

BULLETIN



ALBEMARLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MAY 1998

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**Remember:
VE Test
Session May 2nd!**

***Next AARC Meeting:******Tuesday, April 14******7:30 PM******NRAO Auditorium******Edgemont Road******(UVa area)***

Here are the topics for the May meeting:

1. Working Special Event stations for fun and profit (refer to Special Event Contest in President's Column on p. 2)
2. Simple antennas for working a hidden transmitter hunt (in preparation for some T-hunts later on this season)

From Club President Bill Beardon:

I will be giving the presentations myself. A whole meeting of ME!
And you thought life just COULDN'T get any better..... (-:

Come on out and hear what Bill has to say, get the latest on special events from N4PGS, and sample some delicious treats!

See you there!



The President Speaks

May is fast approaching, and with it our public service events will be hitting their stride. Our Virginia Discovery Museum project is over as is the Presidents Day special event. By the time you read this column, the Dogwood parade and special event will also be in the history books for another year. The Dogwood parade weekend (April 25-26) will have been one of the busiest for our Club with no less than 4 events occurring that weekend...AND there is still more to come. If you have not already signed up to assist in one of the MANY events our Club will be assisting in this year, please see Greg Faust - N4PGS. He has a place for YOU in one or more of the upcoming events.

Special Event Contest

Speaking of events, I am officially notifying everyone of the 1998 Special Event Contest sponsored by the AARC. The object of this contest is simple - the person with the highest point total at the end is the winner. The winner will receive a special Certificate proclaiming them as the 1998 Special Event Contact King/Queen. The rules? Simple. Contact as many Special Event stations between May 1st, 1998 and October 31st 1998. In order to qualify for points, you must receive that stations QSL or certificate because it is the QSL's that your points will be based on. Bring your QSL's or certificates to the December meeting for score. If you cannot make the meeting, please let me know and I will make other arrangements to have your score verified. ANY operating mode will do. The certificate will be awarded at the January dinner meeting. As far as scoring goes, every confirmed contact will count as one point and there will be additional points scored for particular stations and/or special groups. That scoring is as follows:

Stations-

- Any station commemorating an event in History - 10 points (i.e. - D-day in WW II, signing the Declaration of Independence, historical figure's birthday, etc)
- Any station commemorating the birthday of their City or Town - 10 points (i.e. centennial of Rapid Falls, SD, birthday of the Town of Muncie, IN, etc)
- Any DX Special Event station for any reason - 20 points

Groups-

- DISTRICT - working all states in any call district - 10 points

- CROSS COUNTRY - working states in all 10 call districts - 10 points
- BIG GUN - working more than 30 states - 15 points
- CALL SIGN ALPHABET SOUP - using the SUFFIX ONLY of the stations worked, work enough stations so that every letter of the alphabet is represented - 15 points

These points will be awarded in addition to the individual contact points.

CW CONTACTS ARE DOUBLE POINTS AND RTTY CONTACTS ARE TRIPLE POINTS!

If there are any questions, please feel free to let me know.

T-Hunts and More

Also on the agenda, I am planning to have a T-Hunt sometime in the late summer or early fall. No date has yet been set and no one has volunteered to Chair this project. If interested, please see me. We should have a T-Hunt mini-program at the May meeting as well as some pointers on working Special Event Stations.

I am also looking for someone to act as Chair for the Clubs 1998 HF Contest Ops project. THAT one will be LOTS of fun so please see me as soon as possible to help with that one.

As you can see, this year we are trying to get as many of your requests worked into the schedule as possible. If you would like to engage in any of the other areas of our hobby, please let me know. If you're willing to Chair the project, I'll help get you the manpower to make it happen. I would like to make sure that as many people as possible have a project that they can get involved in this year. What's yours gonna be?????

As of this writing, Gov. Gilmore has signed off on SB-480!!!!!! This is a MAJOR step for us as Amateur Radio operators here in Virginia, but furthermore it sets the stage for the other states to enact similar legislation. A VERY HEARTFELT thanks from ALL hams goes to the folks who made this happen!! Amateur Radio is an important resource for our cities, counties, states, and country. It's always nice to have that fact officially acknowledged.

