

AARC History

AARC History

The Anne Arundel Radio Club has been around since 1951. This is the official club history from that period to the present.

AARC History 1951-1960

The AARC Begins

The Anne Arundel Radio Club was founded in 1951 by Phil Nesbitt/W3CQ (formerly W3KCQ), Manager at WNAV. He served as the County Civil Defense Radio Officer. The first president was James (Jim) Mills, a supervisor for C&P. The remainder of the Charter Members were: Robert Bass/W3JSI, a math teacher at the Naval Academy; Joe Grissom, son of the Mayor of Annapolis; John Pancoast who ran a filling station in Eastport; George Schmitt/W3NAE, still a Club member, and Chuck Hite/W3SOG, a representative of Sherwin Williams. Mills, Bass and Grissom are deceased.

Early Meeting Places

For the first eight months the club met in Annapolis (on Jim Mills' front porch, at the Annapolis Police Station, in the C&P Building in Parole, in a WNAV storeroom and in George Schmitt's basement). The club was first known as the Annapolis Radio Club, then the Arundel Radio Club. Members were searching for a good place to meet. In late 1952, through the efforts of the School Board, we obtained from the County the use of a one-room schoolhouse in Arnold. After the room was cleaned, it was equipped with three large tables and a desk. A pot-bellied stove supplied the necessary heat in the winter. Club members supplied the wood and coal for the stove. A used refrigerator was obtained for refreshments. Shortly after moving into the clubhouse, the membership voted to change the name of the club to The Anne Arundel Radio Club, so as to be more representative of the whole county.

The AARC, W3VPR, and Field Day 1953

Once located in its new quarters, the club started to grow. In early 1953 the club obtained from the FCC the call "W3VPR" for use on Field Day. (That should make the first AARC Field Day June 27-28, 1953, and dates the W3VPR call sign to that event.) After that, Field Days were held yearly in late June on the club property. The telephone company, thanks to Jim Mills, put up a 60-foot pole for the antenna.

Civil Defense and the AARC

Chuck and Jim wrote the first Civil Defense Plan for Anne Arundel County. As a result, in 1954 AA County Civil Defense bought the Club eight 30-watt GE six-meter FM mobile radios, having a single 807 in final -- also, one 60-watt base station, two 6-meter portable radios, four 2-meter radios and two 50-watt base stations with an 829.B in final (all by GE). One 6-meter base and one 2-meter base were set up in the Arnold clubhouse. The other 2-meter bases were set up in the CD Office in the Annapolis Courthouse. Six mobiles were installed in private ham cars. The other two were mounted on wood bases so that they could be put wherever needed. By this time, we had 18-20 members and were holding Civil Defense drills. Members started buying used 6-meter FM mobile equipment, like Link, Motorola, GE ---whatever we could find. Some were made into base stations, and in a year or so we had a 6-meter network and were working closely with the police and fire departments.

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The Civil Defense Van

Tin 1958 Civil Defense bought us a 10-wheel Army van from Ft. Meade, with very little mileage but suffering from long storage. By 1959 we had it running well and had installed a 30-watt PA system, a RTTY machine, an HF rig and a six-meter rig. Even a first-aid kit was supplied. On the back of the truck was attached a 5.5 kw generator to power it all. Portable antennas were also carried. Just below the side windows of the truck were painted the words "EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS--W3VPR". Of our membership of about 35, only 8 or 9 were qualified to drive the truck. The Club got a lot of use from the 10-wheeler.

The AARC to the Rescue

As we became more and more involved with State and County police, we were soon invited to join the Maryland State Ambulance and Rescue Association. We helped with communications at forest fires, lost kids, downed aircraft, escaped prisoners, drownings, etc. Our greatest job was to set up and handle a radio network for the moving of Sinai Hospital in 1960. This request was made by Dr. Amberman of the Maryland State Police, who also attended some of our meetings.

AARC History 1961-1970

The GMC Step-van.

The big truck got too expensive to operate, so in late 1968 it was traded for a GMC Step-van which had the standard gear shift that anyone could operate. The AA Radio Club furnished communications for fire and police until the late '60s, when new police and fire radio networks took over. In 1970 a 2-meter rig was installed in the van. The Club used the simplex frequency of 146.430 MHz. The van served well at Fire Department parades, American Legion Post 40 parades in Glen Burnie and at the Chesapeake Appreciation Days at Sandy Point, where it was used as a control station. For a few years it was also used at the County Fair at Sandy Point. Having served its time, the van was disposed of in 1978.

Installation Dinners for New Officers

Several hamfests held by AARC proved to be unsuccessful. The club has nearly always had an installation dinner for its new officers. For years these were held at My Hideaway Restaurant on Ritchie Highway. Dinners and dances were held for a few years at the Archway Inn on Ft. Smallwood Rd. It's hard to believe now, but on several occasions the Club paid the entire expense for these dinners.

The School Clubhouse was Lost

Around 1970 the AARC received notice from the County that it had to vacate the clubhouse. They gave 90 days' notice. Since the County was not using the building for a school, as was required under its contract with the church which gave the property, it reverted back to the church. Walt Manby/W3VJX, Club president at the time, offered a meeting room at the American Legion Post 40 on 5th Ave. in Glen Burnie. Meetings were held there for a few years, during which time the membership fell to an all-time low. Activities also fell during this period.

The AARC Moves to Severn School in Severna Park

However, the Club struggled along until 1973 when Russ Burroughs/WA3VPL became a

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member. He obtained the use of a meeting room at the Severn School in Severna Park. In exchange for the use of the room, the Club was to conduct Novice Classes at the school. This the Club did, and the classes were very successful. Some of the graduates of these classes are now members of AARC. The Club held its meetings at the Severn School for over four years.

AARC History 1971-1977

AARC Moves to DFRC

In the Fall of 1976 Russ Lockett/WA3IBE advised the Club of the possibility of getting a clubhouse on the old NIKE site in Davidsonville. The DFRC (Davidsonville Family Recreation Center) had taken control of the property. A committee of Club members was immediately appointed to investigate this opportunity. They looked over the property and chose the present clubhouse building, requesting that the radar platform be left standing. A verbal agreement was made with the DFRC to occupy the premises pending a written agreement.

Fixing Up the Clubhouse

The building was in a sorry state. There was no heat, no water, no electricity. However, this did not deter the AARC. The members wanted more than anything to have their own clubhouse once again. When Bob Miller/W3AZV became president, he immediately moved the AARC meeting place to Davidsonville. Since the new clubhouse was not yet a fit place for habitation, the Club met temporarily in the Boy Scout's room down the hill. Club members rallied around the new President. Work parties were scheduled every Saturday, and sometimes on Sundays, to clean up the place and make it liveable.

Powering the Clubhouse

One of the first things was to get power. It was determined that power was available at the power transformers. A small room was constructed at the end of the storage building for the power panel, and 220 and 110 volts were supplied. Cables were obtained by salvaging the underground cable left by the government. A heavy-duty cable was run from the power panel to the circuit breaker box in the kitchen, and the lights were installed. The surplus cable was stored in the locked clubhouse, but someone broke into the place and stole it, apparently for the copper content.

