

CHARLOTTESVILLE (Albemarle County) VIRGINIA

Editor: Joseph D. Fritz, KD4RWX

**NOVICE/TECHNICIAN CLASS
UPDATE**

The first class was held on Wednesday evening, February 24, 1999, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The classes are held at CATEC and will run at least to the last Wednesday of April, (28th). In any event, they will continue for a period of at least 10 consecutive weeks.

MARCH CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, March 9, 1999 7:30 PM

Topic: ARES EXCITEMENT

Dave Damon, K4DND

Location: NRAO Auditorium
on the UVA Grounds off Edgemont Road

very concise in reporting your information, keeping it in a logical order. For a person: race, sex, age, height and weight, build, hair, distinguishing features, clothing and method and direction of travel. For a vehicle: color, make, model, tag #, direction of travel and number of occupants.

You may not have all of the above information, but do your best to get as much as possible and be accurate. You may also have to spend a little time assessing a situation to be sure it is not a normal or logical event before calling 911. The police appreciate our help, but try not to jump to conclusions too quickly.

The most important thing to keep in mind: **Do not get physically involved** unless it is necessary to aid an injured person. Get out of the way unless the police request you to remain. Remember, they don't want anything to happen to you and if your aren't hanging around during a dangerous situation, you are one less person they need to be concerned about!

The March meeting should be an enlivening meeting. Dave Damon is going to line up a very entertaining group to dazzle us with ARES excitement and some of those activities we all know and love. Try to attend this upcoming event.

**EC and DEC Reflections 1979-1999
Morris Jones - NM4R**

I have submitted my resignation as DEC for the Northern Piedmont District #3 effective March 15, 1999. I am strongly recommending that Dave Damon, K4DND, be appointed to this position. I wish to thank all of you for your commitment to ARES/RACES during my tenure. I have a large notebook with many call signs and names of those who have participated over the years. There are a few reflections I would like to make.

In March 1978 I was licensed as N4AAW, General Class, in Norfolk. I accepted the appointment as EC for Charlottesville-Albemarle in December of 1979 and the Charlottesville-Albemarle Emergency Net was launched on January 16, 1980 with 13 check ins. Our December roster of ARES members as transmitted to me was seven. In January, 40 signed on or re-signed as ARES members and growth continued to over 60. At this time John Williams, WD4KUK, was DEC for two very large Districts (Capitol & N. Piedmont). I was appointed DEC for N. Piedmont in June 1980 and our Net name was changed to Northern Piedmont Emergency Net (NPEN). On June 27, 1980 our first drill, a simulated commercial aircraft crash, was conducted using UVA an MJ hospitals with 8 operators participating. Many other drills occurred and several memories linger - twice I was called off the golf course.

One event lingers in my memory. In preparation for the first North Anna drill, my wife and I drove to Louisa to check with the County Administrator and Sheriff. The jail was in the Courthouse and the County Administrator's office on the third floor, giving us access to the roof through a ceiling trap door. After meeting with the Sheriff and the County Administrator, we drove to North Anna to check with Virginia Power personnel. I recalled a need for 80 meters communications, so we drove back to the Courthouse. Our club had an 80 meter dipole supported by telescoping poles and guy wires. I wanted to see if the area around the Courthouse was sufficient for this antenna. The Courthouse is on a grassy island with a circular road around it. I asked my wife to

park our large, all metal, dark blue, 1972 Catalina on the outside of the circle headed for Charlottesville. Then, I went to the wall of the Courthouse and began pacing for distances: one, two, three, four, etc. in this direction; one, two, three, four, etc. in another direction. I continued pacing the area and suddenly two police cars approached - one from the left and one from the right. Four armed deputies emerged from the cars and surrounded me while keeping an eye on my wife (Bonnie) parked across the street. They inquired about my activity. Oh, I was just trying to see if an 80 meter dipole would fit on the grassy area. Try that one for an alibi! We went in to see the Sheriff and he vouched for my previous appointment. Bonnie and Clyde went free. We used a 67 foot, 5-band Morgain on the roof. I forgot the number of paces!!

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THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Don - KE4DDR

I almost forgot to write this, but you are in for a treat. With hints of warm weather and Greg, N4PGS, passing out sign up sheets it must be public service season! Believe me, there is nothing like it. Sitting in the shade, watching hot and sweaty walk or run by; and importantly, it helps to prepare you to work in an emergency situation by passing traffic. It really is fun working these events. If you've never experienced these events and worried about being new at this, you can work with someone who has worked these events in the past. So please feel free to sign up and ENJOY YOURSELF.