That's it for this month. See you round the bands.....

KC4TQF

A W A R D S C L U B

The AARC offers some special awards to its members. Some are serious, recognizing contributions to the club and to the Amateur Radio Service. And some are fun rewards for operating those rigs and making those contacts. Here at the Dean house, we're all for the awards, especially since our hams KE4UKX and KE4UKY found them an encouragement and a spur to keep at it in their beginner days when "Worked All States" and "DXCC" seemed impossible challenges. You, too, might find new motivation to chase some DX or hunt for those missing states. And if you're one of the hams who put the "service" into Amateur Radio, or you'd like to

recognize someone who does, we've got that, too. Here, from club secretary KD4RWX, is a rundown on club awards.

AARC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

These awards denote special achievement in the area of service to the Club, the Community, and/or Amateur Radio. These awards are nominated by the Club membership and decided upon by the Awards Committee and the Board of Directors unless otherwise specified. Most of these awards are presented during the annual Winter Dinner Meeting.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - This is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated a very high degree of dedication to Amateur Radio and the Club. Those so honored shall have full membership for the life of the individual. He/She shall retain all rights and privileges conveyed by full membership, but shall not have any financial obligations insofar as dues are concerned.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD - is determined and presented by the Club President. The President may present this award if he or she feels a particular individual is deserving of special recognition.

THE HAM OF THE YEAR AWARD - goes to the individual who, through dedication and hard work, exemplifies the best of what an Amateur Radio Operator should be. The recipient is nominated by the Club membership and selected by the Awards Committee and the Board of Directors.

THE ELMER CERTIFICATE - is awarded to any individual who is nominated by a new ham (a Ham who has received his/her license within the 1 ½ year period prior to December 31st of the current year.). This certificate is the official "Thank You" for helping the

new Ham get a good start in Amateur Radio.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD - is presented to those individuals who participate in a specified number of public or community service related activities which the Club participates in either as the AARC, or as in the local chapter of ARES or RACES. Examples would be bike races, NOAA disaster drills, triathalons, walkathons, 911 Emergency Preparedness drills, etc. Each event worked counts 1 point. Ten events are necessary to obtain a certificate. For each additional 10 events, the original award will be upgraded with a special designator on the certificate. Upon reaching 50 events, a special HONOR ROLL certificate will be awarded and additional HONOR ROLL certificates will be awarded for every additional 50 events. You need not apply for this award. A database has been created and all event participants will be recorded at the end of each year's schedule. Please note that you **MUST WORK** the event. Simply showing up and standing around just in case **WILL NOT** qualify you to earn points toward the award **UNLESS** so stipulated by the Event Coordinator or Public Service Committee Chairman.

AARC OPERATIONAL AWARDS

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club offers four HF awards: All American; Worked Lotsa States; Big Ten; and Worked Border States. All direct contacts (satellite contact are the only exception) may be used, regardless of mode, for any award. That is to say, a single contact may be used for more than one of the four awards. There are also special endorsements for earning any award in a single mode. All contacts must be made when you are within a 50 mile radius of your home station. You must have QSL Cards or LOG entries that verify your contacts and these may be randomly checked by the Awards Committee. Do not submit QSL Cards or station log unless specifically requested to do so. If you have questions concerning this application, see any member of the Awards Committee, listed below.

WORKED LOTSA STATES - For having contacted and logged one station in at least 18 of the United States of America (U.S.A.).

WORKED BORDER STATES - For having contacted and logged at least one station in each of the 30 border states indicated with an "*" on the application sheet.

BIG TEN - For having contacted and logged at least one station in each of the ten United States of America callsign areas.

ALL AMERICAN - For having contacted and logged one station in each of the following. CANADA, U.S.A., MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA.



