRL Special Service Club
10. Our meetings featured some great, informative, fun lectures that appealed to all levels of operators. We conducted Board meetings only when necessary, shortened general business meetings, and added Birds of a Feather time

to encourage socialization among hams having similar interests.

Because of enthusiastic participation by many members of the Club, we can look back on 2015 as a great year. Let's continue this level of activity and innovation in 2016.

My best wishes for the coming year.

## Our VP's Report

by Larry - K4JZQ



We hope all AARC members and their families had a safe and joyous Christmas and/or Hannukuh season. Now is the time to look forward to our program activities in 2016 and as vice president I encourage all members (and even non-members) to think about what kind of topics you would like presented at our monthly meetings. Volunteer speakers are also welcome so if you have a hot topic that you'd like to talk about, related to ham radio, or simply want to demonstrate a new technique or show off your latest toy (?) that Santa brought you, let me know and I'll be happy to put you on the schedule. We also welcome speakers from other ham clubs so if you know of any friends in that category who have a hot topic to discuss, again let me know and I'll be happy to arrange to have them come to one of our monthly meetings.

One member recently told me that he had something to show to the membership but didn't think it would occupy the usual 30 minutes or so that we normally reserve for regular speakers, plus 15 minutes or so for questions/answers. Not to worry as Dr. Rein, KA4JJD would say! We can easily pair a couple of short term topics into one meeting. The point is to push the envelope and expand the knowledge and horizons of both our older and newer members. The more topics, the more we learn.

So far we have 3 excellent speakers scheduled for January, February, and March. On January 12 we will have Mike McPherson KQ9P who will further expand our horizons on the Mesh Network, something that was first introduced in 2015. February 9 Gordon Miller NQ4K of the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club will visit AARC to talk about the upcoming Virginia QSO Party. This event is scheduled for the third full weekend in March, 2016. The object is to further increase Virginia ham participation in this event. Then on March 8 our own Col. Steve Sellers, KD4ZPF,

retiring Albemarle County Police Chief, will give us a talk on emergency radio communication coverage in the County and how various agencies need to better coordinate emergency response.

One final item: Field Day June 2016 is just around the corner! Well, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration but a Field Day committee needs to be formed and planning needs to start as early as January/February if we are to build upon our success of last year's event, weather permitting of course! If no volunteers I'll come around and twist a few good members' arms. It's easier to volunteer folks. Let me know if you'd like to help.

Now, how about you stepping up to either give a presentation to your fellow Club members or volunteer to be on the Field Day Committee? You can contact me at <tuzlu@comcast.net> or at 434 975-4231. Thanks & 73. Larry, K4JZQ

## AARC Holds Volunteer Examiner Session

By Michael F. Rein KA4JJD

On December 12, the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club held a Volunteer Examiner session at the National Radio Observatory. Under the stewardship of **Mark WA1A**, ARRL VE Liaison, 14 examinations were administered to eight applicants. All eight received passing scores for five new Technicians, two upgrades to General Class, and one Amateur Extra Class license. The session was attended by Volunteer Examiners **Bob K4DU**, **Dave K4DND**, **Bill AD6JV**, **Michael KA4JJD**, **Jeff K4OLW**, **Teri KT4UO**, **Ed N3US**, and **Bill N4VUF**.

Outside the exam room, **KA4JJD** set up a display of HTs covering a range of prices and features. Several newly licensed Technicians stopped by to discuss UHF/VHF and repeater operation with **K4DND** and **KA4JJD**. This Elmering seemed to be much appreciated, and **K4DND** has suggested that we might expand future sessions to include mobile and HF rigs.



**Mike McPherson, WQ9P, was named “Ham of the Year” during our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Dinner for his dedicated work on behalf of the club and especially his work on our website. (Photo by Michael F. Rein KA4JJD)**

**Editor’s Note: There was no meeting in December.**

## AARC Meeting Minutes

### General AARC Meeting November 10, 2015

Board Meeting temporarily convened within

1. Call to Order at 7:03 p.m. with 34 members present with President Ed Berkowitz presiding.
2. The president asked members to rise and state their name and call to introduce themselves.

**Board Meeting called to order:** Following the introductions, the president called for the board to convene temporarily to approve the minutes of the October meeting. With all members present, the board approved the minutes unanimously. The Board Meeting was adjourned to move on with the General Meeting.

3. Secretary’s Report – Asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the General Meeting from October. She presented the application of Robert K Fung, KC2PRE, a transplant from New York who resides at 2065 Commonwealth Drive in Charlottesville and submitted his application online from our website. The membership was approved by a unanimous vote.

4. Treasurer’s Report – Don Eason

Opening Balance	\$6,199.37
Credits	\$0,199.98
Debits	\$0,392.76
Balance at end of October	\$6,392.15

5. Repeaters Report – Bill Pond reported that he wanted to swap frequencies between Marshall Manor site (146.760) and Herd Mountain site (146.925) as a way to reduce interference with the repeater in Williamsburg on the 146.760 frequency. He has cleared this with SARA, the repeater frequency coordinating association. He said that if this works it could become a permanent solution to that problem. He also explained that the receiver in the new Yaesu Fusion repeater at Bucks Elbow (146.895) is so sensitive that it has the squelch turned all the way down to overcome interference making the repeater almost useless. He is working on a solution that could preclude having to spend \$400 on a filter.