The First Clubhouse Repeater

In December 1976 a quick trip was made to Lynchburg, VA to pick up a used repeater from WB4MOV. The repeater was taken to the home of Harry/N3DE, where he added the necessary accessories to make it workable on our new frequency of 147.105 Mhz, which had been assigned to the Club by TMARC (The Mid-Atlantic Repeater Council). The frequency of 146.430 Mhz was retained for simplex use when needed. The Club obtained a Ringo antenna and mounted it atop the 70-foot pole for the repeater. A small room was built at one end of the kitchen near the circuit-breaker boxes for the repeater. Harry tested the repeater from his home during December of 1977, and on December 26th he moved it to the clubhouse and put it on the air.

A Christmas Gift for the AARC

This was like a Christmas gift to the Club members. The repeater had a coverage of about 35 miles even with a less-than-adequate antenna only 70 feet up in the air. It was decided

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that the repeater needed a higher and better antenna. In June 1977 the first edition of the Ham Arundel News came out with Derek/AA3A as the editor. Some of the highlights of this issue:

- the attendance at the Linthicum parade with the PA system
- work parties at the clubhouse
- Field Day preparations
- two new members.

The newsletter proved to be a huge success. Twenty-eight persons joined the Club in 1977, bringing the total membership to 48. That year 20 members upgraded their licenses.

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Finding the Tower

Early in November of 1978, Bill Miller/WB3JWX learned (and reported it to the Club) of a tower on Jumpers Hole Road which was free to anyone who would take it down and haul it away. The tower was the property of the Chesapeake Distributing Co., distributors of Miller Beer. A group of members was hastily assembled to take down the tower.

Russ/WA3IBE transported it to the clubhouse. On the last Saturday in November a crew, headed by Derek/AA3A gave the tower a shiny new coat of aluminum paint. Bill Miller/WB3JWX drove to Lexington Park, MD and picked up 2000 feet of guy wire for the tower.

Putting Up the Tower

A crew, headed by Russ/WA3IBE installed concrete anchors at three points for the guy wires. Things were moving rapidly. The Club wanted the tower and antenna up before cold weather set in. On Saturday December 3, 1978, Bill/WB3JWX and group put up 60 feet of the tower, with guy wires every 30 feet. The following Saturday was a cold, breezy, sunny day with a temperature of 30 degrees. The Club assembled a large crew at the clubhouse to complete the other 60 feet of the tower.

Installation of the Antenna

Then the antenna was installed. Incidentally, the previous Saturday Bill/K3CN spotted in the clubhouse the old Station Master Antenna which had been left behind by the government. It was taken outside and tested by hooking it into a TR-7400 mobile rig. The results were startling. Stations as far away as Silver Spring and Rockville were heard and worked on simplex. Frederick repeaters were keyed up. The antenna worked so well that it was decided by the technical committee to mount it atop the tower instead of the Ringo at 3:30 PM on Saturday December 10th the Station Master Antenna was placed atop the tower and the hard-liner coax was connected. A long section of RG-213 was borrowed from Jim/W3SCD and run from the top of the platform across to the 70-foot pole and connected to the repeater in the kitchen. Better signal reports came in immediately, along with greater coverage.

The Repeater House

On December 23, 1978, the repeater house took shape up on the platform at the base of the tower. Cement blocks were hauled up to the radar platform by pulley and Bill Miller/WB3JWX built the little house. By January 1979 it was completed, and the

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repeater was moved from the kitchen and installed in its new home.

AARC History 1979-1980

Clubhouse Ham Shack

During 1979, under the able leadership of Derek/AA3A (the master carpenter) the clubhouse was completely paneled, a radio room was constructed and the lights, speaker system and ceiling were installed. Much work still remained to be done. To raise the necessary funds, the Club members did a lot of public service work for which the Club received donations. Club members have furnished communications during Chesapeake Appreciation Days at Sandy Point since 1967. Likewise for a number of Fire Department parades and events and for American Legion Post 40 parades in Glen Burnie. They have also supplied the PA system for the Little League ball games in South Baltimore.

220 MHz Repeater Proposed

At the March 1, 1979, meeting Club members voted permission to a group headed by Vice-President Roger/WB3HZC and Larry/K3SZN to experiment with a 220 Mhz repeater network based on the Club premises. Provision was also made for possible future negotiations with the "220 group" to buy the repeater equipment and operate it as a Club service.

Club Networks Put into Operation

In April of 1979 George/WB3GQR presented to the Club a plan for a Chesapeake Bay Weather and Traffic Net to be monitored by the Weather Bureau in Suitland, MD. This operation has proven to be a big success and is growing more popular every year among the boaters on the bay. In August of 1979 the Club tried running nets on all bands. Because of poor member participation, it was decided to run only two nets a week: one on 28.710 Mhz each Tuesday at 8:30 PM and one on the repeater frequency at 8:30 each Thursday that the Club did not meet. The "on-the-air" meetings have worked out quite well. The members who check in keep better informed on Club activities.

Novice & General Classes Provided

For a number of years, the AARC has conducted novice classes to help would-be hams get their Novice Tickets and get started in Amateur Radio. General Classes have also been held. Since the Club is 34 years old, some of its members have joined the ranks of the Silent Keys. Their names and calls are inscribed on a special plaque which hangs on the wall of the clubhouse.

Field Day

The Club has always had a Field Day in June of each year. It is now held on the Club premises. For its 1980 Field Day Exercise the Club used low power provided by solar cells. The affair was well attended and the operation proved to be a great success. In March of 1980 the 220-machine was switched to solar power.

The Bluegrass Festivals

For the past several years the DFRC has held an annual bluegrass festival on the grounds near the AARC clubhouse. Club members have been major contributors to the success of these affairs. A kitchen was set up in the Clubhouse and volunteer Club members served hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, and soft drinks. The Club received all the money from

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this concession, as well as a share of the gate receipts for helping out with the communications and the PA system.

Club Logo Adopted

The Club logo was adopted in December of 1979. To help advertise the Club, nylon jackets with the Club name and logo printed on them were made available to Club members. That Fall a very successful Novice Class was held by the Club. Twenty-three of the twenty-six students obtained their licenses.

AARC & the Yachts Desiderata and Astral

The Club's Maritime Net provided daily communications to the Yacht Desiderata on her trip across the Atlantic in June of 1978 and on her return trip in October of 1979.

Larry/WB3KDR (now KO3W) was the radio operator on the yacht. Operators here were Bill/K3CN, Joe/K3KJZ and Gordon/WB3CLG. These were the mainstays; several others checked in from time to time. Many phone patches were handled. These same operators provided the same service to the Naval Academy Yacht Astral when she made a trip across the North Atlantic and back in 1980.

New Newsletter Editor & New 2 Meter Repeater.

Holly Bevan/N3BMB took over as editor of The Ham Arundel News in September of 1980. Bill Cooke/K3CN was President. In December of 1980 the Club received a new 100-watt, continuous duty, all transistor Motorola 2-meter repeater. It was delivered to the home of Harry Suit/N3DE to be outfitted with the necessary controls before being installed at the Club site.