CHAOS

Oh, well, you say... here he goes again! What kind of title is "CHAOS?" Well, folks, stick with the next few paragraphs and let me explain. First of all, among several dictionary definitions for this word, the one selected which fits the situation to be discussed is: "... utter confusion and disorder."

In several of the recent Monday Night Information Net (WA4TFZ repeater on 146.760 at 1900) sessions there have been some rather disturbing reports in the world of communications. It would seem that we have quite a number of people in this world...or at least in this country...who equate free access to the radio frequencies as a right granted by the First Amendment to the Constitution!

Freedom of expression... the right to free speech... is one thing, but the use of the radio frequency spectrum as a right granted by that First Amendment is something else. Unlicensed radio stations have been around almost as long as radio stations have been on the air. There is always someone challenging the law. While we do not come into contact with these stations very often, they do exist in the larger metropolitan areas.

Let's make an assumption and not really a bad one, either. Let's assume that the same folks who want to exercise this freedom are technically not able to cope with the equipment required for the on-the-air presentation. Their signals would interfere with the rightful frequency occupant... an AM or FM broadcast station. Our enjoyment of the rightful broadcasts would be upset.

Now, let's take this a little further into the domain we enjoy... our Ham Radio bands. Some of this same reasoning is beginning to surface in the Amateur Radio world. No license should be needed for operation along side all of us who have studied, taken the necessary exams and succeeded because we worked for the privilege and that's our bottom line!

The "Chaos," fellow Hams, is that those who seek this freedom don't know an Ohm from an Amp, a repeater from a shotgun and (*See Chaos, next column...*)

FOOD UPDATE

Jessie Preston, KE4OID

Thanks for the wonderful Culinary donations!

The whole club is very appreciative to everyone who has participated in providing the meeting eats. I reminds me each time what a generous group of members we have.

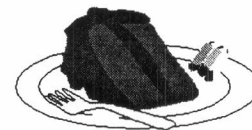
The May meeting will be hosted by Daryl and myself, unless of course Joe G. has a special treat he wants to supply.

June is covered by Debbie & Don Bush. I trust what Debbie will supply, but Don and his jokes might make us a little leery.

Chuck & Linda Mills have offered to cover July. If they do as well with the treats as they did with our January dinner, we are in for a good evening.

Now, this leaves so much room for the rest of you. One opportunity coming up quickly will be Field Day. As is our norm, it's a pot luck with each of you offering to supply what you are able. For May's meeting I plan to send around my own "clip board" for each of you to sign up for. Don't forget, even if you don't cook, we need plates, utensils, etc, etc, etc. This year should again be a fun event for all of us.

Again, my thanks to all who make the food effort such a success.



Chaos

... don't care a single bit. They can and will cause interference because their ignorance assures it. Imagine driving down a street without any driver's license and not knowing whether green means go faster and red means slow down to some rediculously slow speed! Carry this story as far as you wish. Reject it, if you wish, but don't think it can't happen. It can and might. Heaven help us.

73...

/s/ Harry, W2HD



CLASSIFIED COLUMN

To list an item in this section that is NOT on the WA4TFZ packet bulletin board, contact WB9HGZ or WD9EIA.

WANTED: AN/GRC-109 or GRC-9 transmitter/receiver. The GRC-109 is a small, low power HF set, while the the GRC-9 is a larger back-pack HF set. Carter, WD4AYS, 804 979 7383.

FOR SALE: An RF Concepts dual band amplifier for 2 meters and 440. 5 watts in and 35 out on two meters. 25 out on 440. Perfect for HTs. Excellent condition. Call KO4WQ at 823-1128, or on the 76 repeater. \$85.00.

FOR SALE: 220 MHz AMP & ANTENNA (1/29/98) Don, KE4DDR, wants to sell a Mirage C22A 220 MHz amplifier. 2 watts in gives 20 watts out. He also has a Cushcraft AR220 Ringo Ranger 220 MHz antenna for sale. If you are interested in these items, call him at 804-978-1549.