6. President Ed reminded everyone that the Annual Awards Dinner reservations are coming in but not as rapid as he would like. He stated, “We need more people to sign up.” The dinner will be at the Double Tree Hilton on Tuesday, December 8, to start at 6 p.m. This celebration will take the place of our December meeting.

7. Appointment of Nominating Committee: Ed announced that Dave Damon will chair the committee with Mike McPherson and Michael Rein serving on committee. He urged any member who is interested in serving in an elected office to contact: [dnd@virginia.edu](mailto:dnd@virginia.edu)

8. Antenna Committee – Ed stated that he has not had any volunteers for the antenna committee yet and is still looking for members who are willing to help other members with their antenna work.

9. The Awards Committee and Maker Faire Report – Michael Rein stated that the Maker Faire display at Barnes and Nobel was a great success and that we should do more of this type public activity. He reported on the Awards to be made at the Annual Awards Dinner and ask for nominations of Special Service Awards and submissions for Operating Awards to be made to him via email: [mfr61@cms.mail.virginia.edu](mailto:mfr61@cms.mail.virginia.edu)

10. Pre-Estate and Estate Sales: draft policies – Bob Pattison reported they are working on a policy concerning estate sales and will have a draft copy to present at the next meeting.

11. Future Programs: Larry Eicher reported Mike McPherson will have a program on Mesh Networks in February and Col. Steve Sellers, ACPD Chief of Police will present a report at the March meeting. He urged any member who is interested in making a presentation before the group to contact him: [tuzlu@comcast.net](mailto:tuzlu@comcast.net)

12. Door Prizes: AJ staged the drawing and reported tonight’s raffle earned \$60 for the club.

Following a call for any old or new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Patsy Crosby, Secretary

# Buy + Sale + Swap

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

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

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## ==== NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of 11/10/2015

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Posted 11/04/2015 For sale, gently used 1 Terabyte external hard drive, hard drive type with wall wart.. \$25 contact w2pvy Joe at 973-9502

posted 9/10/2015  
For Sale: Heath HW-101 transceiver with matching HP-23 Power Supply.  
Operational, cosmetically great, and includes original assembly/operations manual. \$200.

Cushcraft 148-20T 2M vertical/horizontal yagi beam; new in box. \$105

From the estate of John Gray, W6UZ and all proceeds go to the club.

Contact Ed Berkowitz, N3US: [eberkowitz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eberkowitz@sbcglobal.net)

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 â€“ \$150  
Radio Shack 10 Meter Mobile Transceiver â€“ \$100  
National NC-109 receiver and matching speaker-  
Sencore TR-139 Transistor Tester â€“ \$30  
Hickok tube tester (needs shorts switch)- \$125  
1940â€™s 37-620 Console Radio â€“ \$30  
Contact Carter at 434-979-7383 or by email at [elliott14@aol.com](mailto:elliott14@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  
3020 Sweep & Function Generator \$85.00 K4CGY Excellent condition  
Variac \$20.00 K4CGY Excellent  
IO-4550 Oscilloscope \$75.00 K4CGY Works, Needs cleaning including pots, sweep intermittent, alignment  
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) -- -revised list 9/21/2015- --

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

posted 7/9/2015 revised 11/10/2015  
Swan SWR-3 Meter \$20.00  
AMD 76860 Meter Field Strength \$25.00  
Heathkit HM-15 Meter Reflective Power Meter \$20.00  
Heathkit AM-2 Meter SWR Meter \$8.00  
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  
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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The following power supplies are FOR SALE from the collection of W2HD: posted 7/3/15 updated 11/10/2015  
MFJ MFJ-1116 Power Strip \$35.00  
Alinco DM-112MVT Power Supply \$100.00  
Ten Tec Model 210 Power Supply \$20.00  
Astron RS-12A Power Supply \$38.00  
Micronta Power Supply 12 Volts \$15.00  
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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HF RIG FOR LOAN posted 4/8/2015 revised 7/19/2015  
ICOM IC-730 FOR A LOANER  
Ms. Alice Bond, XYL of SK Socky Bond (K4GWL) has asked that a nice Icom IC-730 be used 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 control of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club so that it doesn't get lost or end up on a basement shelf somewhere and not used. A name tag with Socky's call sign will be put on the radio in his memory. If you wish to borrow this nice 80-10 transceiver (100W output on SSB & CW) for a 6 month period, please

contact Ed Berkowitz, N3US, by email with the application form found under the Club Documents section of this website.

*That's all for now!*

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 elegraphjim@gmail.com

## Appointed Leadership 2015

Larry Eicher – K4JZQ Field Day Chairman  
tuzlu@comcast.net

Mark Gorklinsky – 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