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Officers Installed / DX Contest Commenced

At the Installation Dinner held in January of 1981 at the Bay Ridge Inn in Annapolis, the following persons took office: President Jim Suite/W3AAE, Vice President Jay Davis/W3HGV, Treasurer Jim Bortner/WA3UJE and Secretary Paul Gerhardt/KB3HH (now WG3J). The year started with Club members engaged in an HF DX contest which ran for the entire month. Bill/K3CN won with 84,284 points.

Shack Opened on Weekends Starts & Ends

In March of 1981, in order to generate more interest among Club members in amateur operations, it was decided to open the Club shack on weekends for the use of any members who might like to come in and use the equipment. There was not enough response from members to continue the practice, although any members may make arrangements to use the equipment, if they so desire.

Public Service Events.

In April the Club furnished communications for the Roedown Races, after installing the PA system for Cecil/W3IBC who stood by at home because he was too ill to attend. May brought the annual Ride-a-Bike for the Retarded and the usual communications service by Club members. The Galleon Restaurant (Rt 2 at the South River Bridge) was the scene on May 21, 1981, of AARC's 30th Anniversary Dinner. About 90 persons attended, including many old-time Club members who came to renew old acquaintances.

Club Raft-Up

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An unusual program was planned for the June 1981 program meeting. Members gathered on twelve boats of many sizes and shapes and proceeded to marker #4 at the entrance to White Hall Creek where they formed a large raft.

Field Day 1981

The 1981 Field Day Exercises, with Dick Jessup/N3FN as coordinator, were held on the clubhouse grounds. All four stations used Drake TR-7 transceivers and ran low power from batteries charged by solar panels. The Club was delighted and very proud to learn from the November QST that AARC came in first in the nation in the 4-A Battery Class with a total of 11,045 points. Two of the TR-7s were on loan from the Company. Members liked their performance so much that the Club voted to purchase one of them (at a very good price) for use as the centerpiece in the refurbished hamshack planned for the clubhouse. Dick/N3FN conducted a very successful fundraising drive to pay for the TR-7.

The Ham Shack, Chesapeake Appreciation Days and Cecil/W3IBC

The "new" hamshack received an intense initiation in continuous operation during the 1981 CQ Worldwide DX Contest (phone portion over the weekend of Oct. 23th-25th). Thanks to Gene/K3AOM the damaged 220- lead into the shack was restrung in time for the start of the contest. Cecil Hunter/W3IBC, a very active Club member, became quite ill with cancer. He for years had handled the PA system for Chesapeake Appreciation Days. So, for CA Days in 1981, Club members put up and manned the PA system for Cecil, in addition to handling the communications. Then on December 1, 1981, Cecil became a silent key.

More Public Service

Additional public service communications furnished in 1981 by AARC members included: the Baltimore Little League Carnival in August on Fort Ave. in South Baltimore, the Anne Arundel Firemen's Convention in August at Blob's Park near Fort Meade and the DFRC Bluegrass Festival in September. On December 15th Club members played Santa Claus on 2-meters for the children at North Arundel Hospital.

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A New Year Begins

In January of 1982 the following officers were installed: President-Dick Jessup/N3FN, Vice-President-Nick Buinicki/WB3KIW, Secretary-Jerry Herman/N3BDW and Treasurer-Howard Miller/KA3ERP. The year proved to be an active and productive one. The first of the quarterly open houses was held in March of '82. The purpose of these open houses was to involve spouses and families of Club members in some of the Club's activities, so that they would have a better understanding of a Ham's interest in his hobby. At the June open house Don Miller, Sr., a network engineer for C&P, presented "The Lights Fantastic", a spellbinding program on the use of fiber optics in telephone communications. Mr. Miller gave the program to the Club in July of 1981 and returned by popular request. For the September open house Club members and guests had a three- hour cruise up the Severn on the Annapolitan. A Christmas party was held for the December open house-- complete with Santa Claus and gifts for the children.

Novice Classes and The Club Auction

Under Training Coordinator Keith/AE3D two Novice Classes were held in the spring--one

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on Wednesday evenings and one on Saturday mornings. The classes resulted in approximately thirty new hams. Keith coordinated another Novice Class which started in September. About 15 persons completed the course. AARC received many new members as a result of these three classes. A successful auction was held by the Club in April '82, due to the efforts of Coordinator Jerry Herman/N3BDW, Auctioneer Howard Miller/KA3ERP and more than 37 members and XYLs who helped them.

New Repeater Controller

The much-discussed and anticipated new 2-meter RC-850 repeater controller with all its bells and whistles went on line mid-year. Through the efforts of Club Member John Williams/K8JW, who had a hand in its design, and with help from Ron Nord/N3AKP and Harry Suit/N3DE, AARC could boast of having a controller that was one of two of its kind in the entire country. The other one was in California. In July, Club members voted to make the new emergency autopatch available to all local hams. Shortly thereafter, after much discussion regarding procedures and cost to members, the regular autopatch was activated.

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The New Board

The Installation Dinner for the 1983 Club officers was held at the Foxchase Tavern in Edgewater on January 6th. They were: President-Gary Vest/WA3KCY (now NW5E), Vice-President-Ed Helvey/WA2FMT, Secretary-Billy Maddox/KA6JJK and Treasurer-Howard Miller/KA3ERP. Billy Maddox/KA6JJK took over as editor of the Ham Arundel News. His change in the format to its present booklet form was widely heralded as a decided improvement. He also instigated bulk mailing of the newsletter, since over 200 copies were sent out each month.

Milestones

- The year 1983 brought several milestone decisions: - The AARC made a formal agreement with the county for a repeater site atop Arundel Center North in Glen Burnie.
- At the urging of Bill Townsend/KC3AV (now NC3Z) the Club voted in February to provide support for the ARRL sponsored Maryland Slow Net. With Bill at the helm the MSN grew surprisingly fast and was soon recognized as a capable teacher of message handling and net procedures.
- AARC was designated by ARRL as a Special Services Club.
- A new 3-element 40-meter beam improved the Club's hamshack capabilities. In June a new Sinclair Duplexer was installed on the repeater.
- Air conditioning was installed in the clubhouse.
- A Club auction in April of '83 was a huge success due to the efforts of new Club member Steve Brown and Howard Miller/KA3ERP, who served as auctioneer.

New Members & The Blizzard of '83'

The Club received several new members from a Novice Course conducted under the leadership of Training Chairman Jerry/N3BDW. Club members were busy all year with public service projects. For 60 continuous hours during the "Maryland Blizzard of '83" (Feb. 11-13), the AARC repeater/W3VPR and the repeater of the Maryland

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Mobileers/WA3PJQ were used by the Anne Arundel ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) to provide communications. Thirty amateurs made over 650 radio transmissions, logging a total of 334 man- hours.