WANTED: FREQUENCY COUNTER (2/26/98) Bob, W4BGU, is looking for a frequency counter, 30 MHz Ok, even less considered. Call him at 286-2971 or contact Ron, K4RKA at 973-3640.

FOR SALE: HALICRAFTERS HT37 (2/26/98) Clay, W4LNT, has Halicrafters HT37 transmitter SSB/CW 100 watts from 2x6146b final tubes. Working. If interested call him at 804 589-4865.

FOR SALE: FT101EE HF TRANSCEIVER (3/12/98) Clan, W4LNT, wants to sell a Yaesu FT101EE 160-10 meter transceiver. If you are interested, call him at 804 589-4865.

FOR SALE! Oak Hills Research Sprint II CW transceiver, with built-in Curtis chip keyer and a Brown Brothers paddle. Complete with manual and cable for 12-volt connection using the standard club connector. 2 Watts output. Asking \$100. For more info, call Joe, W2PVY, at 804/589-1495 or E-Mail: joegio@delphi.com.



DEADLINE for the June issue of AARC Bulletin is May 22

Send your articles to Paul (WB9HGZ) or Eileen (WD9EIA) at: 4300 Sylvan Lane, Charlottesville, 22911 (U.S. mail), or at wd9eia@newsguy.com (email). Packet operators, send via KE4UKX at the club bulletin board and he'll pass it along to us.

SKYWARN is a national network of trained volunteer observers who assist the weather service in monitoring severe weather. The Washington-Baltimore office, which covers Charlottesville and Staunton as well, reports that two-thirds of their volunteers are also Radio Amateurs, making hams an important part of this organization. As well as being spotters--people on the ground reporting on severe weather conditions in their particular location--volunteer hams staff a radio station at the forecast office in Sterling to maintain communication with spotters in the field during severe weather, when normal communications methods are prone to outages.



SKYWARN is part of the community preparedness program of the National Weather Service, and its aim is to save lives and property. All you need to become a member of the SKYWARN network of volunteer spotters is a set of eyes to watch the skies and a dedication to helping save lives.

BASICS I CLASS - Essential for becoming a Skywarn Spotter. It is a 3-hour class that covers the basics of how Skywarn and the National Weather Service operate, what you need to report and how, and how to spot severe thunderstorms and tornadoes.

- Saturday, May 16th at WSFO Sterling from Noon to 3:00 PM.
- Saturday, July 11th at Prince William County Government Complex from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Call Francis at 703-792-6380 to register.

BASICS II CLASS - This class is an optional sequel to the Basics I class. It is 2 1/2 hours long. It is good for spotters who need a refresher or want additional information and training. It reviews the basic spotting techniques and covers more information about thunderstorms and Doppler radar.

YOU MUST HAVE TAKEN BASICS I IN ORDER TO ATTEND BASICS II.

- Saturday, April 18th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at WSFO Sterling.

Also in the works for June are a Flash Floods class and a Hurricane Spotters Class.

To register for classes taught at the NSFO Sterling, or for more information, call 703-260-0107 Or email Barbara Watson at skywarn1@aol.com.

CLUB BUSINESS



AARC Board Meeting - Date: April 7, 1998

The Board discussed some upcoming events. The Special Event station and parade entry related to the Dogwood Festival. Announcements will be forthcoming at the regular meeting and on the nets.

The June, Field Day exercise will soon be here and preparations are being made. It was felt that no major time was needed at the May meeting. Field Day will be the program at the June meeting.

May 9th is the day for a trip to Greenbank, WV. Joe (KF4FKT) in the valley is heading up the group over there.

There is a need for Hams to serve as information/communicators at the Rozenna (?) Day on May 16th. It is located on Route 20, north of Stony Point. See Dave (K4DND).

The May meeting plans needs to be reworked.

Dave (K4DND) presented the results of tests run on the repeater output of 146.760. Measurements were made at several points along the path to the antenna.

Discussion of these results indicated a real need to perform some system optimization. Two big items mentioned were feedline replacement and Antenna replacement. The estimated cost would probably run 700-1000 dollars. The information will be presented at the regular meeting.