Other Activities

Other communication endeavors included: the Roedown Races in April, the Ride-a-Bike for Retarded Children in May, and in August the Annapolis 10-mile Run and the boat parade for "Tricentennial Day" at London Town Publik House, a registered national historical site on the South River. Then there was the Bluegrass Festival in September and Chesapeake Appreciation Days in October. During CA Days Club members manned a special events station, as well as sending messages for the public. AARC, operating 4A- Battery during Field Day Exercises, came in second in the nation. Joe Evans/K3KJZ was once again featured in the press and on TV, this from handling messages to and from Grenada.

KO3P

In October Club members were saddened by the untimely death of Dick Navilon. All shared his pride in his rapid advancement through the amateur classes. In 2 1/2 years he moved from Novice/KA3HVY to Tech and Advanced/N3CKP to Extra/KO3P .

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Installation Dinner

The Installation Dinner for the Club's 1984 officers was held on January 5th at the Parole Holiday Inn in Annapolis for Pres: Gary Vest/NW5E, Vice-Pres: Ed Helvey/WA2FMT, Sec: Frank Geraci/WB1FXX, Treas; Andy Smith/WB3GSW and Directors: Abe Parys/N3CZX, Joe Evans/K3KJZ and Budd George/KA3EPZ. In appreciation for the help of AARC members during his first term as President, Gary presented 101 special certificates to those members who participated in at least one Club activity during 1983.

Training and the Ham Arundel News

As a result of popular demand a Novice Class was started late in January with Jerry Herman/N3BDW and Keith Miller/AE3D acting as coordinators. The Club received ten new members from the graduates of this course. After a careful check by Bob Webb/N3CSX the Club acquired a lithograph offset printing press for \$ 500 and began to print the Club newsletters, rosters, repeater guides, etc. It didn't take long to recover the cost of the machine. Bob provided a most important service by running and maintaining the press. In April of '84 Holly/N3BMB and Di Helfrich/KA3GWI took over as co-editors of the Ham Arundel News. The June, July, August and September issues were suspended, since Di spent each summer in Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

Management Turnover

In May AARC lost both its president and vice-president. Gary's company transferred him to Texas and Ed decided to combine his Edgewater office with the production end of his business in Front Royal, VA and to move there. Jay Davis/W3HGV resigned as Chairman of the Weather Net. He retired and departed to spend an extended time at sea. Ron Nord/N3AKP was elected to serve as interim president and Al Jeweler/N3BIN was selected as vice-president. Glenn Zimmerman/kKA3ESE took over the weather net. On May 31st about 80 persons gathered to bid farewell to the three departing officials and to Gordon Groves/KK3O who was transferred to Florida by his company.

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Bill Cooke/K3CN Returns

Midyear '84 Bill Cooke/K3CN was welcomed back to Club meetings after a long period during which he had three operations. The third time was a charm, as they say. He recuperated nicely, except that his physical activity is limited.

Slow Net Turns One

On March 30th the Maryland Slow Net celebrated its first anniversary. It had grown beyond Bill's/NC3Z wildest dreams. Bill received an official ARRL appointment as net manager. Due to the net's growth, Bill picked up two capable assistants: Harry/N3DE and Buck/KC3Y. An Advanced Class in traffic handling was added. Several grads of these two courses became traffic net managers in various parts of the country.

Computer User's Group formed & other events.

A meeting was held in April which led to the formation by young Mark Jeweler/KA3GFE (now N3KHQ) of a computer-users group in the Club. As for public service: In January Henry (Shad) Shadid/N3CPW coordinated communications for the Ratification Parade in Annapolis to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Ratification of the Treaty of Paris. Then came the Roedown races in April, the March-of-Dimes Walk-a-Thon and the Ride-a-Bike for the Retarded in May, the annual Annapolis 10-mile Run in August, the Bluegrass Festival in September and Chesapeake Appreciation Days in October. Under the energetic leadership of Field Day Coordinator Ed Helvey/WA2FMT, AARC came in first in the nation in 5-A Battery. A record number of participants resulted in about 2700 contacts and over 18,000 points.

Annapolis Maritime Net

The Annapolis Maritime Net, composed of Joe Evans/K3KJZ, Bill Cooke/K3CN and Gordon Kellenberger/WB3CLG, was kept busy doing "their thing" all summer. They maintained daily radio contact with one of the single-handed sailors in the Plymouth, England to Newport, RI race. They followed Jay Davis/W3HGV as he sailed up the east coast and back and kept in touch with Bob Miller/W3AZV as he motored to Western Canada and back with an Air Stream caravan. Larry Savadkin/KO3W with K3CN acting as backup, kept in contact with a couple who crossed the Pacific in a rowboat.

Another Repeater in North County

In the Fall of '84, John Williams/K8JW and Harry Suit/N3DE obtained permission from the county to install a second AARC repeater atop the Arundel North Bldg. in Glen Burnie on 145.450. After it was installed, Bob DeMattia/AK1J upgraded the repeater by adding a controller and a 220-link.

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On January 3, 1985 an installation dinner was held at the Parole Holiday Inn for the following officers: Pres: Al Jeweler/N3BIN; Vice-Pres: Andrew Smith/WB3GSW; Sec: George Mannion/N3DNP; Treas: Bill Cooke/K3CN and Directors: Ron Nord/N3AKP, Dick Jessup/N3FN and Carl Menchey/N3CVO. The "Doodle Sockers", a Barbershop Harmony Quartet entertained the group.

Slow Net Changes Leadership & Ham Arundel News Gets Award

Bill Townsend, due to health reasons, requested to be replaced as chairman of the

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Maryland Slow Net. Assistant Chairman Buck Watson/KC3Y took over as chairman. At the February meeting Bill was given life membership for his outstanding work in starting and building up the MSN. Holly/N3BMB and Di/KA3GWI were surprised and delighted to learn that the Ham Arundel News was selected in the Feb. issue of 73 Magazine as their "Newsletter of the Month".

Novice Class & 10 Meter Net

The ten-week Novice Class, started in February of '85 with Coordinator Carl Menchey/N3CVO, produced twenty-two new novices. On the club's ten-meter net on Tuesday evenings, Gordon Kellenberger/WB3CLG was holding listeners spellbound with his series of historical vignettes about early happenings in the state, especially in the Annapolis area.

Lightning Strikes (Literally)

In May of '85 the 147.105 repeater suffered a direct lightning strike which put it out of commission. The controller, receiver and preamp were wiped out. The controller was returned to the manufacturer in California for appraisal. The Glen Burnie repeater had been taken off line to change the frequency from 145.450 to 147.075. Harry/N3DE and John/K8JW put that project on hold to ready the backup repeater to take over until the disabled one could be restored to service. The officers of the Maryland Mobileers kindly offered the use of their repeater on 146.805 to AARC members, including permission to run their scheduled 2-meter nets.

More Destruction but Donations Save the Day

A decision was made at the June meeting to solicit donations from users who would like to have the repeater restored. A letter was mailed to all members asking for their help. Before the Club could even begin to recover from the lightning strike, a freak wind storm in the remnants of Tropical Storm Bob wreaked havoc at the club site. It tore the club sign from the front of the building, destroyed the Spalding tower and the tri-bander beam and badly damaged the 2-meter antenna. The replacement expenses mounted further. However, generous club members, and a number of non-members, donated more than \$1,700 to the "Repeater Disaster Fund". This made restoration of the repeater possible without jeopardizing other club plans.

Field Day 1985

Field Day results: Under the leadership of Coordinator Byron Kabran/KA3CUK, AARC came in 4th in Class 3-A Battery, running low power from batteries charged by solar panels. The highlight of FD was the Novice Station which was operated the full 24-hours.

Public Service Events

Public service events for '85 included: the Marlborough Hunt Club Races at Roedown on Easter Sunday, the first 10-kilometer run across the Bay Bridge on April 14th, the Maryland Saltwater Fishermen's Annual Benefit Bluefish Tournament in May, the Annapolis 10-mile Run in August, the DFRC Bluegrass Festival in September and Chesapeake Appreciation Days. At CA Days club members, in addition to furnishing communications, manned a Special Event Station both days, as well as the Message Center.

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'86' Starts as Officers Visit Officers Club

The Ft. Meade Officers' Club was the site on January 16, 1986, for the Installation Dinner for the 1986 Club Officers: Pres. Al Jeweler/N3BIN, Vice-Pres. Carl Menchey/N3CVO, Secretary Patty Nestor/N3EOC, Treasurer Bill Cooke/K3CN and Directors Jim Boyer/N3DTD, Jerry Herman/N3BDW and Andy Smith/WB3GSW. Shortly thereafter when Andy discovered that he could not make the Thursday meetings, Al Nestor/N3EOD was elected to replace him.

New Roof

The County installed a new roof on the clubhouse, filled the trenches in the floor with concrete and provided an access ramp for the handicapped at the entrance. Jerry/N3BDW and Jim/N3DTD replaced the ceiling tile. In a general cleanup, the county brought a large dumpster to the top of the hill in order to dispose of the accumulated "junk" from the grounds and the storerooms.

Novice Class, Field Day & Repeater Repairs

The annual Novice Class coordinated by Carl Menchey/N3CVO, Tony Young/WA3YLO and Al Nestor/N3EOD produced thirty new hams for the area. Field Day, coordinated by Byron Kabran/KA3CUK, resulted in a fourth place for AARC in 3-A Battery with 5,480 points. During a late afternoon thunderstorm in July the repeater suffered another lightning strike. It was not as bad as before, but the borrowed controller suffered extensive damage and had to be shipped away to be repaired. An impromptu work party worked until the wee hours one night to get the repeater back on the air with yet another borrowed controller. The phone patch was not reconnected until special line protection was obtained.

A Towering Decision

During the summer of '86 Club members had to face an important decision about whether or not to install a different tower. In the Fall of '83 the Club was offered a free 400-ft. tower (including a generator, lights, guy wires, and a fence) if they would dismantle it and haul it away from the Bainbridge Naval Station. On the first Saturday in December a caravan of members, accompanied by a rented flatbed truck and a borrowed crane, motored to Bainbridge, dismantled the tower, and brought it to the Club site. The transportation cost was \$1,500, not counting the time and intense physical effort spent by the volunteers.

The Decision Drags Out

Three years later the tower parts were still scattered around behind the Clubhouse awaiting a permit from FAA and final permission from the County to erect it. During that time membership in the Club had grown considerably and many members began to question the advisability of erecting a tower which would be so expensive to maintain. Also, the DFRC had consented to a 250 ft. tower rather than the higher one authorized finally by the FAA.

The Tower Vote

In June the Board of Directors voted to recommend that the tower not be erected, and at the June 5th club meeting, those present voted not to erect the tower. When news of the vote reached some of the past officers and others who had helped to obtain the tower, the

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President received many irate letters asking that the matter be reopened for consideration. This was done at the July 17th meeting which was devoted to hearing the pros and cons of the matter. The final vote was held at the August 7th meeting. The vote was very close: 18 votes in favor of erecting the tower (including three written proxy votes) and 17 votes against. But the Board of Directors determined on August 19th that the proxy votes were illegal since there is no provision in the Constitution for proxy votes. Because of the closeness of the vote, the Board selected a committee of three to investigate and to present to the Club within 90 days detailed reports on the comparative costs of erecting a 250-ft. tower as against refurbishing the present tower and repeater housing. This action was authorized by the membership, who also authorized an expenditure not to exceed \$350 to have a professional tower expert check the actual condition and safety of the present tower, perform routine maintenance as needed and to verify orientation of the antenna.

Inspection Results

On September 20th East Coast Antenna Services inspected and serviced the repeater tower. They checked everything, tensioned the guy wires, straightened the 220 antenna. They gave the tower a clean bill of health. They also oriented the antenna slightly to the west.

The President Resigns

Al Jeweler/N3BIN tendered (for personal reasons) his resignation on August 19th as president and as a club member. Carl Menchey/N3CVO also resigned as Vice-president, stating that his full schedule with other commitments would make it impossible for him to fulfill the duties of president adequately. At the Club meeting of September 4th, Abe Parys/N3CZX was elected interim president and Tony Young/WA3YLO was chosen interim vice-president.

Public Service Events

Public Service Events for '86 included: the Marlborough Hunt Club Races, the Bay Bridge Run and the Natural Resources Police Open House at Sandy Point in April; the 3rd Annual Bluefish Tournament and the Annapolis Striders' Triathlon in May; Ride-a-Bike for the Retarded and the 3rd annual Lee Airport Open House in June; Annapolis 10-mile Run in August; the Bluegrass Festival in September and in October the Annual Children's Festival at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and Chesapeake Appreciation Days.

November Presentation

Attendees who braved the miserably inclement weather to drive to the November 20th Club meeting enjoyed a very informative and entertaining program by Al Brogdon/K3KMO of Damascus, MD. His topic: "Simple but Effective 2-Meter Antennas You Can Build from Common Household Items, Leftover Plumbing Parts and Old Hats".

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Installation Dinner Moves to Ford Hall

The 1987 Installation Dinner was held January 9th in Ford Hall on the DFRC grounds. The Board of Directors decided to have a catered meal in a less formal atmosphere: New officers: Pres. Abe Parys/N3CZX, Vice-pres. Tony Young/WA3YLO, Secretary Doris Parys/KA3MQW, Treasurer Bill Cooke/K3CN and Directors John Currey/N3EOB, Jerry

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Herman/N3BDW and Dave Perka/KA3PRB.

Dick Jessup Honored

At the April 2nd Club meeting Dick Jessup/N3FN was honored for his many years of dedicated service to AARC. He was presented with a desk pen set inscribed with his call. Dick ably chaired many committees and he served as president in 1978 and in 1982. He served as Club Trustee for a number of years. That stewardship was formally transferred to Buck Watson/KC3Y following the presentation.

Net Moves Due to Novice Enhancement

Novice Enhancement brought one quick change in AARC schedules. The frequency for the Club's Tuesday Evening 10-meter net was changed from 28.710 to 28.410 so that novices and techs could participate.

Packet Radio

In answer to the growing interest in "packet radio", Rick Hambly/WB2TNL wrote a series of explanatory articles for The Ham Arundel News. Dick Campbell/N3FKV became interested in satellite chasing and wrote a series of articles about that for the newsletter.