AARC Regular Meeting Minutes Date: Apr. 14, 1998

March Minutes were approved.

New Members: Gary Beasley (KF4WWN) was approved for membership.

Ernie (W2EIU) discussed the upcoming Dogwood Festival Event and Parade. He called for volunteers to sign up for activities in each situation.

Dave (K4DND) made his call for volunteers to sign up to work at Field Day in June. Persons wishing to participate should contact Dave.

Dave also mentioned that there would be an exercise at the University of Virginia Hospital sometime this month (April).

Bill (KC4TQF) asked someone to step forth and take

charge of the T-Hunt Committee.

He mentioned that there was another trip planned to Greenbank, WV, on May 9th. Bow (K4QKH) indicated he would again serve as the local contact person.

Jim (AD4YM) briefly discussed the possibility of an Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) bounce activity at Greenbank in 1999 using the large Antenna there. It was suggested that a program later this year could be conducted on this topic. Perhaps using Jim (AD4YM) and Bill (W4TJ).

Bill established that beginning May 1 and running through October 31, local Hams can earn a special certificate by contacting Special Event stations during that time period. Bill will provide details in the May newsletter. Check the QST Journal for listings of Special Event stations.

Virginia Bill 480 (Antenna related) has not been signed. Send mail to request its approval. (NOTE: The bill was subsequently signed by Governor Gilmore.

Dave (K4DND) presented the following information regarding the test measurements which were recently made regarding the 146.760 and 444.250 repeaters.

	146.760	444.250
Rx frequency	146.160	449.258
Rx sensitivity on	0.16 micro V	0.30 micro V
Rx sensitivity off	0.12 micro V	0.25 Micro V
Tx frequency	146.760	444.253
nominal output pwr	45W	25W
past circulator	33W	na
past #1 can	28W	na
past #2 can	19W	6.5W
past filter	18W	na
at antenna	12W	3W

The following cost estimates were provided for materials which are suggested to be purchased and installed in order to begin the process of making important improvements to the repeaters above.

Piedmont Electronics Co. (Cost + shipping)

Helix	7/8"	\$4.10/ft	connectors \$60
	1/2"	\$1.75/ft	connectors \$27
Shipping		\$35	

Dave suggested that the Club should put in the hardline. Henry Fuller (KD4CQX) can order it at cost + shipping (see above). Elmer (KF4UCI) has experience installir. hardline.

Also proposed was the installation of a new dual banu antenna (cost approximately \$300) with the possibility of placing the old antenna at a Scottsville (*See Minutes, p. 8*)

Minutes

(From p. 7) location for the purpose of emergency communication.

An aside comment mentioned the 220 Repeater. No measurement related to that repeater was provided. Mike (AC4ZQ) gave a brief discussion of lightening suppressors. He mentioned a cost of \$50.

It was suggested that a check be made as to the future of the fire tower on which we have our antennas located.

The above issues will be acted upon at the May meeting. Bob Ross (W2BR) presented a talk on the acquiring of, restoration of and care of boat anchors. His talk was well received. No program outline provided.

Mike (AC4ZQ) mentioned a signal he has heard within the city on frequency 146.225. He encouraged other to listen for it and report to him if heard.

Brian (KF4FRP) mentioned the Youth net (Monday, 8:30 p.m. 147.075) and the Fluvanna ARES net 146.46 Simplex.

The meeting was adjourned and the attendees enjoyed some refreshments.

Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz, KD4RWX, Secretary, AARC

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Wedding...

AARC club member George Hunt, W4AVO, and his fiancée were aboard George's boat "Promise" on their way to be married in George Town, in the Bahamas, when they were in the right place to pick up more than just good tans. From *Scuttlebutt*, the Waterway Radio and Cruising Club newsletter, sent to us by Richard, K4VY, comes this report by Genie Lazowaska, KC4YB:

"Mary saw, far off, what she thought was someone in the water. Changing course, they picked up two Bahamian men who said they had been in the water for eight days with only a 3' by 3' piece of flotsam to keep them afloat. The two Bahamians told George and Mary that they had managed to survive by sucking sargasso weed."

Failing to raise the Bahamian authorities, George called the Miami Coast guard. "By morning, the Coast Guard confirmed the identity of the two fishermen missing since their boat had sunk days earlier."

George and his bride Mary Welsh turned over their unexpected passengers to the Coast Guard and made their way to George Town, where they were married in what must be one of the most picturesque places in the world.

Congratulations to W4AVO and his bride!

AARC 1998 PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Public Service Activities co-ordinator Greg Faust wants YOU to sign up for the next Public Service event. Contact either Greg or Hein, N4FWA, on the 146.76 repeater, on the Net or by phone to sign up. Greg can be reached at 978-1962 or by email at: n4pgs@mail.com. Hein's number is 977-4438, and his email address is: hhvatum@nrao.edu.

DATE	DAY	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TIME	TYPE	CODE
June 6	Sat	MS 150	PVCC	6:00 AM	Bike Tour	MS1TR98
June 7	Sun	MS 150	Farmville	6:00 AM	Bike Tour	MS2TR98
Aug. 8	Sat	James Madison Stage Race #1	Orange High School	8:30 AM	Bike Race (Road Race)	JM1BR98
Aug. 9	Sun	James Madison Stage Race #2	Stanardsville	7:30 AM	Bike Race (Hill Climb)	JM2BR98
Aug. 9	Sun	James Madison Stage Race #3	Downtown Orange	1:00 PM	Bike Race (Criterion)	JM3BR98
Oct. 4	Sun	Heart Walk	Charlottesville		Walk	HRTW98
Oct. 4	Sun	Diabetes Walk	Charlottesville		Walk	DBTW98
Nov. 1	Sun	Montpelier Races	Montpelier		Horse Race	MNTP98

AREA HAMFESTS

May 2 Anne Arundel RC & Kent Island ARC, Grasonville, MD
 Contact: Glenn Durbin, WN3G, 111 Indian Plantation Dr., Stevensville, MD 21666; 410-643-1125; E-mail: K3ORC@amsat.org or pvt pilot@friend.ly.net

May 3 Antietam Radio Assn., Hagerstown, MD
 Contact: Donald Jones, KB8WHW, PO Box 529, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425; 304-728-7769; Fax: 301-791-3010 (Club Fax Line); e-mail: kb8zqm@intrepid.net

May 3 Jackson County ARC, Ripley, WV
 Contact: Gary Casto, AG8RY, Rt. 1, Box 59, Statts Mill, WV 25279; 304-372-2849

May 24 Maryland FM Assn, West Friendship, MD
 Contact: John Elgin, WA3MNN, 518 Copley Ln., Silver Springs, MD 20904; 301-384-6513; Voice/Fax: 301-879-2785; E-mail: FSARC@aol.com

June 7 Ole Virginia Hams ARC, Manassas, VA
 Contact: Mary Lu Blasdell, KB4EFP, 9727 Loudon Ave., Manassas, VA 20109; 703-369-2877

AMATEUR RADIO EXAM DATES FOR VIRGINIA

(sites within 100 miles of Charlottesville)

05/02/98 (ARRL) CHARLOTTESVILLE. John Gray, W6UZ, 804/973-1094. Pre-registration only.
05/04/98 (W5YI) Chester. Anthony Amato, 804/717-5237. Walk-ins okay.
05/07/98 (W5YI) Warrenton. Neil Spokes, 540/364-3861. Walk-ins okay.
05/09/98 (ARRL) Sterling. Michael Weber, 703/450-2304. Walk-ins okay.
05/10/98 (ARRL) Bedford. Judy Friel, AC4RG, 540/297-5351. Walk-ins okay.
05/10/98 (ARRL) Middletown. Gregory Lanham, KU4AN, 540/722-4792. Walk-ins okay.
05/17/98 (ARRL) Roanoke. Terrance Vlug, 540/890-6782.
06/01/98 (W5YI) Chester. Tony Amato, 804/717-5237. Pre-registration only.