Unused Big Tower Sold

The big tower sections were sold for \$1,500 and when the buyer came to pick them up, he cleaned up from the grounds all the odds and ends associated with the tower.

Various Improvements

Work parties were formed to complete work on the kitchen and bathroom and to paint the outside wall of the PA System storage room. The generator obtained with the big tower was finally put on line. It replaced the bank of batteries which served to power the repeater in case of electrical failure.

Special Event Station for US Constitution Ratification Bicentennial

Through the efforts of Tony/WA3YLO, AARC participated in the Bicentennial of the Ratification of the U.S. Constitution during the summer of 1987. A program was designed to air "special event" stations in each of the original 13 states as well as in Washington and Philadelphia. Special QSL cards were designed for use by each state, and special call signs were used. AARC operated two stations as W3VPR/200 on November 7th and 8th. The Club's TR-7 operated on the higher bands, including the novice/tech section of ten meters. The reach of the triband antenna was great. Patty/N3EOC worked Hawaii and Alaska, back-to-back. The second station, a Yasu 757GX located in the main room of the clubhouse worked about 25 states and provinces. Jerry/N3BDW and Jim/N3DTD strung an all-band dipole for it. A total of about 650 contacts were made. The special QSL cards were mailed in response to SASE requests, which came from as near as a mile away to as far away as New Zealand.

Novice Class

The 1987 Novice Class, coordinated by Tony/WA3YLO and Jerry/N3BDW (and with the help of Hollis/KC3X) trained about 30 new hams, many of whom became active club members. Field Day Coordinator was Fred Plitt/W3DCN. AARC came in 8th under 2-A Battery with 688 QSOs and a total of 6,105 points. There was no communal kitchen for Field Day; the station operators provided their own food and drink, picnic style. The first Club Family Picnic was held on July 16th. It was such a huge success that it became an

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annual event.

Public Service Events

Public service events for 1987 included the Marlborough Hunt Club Races in April; Walk-for-Heart in Annapolis, Ride-a-Bike for the Retarded and the Bay Bridge Run and the Bay Bridge Walk in May; the YMCA Triathlon in Edgewater in June, the Annapolis 10-mile Run in August, the Bluegrass Festival in September and in October the Lee Airport Open House and Chesapeake Appreciation Days. For the first time at CA Days packet radio was used to deliver the messages from the public to various points in the U.S. and Canada. A total of 162 messages were handled.

Scout Troops Hosted

Dick/N3FKV, John/KA3RSN and Dave/KA3PRB hosted members of Scout Troops 454 and 771 at the clubhouse to take part in the Scout's "Jamboree on the Air". They made 56 contacts, including 10 foreign.

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Bay Ridge Inn Hosts Installation Dinner

An Installation Dinner was held on January 15th at the Bay Ridge Inn for the 1988 AARC officers: President Tony Young/WA3YLO, Vice-president Jerry Herman/N3BDW, Treasurer Bill Cooke/K3CN, Secretary Dick Campbell/N3FKV and Directors John Currey/N3EOB, Al Nestor/N3EOD and Fred Plitt/W3DCN.

88' Was an Exciting Year

The year proved to be exciting and eventful. There were problems. On March 24th the power supply on the repeater self-destructed from the inside out. On Saturday morning (March 26th) a 20-amp power supply was installed temporarily so the repeater could operate normally. That evening during a spectacular thunderstorm lightning zapped the phone in the shack, fried the twin lead from the dipole (leaving only the plastic), and damaged some of the repeater components. The substitute power supply suffered minor damage. The 220 machines had blown fuses and had to be reprogrammed. Still another substitute 50-amp power supply was installed by John Williams/K8JW on Wednesday. Due to good advance planning by the Technical Committee, spare parts were on hand to repair the repeater.

Special QSL for Maryland Bicentennial Special Event Stations

Tony/WA3YLO requested the Maryland Bicentennial Committee to design a sticker for the face of the special QSL card to be used by Maryland special event stations during the Maryland Anniversary Week of April 23-29. The Committee responded with a 2-inch-wide Maryland flag to be used as a sticker on the face of the QSL card, then made AARC the custodian for the stickers and the special Maryland QSL cards, to be sent out to participating clubs on request. AARC members manned a Special Events Station on each of the 7 days (Apr. 23-29) designated as Maryland's week to air special event club activity. Air time was about 35 hours with 651 contacts in 46 states.

Hollis Thigpen Named AARC Ham-of-the-Month

Hollis Thigpen/KC3X was named AARC Ham-of-the-Month for April for his contribution as Monday Night CW Elmer for the Novice Class. As a result of the Novice Class,

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coordinated by Tony/WA3YLO and Jerry/N3BDW, twenty-three new radio amateurs were produced.

Field Day, coordinated by Fred Plitt/W3DCN, included a packet station. AARC came in second in the nation in the 3A Battery Class (W3VPR+ the Novice Station KA3TDD) with 11205 contacts totaling 9,280 points.

Hams Lose Frequencies on 1 1/4 Meter Band

AARC Club Members were disappointed, along with ARRL, over the loss of 220-222 Mhz to land mobile use. A petition for reconsideration by the FCC was filed. Members were asked to write or call their Senators or House members for their support.

Emergency Management Reorganization

At the request of Primus Richardson, Director of Emergency Management for Anne Arundel County, a complete reorganization was undertaken in mid-1988. AARC members played a major part in that task and have been heavily involved in RACES/ARES activities since.

Fair Replaces Bluegrass Festival

The DFRC (Davidsonville Family Recreation Center) decided to have a fair on August 6th of '88 instead of the accustomed Bluegrass Festival. The AARC furnished the communications, ran a food booth, and manned a booth to demonstrate HF and traffic handling by packet.

PACSAT Announced

Two new activities in Amateur Radio were introduced to AARC members through spirited presentations and articles by two club members. At the February program meeting Dick Campbell/N3FKV held attendees spellbound with his talk on satellite communications. A crash program was underway to build and launch an orbiting satellite (PACSAT) through which packet radio users would be able to pass their signals. AMSAT's new Phase 3 satellite was undergoing pre-launch tests and was expected to be launched on the European Space Agency's (ESA) V-22 mission planned for March of '88. It was expected to carry three linear transponders and a single-frequency, digital RUDAK transponder.

Bob Bruninga Promotes Amateur TV

Club Member Bob Bruninga/WB4APR, always on the leading edge of whatever, had become obsessed with Amateur TV. He had taken part in the successful amateur televising of the Marine Corps Marathon with a bicycle mobile station. He carried a backpack frame with a metal bracket over the shoulder to hold the weight of the camera. A 3-foot mast extended above the other shoulder to support a lightweight omni-gain antenna. In one pouch of the pack was the 80-milliwatt ATV transmitter and in the other was the 12-volt NICAD battery pack. The rest of the pouch was available for lunch and refreshments. He was determined to install an ATV repeater on top of the Naval Academy water tower. He managed to do that, then began encouraging club members to buy ATV converters and join in the fun.

CQ World Wide CW From the Clubhouse

On Thanksgiving weekend five club members gathered at the clubhouse and put the club station on the air for the CQ World Wide CW Contest. With the help of a number of visitors on both days, they made 626 QSOs and 477,700 points.

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Over 100 Attend AARC Christmas Party

The Club's Family Christmas Party was a huge success. The affair has grown bigger year by year (and the desserts more luscious). There were 100+ persons present. Santa called each of the 20 or more children by name to present gifts.

Public Service '88'

Public Service Events for 1988 included the Marlborough Hunt Club Races at Roe down, a walk for the American Diabetes Association and the March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon in April, the Bay Bridge Swim in June, the Annapolis 10-mile Run in August and Chesapeake Appreciation Days in October. Individual members helped with the Marine Police Open House at Sandy Point State Park at the end of April, with the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary Open House and with the Glen Burnie Centennial Parade in May.

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Tony Young Takes Command

On January 20, 1989 an Installation Dinner was held at Bay Ridge Inn for President Tony Young/WA3YLO, Vice-President John Currey/N3EOB, Secretary Dick Campbell/N3FKV, Treasurer Fred Plitt/W3DCN and Directors Al Nestor/N3EOD, Rick Battle/KB3NG and John Cochran/KC3YS.

Repeaters Installed

During the year several work parties were busy at the club site. Renovating the repeater housing facility called for carpentry, electrical work, and painting at a 30-foot level on the radar pedestal. The club's new 440 repeater and an all-band G5RV were installed. The two 220 repeaters (purchased from the former 220 group) were installed at separate sites.

Bob Bruninga & Amateur TV

Bob Bruninga linked his ATV repeater with those in Washington and Baltimore. As he pointed out, anyone within line-of-sight of the Naval Academy water tower can receive amateur television at home or mobile. The previous December Bob had led a team of several hams to provide ATV coverage of the Annapolis Parade of Lights to screens on the parade control table in the Eastport Yacht Club, in the Harbor Master's office, on the judges' boat and at the Hilton where WNAV was operating a voice remote for radio coverage of the event. Bob operated a camera and transmitter from the roof of the hospital, providing a wide-angle view of the boats in Spa Creek. The pictures were also fed into the hospital closed circuit system so patients could view the parade.

Members Honored

The AARC Board of Directors voted to present Life Membership Certificates to William (Bill) Cooke/K3CN, Joseph (Joe) Evans/K3KJZ, Paul (Nick) Buinicki/WB3KIW and James (Jim) Suite/W3AAE for their significant contributions to the club.

80 Register for Novice Class

The 1989 Novice Class had a total of 80 registrants. Fifty-six attended the first class and close to 50 earned their licenses. (Tony/WA3YLO and Jerry/N3BDW must be doing something right). In February a group of club members participated in the ARRL DX CW Contest from the clubhouse. They made 800+ CW contacts mostly to Europe and Asia, resulting in a club score of 377K. With good conditions on 10 meters, 386 QSOs were

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made to 56 countries on that band alone.

The Second DFRC Fair

On June 4th the second annual DFRC Fair was held. Club members cooked and served food and beverages, helped with the parking, set up and operated the public address system, served as communicators for officials and operated demonstration HF and packet stations.

Field Day '89'

The weather cooperated beautifully with Field Day activities. Coordinator Fred Plitt/W3DCN was pleased with the results. The club qualified for all bonus points (including 100 for packet contacts and 100 for contacts through the satellite). AARC came in fourth in the 3-A Battery Class with 1195 contacts, just 39 short of 3rd place.

Past Presidents Speak

The September program meeting was especially enjoyable. Three of the seven original founders of AARC discussed the early history of the club. George Schmitt/W3NAE (president for 4 terms in the 50s and 60s) led the discussion. Eight past presidents were present. Each reminisced briefly as they remembered both humorous and trying times during their terms in office.

Lots of Public Service Events

Public Service Events for 1989, under Coordinator Rick Battle/KB3NG, included a 15-mile Walk-a-Thon for the American Diabetes Association in March, the Marlborough Hunt Club Races and the Annapolis March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon in April, the Bay Bridge Swim in June, the Annapolis 10-mile Run in August and Chesapeake Appreciation Days in October. The weather refused to cooperate for CA Days. On Saturday minimal to nil winds were not enough to move the Skipjacks. They had to be assisted across the finish line by their push boats. On Sunday the boat races had to be canceled due to a dense fog. Individual members set up PA systems for the Riviera Beach Fire Department Parade and the St. Margaret's Pony Club Round Robin.

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Installation Dinner

An installation dinner was held on January 12, 1990 at Bay Ridge Inn for: President David (Walt) Walter/N3BFO, Vice-Pres. Douglas (Doug) Sweely/N2IBM, Secretary Debbie Rogers/KA3TDD, Treasurer Alvin (Al) Carter/KA3URB and Directors Tony Young/WA3YLO, Rick Battle/KB3NG and Rick Hambly/WB2TNL.

Efforts of Note Including the First Club Auction

Operating and Training Coordinator Rick Battle/KB3NG made a valiant effort to entice members to the club hamshack from 7 to 9 PM on the second Thursday of each month to use the club equipment. Rick Hambly/WB2TNL with a crew of five able helpers worked through an often-frustrating weekend to bring the club generator on line to have emergency power available.

Programs-Social Events Coordinator Ike Lawton/W2EOS spearheaded a successful club auction in February. In May Facilities Coordinator John Cochran/KC3YS led an energetic work crew to strip, mop, seal and buff the floor of the clubroom, vacuum the hamshack,

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mow the grass, repair the trailer, etc.

First License Exams Given in the Clubhouse & Other Accomplishments

On May 12th Nancy/NT3Z and Dean Alley/NS3V held a License Exam Session for the first time at the AARC clubhouse. It proved to be so successful that the Board voted to hold one on the second Saturday of each month. The Novice Class graduated about 30 new hams. For Field Day the Club (3A-Battery) ran stations on 10, 20, 40 and the Novice Station on 80 meters. Contacts were made all over the US on 40. DX on 10 and 20 produced some fine contacts with a beam headed west. One of the highlights of the event was the Saturday evening barbecue.

The Club Picnic Draws Over 100

The Club's summer picnic was held on a breezy, sunny day in September in the gazebo on the DFRC grounds. A GREAT time was had by all. Over 100 persons (about 20 of whom were children) attended the Club's Christmas Party. As usual, it was a great success. Betty Tiemeyer/K3VRZ crocheted a large, multi-colored Afghan and gave it to the Club to be raffled off. Tickets were sold for 3 or 4 months and the drawing was held at the Christmas Party. A total of \$365 was collected.

First Night Annapolis

AARC was invited by FIRST NIGHT ANNAPOLIS to participate in its first annual mammoth New Year's Eve celebration, a major family festival in Annapolis. The Club provided an Amateur Radiogram Center. For five hours (6 to 11 PM) 165 messages were accepted from the public, about half of which were transmitted during the event.