If you are interested in taking an Amateur Radio exam at any of these sites, CALL AHEAD for information. Not all test sites accept walk-in registrations.

MAY 1998						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>©Congratulations to the May Birthday hams!</i>					1	2 VE Testing
3	4 INFONET 7PM 220 Net 8:00 PM YOUTHNET 8:30PM YL Net 8:30	5 Board & Technical Meeting 7:30 PM	6 Lunch (11-1) Old Country Buffet	7 ARES Net 8:00PM	8	9 6-mNet 8AM 50.200
10 <i>Mother's Day</i>	11 INFO-NET 7 PM 220 Net 8:00 PM YOUTHNET 8:30PM YL NET 8:30	12 AARC Meeting 7:30 PM	13 Lunch (11-1) Old Country Buffet	14 ARES Net 8:00PM	15 ©KF4EFY	16 6-mNet 8AM 50.200 ©KE4AQD
17 ©KFUHU	18 INFO-NET 7 PM 220 Net 8:00 PM YOUTHNET 8:30PM YL NET 8:30PM	19	20 Lunch (11-1) Old Country Buffet	21 ARES Net 8:00PM	22	23 6-mNet 8AM 50.200 ©KQ4MZ ©KF4NOQ
24 ©KD4QBC	25 INFONET 7PM 220 Net 8:00 PM YOUTHNET 8:30PM YL Net 8:30	26	27 Lunch (11-1) Old Country Buffet	28 ARES Net 8:00PM	29	30 6-mNet 8AM 50.200
31	Memorial Day (observed)	©AD4AD	©N8GEL			

F.Y.I. NEWS FROM THE ARRL

Colvin Award

An international group has received an ARRL Colvin Award grant to help fund a DXpedition to St Brandon (Cargados Islands) planned for May. St Brandon is part of the Republic of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean and is number 17 on the most-wanted list of DXCC entities. The ARRL Colvin Award Grants Committee voted to grant the Canton of Zug branch of the Union of Swiss Short-Wave Amateurs \$5000 for the DXpedition. The group, under the leadership of Karl Graetzer, HB9JAI, has additional financial and in-kind support from Yaesu and Cushcraft, as well as from various DX clubs and commercial sponsors.

"We are very happy to have the contribution of the Colvin Award," Graetzer said this week. "It will help a lot."

Graetzer says all preparations have been completed and the team now is busy with flight cargo, customs formalities, and other activities. The group plans to arrive by boat on May 6 (gear will be ferried to shore by small boats) and to operate as 3B7RF from May 7 until May 17. Operation is expected to be continuous on all bands, including VHF, depending on propagation. Modes will include CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV. Two individual sites will be set up with four operating positions. Fifteen operators from Switzerland, the US, Japan, and Israel will share on-the-air duties.

More information on the St Brandon DXpedition is available at <http://www.3b7-brandon.ch>

Book Review - *RF Exposure and You*

from David Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Executive Vice President: Some radio amateurs were understandably concerned when they first heard about the new FCC RF exposure requirements. Their reaction could be summed up as: "Oh no--not more regulations. Pretty soon you'll have to have an engineering degree before you're allowed to screw in a light bulb!"

Others were more philosophical. "After all," they reasoned, "the new rules are designed to protect my health and that of my neighbors and family. Complying with them could be a bit inconvenient, but at least it will show my neighbors and family that my station is safe."

Whichever way you may have reacted, the new RF exposure rules are now a part of the regulatory landscape and are likely to remain so. The ARRL has done its best to ease the transition. ARRL Headquarters staff and volunteers participated fully with the FCC as it determined the best advice to give amateurs on how to meet the new requirements. We were able to persuade the FCC to

reconsider its rules, and to rewrite them so that amateurs would be less affected.