Public Service Events

Frank Piazza/WD6DUQ served as Public Service Coordinator for: The American Diabetes Walk-a-Thon in Annapolis in March, the Marlborough Hunt Club Races at Roedown, the YMCA 10K Run in Annapolis and the March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon in April, the DFRC Fair and the Bay Bridge Swim in June and Chesapeake Appreciation Days in October. Bob Bruninga provided ATV coverage for the run and the walks. He also retransmitted from the Goddard Space Flight Center the ATV coverage during the Hubble Telescope mission of the Space Shuttle Discovery.

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'91' Off to Good Start

The 1991 Installation Dinner was held on January 18th at the Bay Ridge Inn for President Doug Sweely/N2IBM, Vice-President Carter Anderson/N3GRX, Secretary Harold (Bob) Dove/KA3OCZ, Treasurer Robert (Bob) Israel/WC3I and Directors David Walter/N3BFO, Margie Currey/KA3PQP and Oscar Ramsey/NV3G. In the Fall Oscar started teaching a Novice/Tech class on Thursday evenings. Glenn Biggerstaff/N3HUV took his place for the rest of the year.

AARC Gives Test to Nation's First 'No Code' Technician

Bob Williams/N3IYF, the very first No-Code Tech in the U.S., was given the Novice and Tech tests at the AARC Clubhouse during the February testing session. Holly/N3BMB was surprised and proud to be selected the FAR "Ham of the Month" for March. Nancy Alley/NT3Z, Anne Arundel County Radio Officer, was awarded the Most Outstanding

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Citizen Volunteer Award by the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management.

Noteworthy Accomplishments

Buck Watson/KC3Y and John Williams/K8JW were made Life Members of AARC. Buck was recognized for his work with the Maryland Slow Net and John for his (almost) single-handed maintenance of all our repeater systems. In February, and again in April, members of MSN (Maryland Slow Net) conducted sessions on net procedures and how to check into MSN. Early in the year, a replacement MICOR Receiver was installed in the 147.105 repeater by John/K8JW, Oscar/NV3G and Doug/N2IBM. The circuit board interconnects were cleaned and sprayed with a special chemical to resist corrosion. The North County Machine (147.075) was relocated to the Millersville tower.

Novices Spring Up & Field Day is Not Far Behind

The Annual Spring Novice Class resulted in 28 new Hams. Most of them accepted their free memberships in AARC for the remainder of the year. About 30 Club members participated in Field Day. They set up two FD stations, a Novice/Tech station, and a packet station on the DFRC grounds. Over 400 contacts were made (mostly CW), including 36 points for the Novice station. They obtained all possible 700 bonus points.

Club Scores Big at Maryland QSO Party

In August several Club members had fun manning the rig in the hamshack to participate in the MD-DC QSO Party. Their efforts filled almost six log sheets with 116 contacts for 256 points and a score of 7,680, with multipliers.

Funding Sought for New Clubhouse Rig

It was decided in October that the radio station at the clubhouse should be upgraded with a new transceiver. The cost of doing this was outside of normal operating expenses. So, the Board started a fund-raising drive for the new equipment by contributing \$100. Contributions started coming in.

Bill Cook, K3CN Becomes Silent Key

William Edward ("Bill") Cooke/K3CN became a silent key on December 2nd. Bill was a Ham for 55 years and a member of AARC for 34 years. He served in each of the official Club positions. A fund-raising effort resulted in a 1992 Scholarship of \$850 in his honor to be administered by FAR. The Club hamshack was named "The Bill Cooke Memorial Hamshack".

Serving the Public in '91'

Carter Anderson/N3GRX served as Activities Coordinator. Public Service Events included: Marlborough Hunt Club Races, March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon, and the YWCA 10k Run in Annapolis in April, the Boating Fun Fest '91 and Bay Bridge Swim in June, the MS Bike-a-Thon and the Annapolis 10-mile Run in August, the ADA Walk-a-Thon in Annapolis and Chesapeake Appreciation Days in October. The Club took part again in FIRST NIGHT ANNAPOLIS with a message center.

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Officers Retain Their Jobs but the Clubhouse Rig Changes

The entire slate of officers for 1991 was reelected to serve during 1992. The Installation Dinner was held on January 17th in the Bay Ridge Inn. The fund-raising effort netted

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over \$1,100 and a new Kenwood 450 with speech synthesizer and an MRC automatic antenna tuner for the hamshack. The Drake TR-7 was sold.

Novice Class Nets 28 New Licenses

The 1992 Novice Class resulted in 28 new Hams, thanks to the expert teaching of Jerry/N3BDW, Tony/WA3YLO and Oscar/N3VG. Field Day, coordinated by Doug/N2IBM, resulted in a 7th place nationwide in 2A Battery with 401 contacts and 4200 points.

Aviation Net Started

Because quite a few of the Club members are aviators, Jeff Katz/N3KZV sought and received permission to start an aviation net on the 147.075 machine on Monday nights, beginning June 1st. The meetings soon settled down to the first Monday night of each month.

A Lot Happened in 1992

A group of Club members gathered at the clubhouse to enter the MD-DC QSO Party in August, but due to equipment and antenna problems their contacts numbered less than 50. On August 20th AARC voted in Randy Crenwelge/WB5LPN as its 400th member. In March Bill Bevan/N3BET received Life Membership in the Club for his many years work on the newsletter (makeup man and stapler) and for years of working public service events. At the August program meeting Jerry Herman/N3BDW was presented with an AARC Life Membership for his work over many years both as technical director of equipment and as an instructor for the annual Novice Classes.

AARC Take a Trip by Rail

Through the efforts of Bob McCown/N3IYI, AARC chartered a nine-car train for an afternoon trip in the Maryland mountains the last Saturday in August. One hundred and five Club members, families and friends enjoyed the outing. An HF Special Event Station was set up in Jack Deasy's private car "St. Regis River". About 100 contacts were made in less-than-ideal propagation. Besides HF, 2-meter and packet contacts were also made from the train.

Club Santa Becomes Silent Key

The two-family social events, the summer picnic and the Christmas party, were tremendous successes. They have become tradition. On December 10th Life-Member Paul C. ("Nicki") Buinicki, Sr. became a Silent Key. He was the Club's "Santa" for many years, the cook, the popcorn man, as well as an ever-present helper. The Club kitchen was named "Nick's Galley" in his honor.

Lots of Public Service Events

Doug Sweely/N2IBM filled in from mid-year as Activities Coordinator for the following Public Service events: The first Annapolis Marathon on the B&A Trail in March, The Marlborough Hunt Club Races, the MS Walk-a-Thon, YWCA 10K Run, March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon and Christmas in April in April, the Bay Bridge Swim in June, The Annapolis 10-mile Run in August, the Bluegrass Festival at DFRC, The Striders 16-mile Road Race and Chesapeake Appreciation Days in October and FIRST NIGHT ANNAPOLIS on New Year's Eve. The weather this year did not cooperate with CA Days. The wet and bone-chilling weather kept the hoped-for crowds away in droves.

(Ed. Note: This history of AARC stops at the end of 1992. The rest of the story

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depends on the decisions and activities of the AARC Executive Board and the membership.)