This book was written to communicate one simple message: For the vast majority of Amateur Radio operators, the RF exposure rules *are not difficult to understand and follow*. This book has what you need -- the background information, suggestions and worksheets to help you to comply with the new RF exposure rules. With this information, you will be able to operate your station legally and safely -- and you *will* be able to operate.

Lower Fees for Vanity Calls?

The ARRL says it supports the proposed lower fee to obtain a vanity call sign. The FCC proposed recently in its fiscal year 1998 fee schedule that vanity filers would pay just \$12.90 for the ten year term, once the new schedule goes into effect later this year. That's the lowest fee in the history of the vanity program. Originally, vanity applicants paid \$30 for the privilege of selecting a specific call sign. The fee jumped to \$50 in September of 1997, just in time for Gate 3 filers but not in time for Gate 4 filers to take advantage of the \$30 fee.

In comments filed April 22 with the FCC, the League called the wide variation in fees over the life of the vanity program "clearly inequitable" and said the FCC should have handled the matter differently. The League called the proposed \$12.90 fee "reasonable" and urged its adoption "as soon as possible."

ET CETERA...

- **FCC grants Little LEO licenses:** The FCC's International Bureau has granted--subject to certain specified conditions--authorizations to four companies to operate non-voice, non-geostationary mobile-satellite systems in low Earth orbit (NVNG MSS or Little Leo systems). None of the operating frequencies are within amateur bands. Little LEO systems will offer data communications services, including two-way data messaging, vehicle tracking and remote meter reading to earthbound users. --*FCC Digest*
- **New astro-hams!** US astronauts Winston Scott and Daniel Tani are newly licensed hams. Scott is KD5DXD, and Tani is KD5DXE.
- **DARA to handle QSLs for October SAREX flight:** The Dayton Amateur Radio Association has agreed to handle QSL duties for the SAREX space shuttle STS-95 mission. That's the October flight that will carry once-and-future astronaut John Glenn into space for the first time since the 1960s. Two hams are among the STS-95 crew members.--*Rosalie White, WA1STO*

From the ARRL Letter Online, Volume 17, Number 17

1998 ALBEMARLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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ARES/RACES Coord.	Dave Damon	K4DND
ARRL VE Coordinator	John Gray	W6UZ
Trustee (WA4TFZ)	Morris Jones	NM4R
Newsletter Editors	Paul Dean	WB9HGZ
	Eileen Dean	WD9EIA

CLUB MEETINGS

Regular Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
 Board and Technial Meetings: First Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Meetings are held at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) building, Edgemont Road (UVa area)

WA4TFZ REPEATERS

Input/Output

Tone Access

146.160/146.760	88.5 (if enabled, DTMF 325* will produce temporary Tone Off and 326* will turn Tone back on)
	Door alarm OFF..... DTMF 100*
	Emergency Autopatch to access 911 Center..... DTMF 911*
	Emergency Autopatch to access VA State Police..... DTMF 918*
	Autopatch Exit..... DTMF 0*
	Time..... DTMF 10*
	Tone Status of repeater..... DTMF 700*
146.325/146.925	88.5 Hz (if enabled)
223.160/224.760	no tone
449.250/444.250	151.4 Hz (if enabled)
145.030	Macho node
145.030	CHO WA4TFZ Packet Bulletin Board

Northern Piedmont Emergency Net

Information Net

146.76 repeater Thursday 8:00 pm	146.76 repeater
Plus swap/trade & technical sesions	Monday 7:00 pm
Net Control: Dave, K4DND	Newsline program & general news
	Net Control: Harry, W2HD

Youth Net

YL Net

147.075 repeater Monday 8:30 pm	146.76 repeater Monday 8:30 pm
Net Control: rotating	Net Control: rotating

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 6833
 Charlottesville, VA 22906

AARC Bulletin May 1998



TO CORRECT LABEL INFORMATION CALL PHONE 973-1738: Your License expires, Oct 31, 2004 D Y A
 KA4JJD G 1998 CURRENT MEMBER

Michael F. Rein
 109 Sturbridge Rd.
 Charlottesville VA 22901