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PEEP FROM THE VEEP

Jessie, KE4OID

If you were not in attendance at the February meeting, you missed a very enjoyable and informative program. Sgt. Martin, of the Albemarle County Police, presented a very interesting talk on Mobile Watch. He enlivened the whole evening with true stories as well.

To assist in this program, we need to remember three things: HOW, WHEN and WHERE. Be

**The Repeater Oversight Committee
Dave, K4DND**

The Repeater Oversight Committee established by the AARC at the end of last year is now being reorganized. I am soliciting comments from anyone interested in any aspect of the AARC repeaters. Please send by email any input you would like to make and indicate if you would like to officially be part of the oversight group. Those people interested in being part of the oversight group will receive back the assembled comments, which will be the basis of work groups assigned specific tasks. You do not need to have technical experience to help out, only an interest and willingness to learn by working with others that have the know-how, as all technical aspects of anything we propose will be routed through the already established and capable technical committee.

Please be advised that there are no constraints on the comments, criticisms, or suggestions that you can make. However, I am primarily interested in hearing from those individuals that are willing to turn suggestions into activity. Please get anything you have to me as soon as possible. Thanks.

DUMP THE DUCK

Harry, W2HD

Well, folks, I never expected to revisit this subject so quickly, but circumstances require another reminder for some and perhaps a first introduction to our newer members. The title really tells a complete story... DUMP THE DUCK. The "DUCK" refers to the li'l flexible antenna supplied with every hand-held sold today, even if the unit cost hundreds of dollars. But, why pick on this wee part of your new purchase?

Well, put very simply the rubber duck is a great substitute for a "real" antenna when conditions are just about perfect with local repeaters. However, that is not the situation with our current situation. The "76" repeater has been temporarily taken off the air so that the "925" could be tried in the hot r-f environment of Carters Mountain. Gremlins still exist and we are finding that the faithful little rubber duck can't hack the stiffer needs of a repeater on Carter's. It takes a bit more signal to use the "925" at this location and it will probably be returned to Martha Jeff in a few weeks or less. Some of the local hams have gone into the antenna construction business so that their H/T can still perform without the constant comment about the signal being unreadable. You undoubtedly recall Steve (KF4ZGD's) article last month which showed how easy and relatively inexpensively an antenna could be built which could perform its job. Steve is one of the newest and youngest members of AARC. He did it, can you?

Actually, it may not be necessary to build the beam which KF4ZGD describes. There are many other antennas... cheaper and simpler which can do a creditable job depending upon your location and operating position. They carry names like Ground Plane, Vertical Dipole, "J", Collinear and Extended whip. I'll bring some of them to the next meeting and you can take a look and determine which might do the job for you.

Incidentally, this is not the only solution to your problems. It is absolutely impossible to take the best antenna you can obtain, enclose it in a metal container and expect results. Whatever the choice, put the antenna up as high and in the clear as possible. There is no substitute for a clear shot at the repeater with a good antenna. It needn't cost lots of bux, either. 73...

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ANTENNA BASICS (Part two)

Steven Traylor, KF4ZGD

Before I begin I would like to add this note: I am very thankful for all the hard work that several of our club members have been doing in trying to fix the "gremlin" on our repeater. I just talked to Mike (AC4ZQ) and he gave me

BIRTHDAYS: MARCH

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----|
| W4DGN..... | Phil..... | 1 |
| W2EIU..... | Ernest..... | 2 |
| N4DGR..... | James..... | 3 |
| KJ4XZ..... | Wilfred..... | 7 |
| NM4R..... | Morris..... | 8 |
| KE4NHP..... | Jerry..... | 11 |
| KF4TKJ..... | Matthew..... | 22 |
| KS4NW..... | Charles..... | 23 |
| KD4CUJ..... | Kay..... | 24 |
| W4DO..... | Harrison..... | 28 |
| AG4N..... | Ed..... | 31 |
| KF4JHE..... | Deborah..... | 31 |

a comprehensive report on all that has been accomplished so far in our search for a solution to this problem. Thanks to ALL who have helped!

Well, here is the second article that I told you I would write. This time I will discuss the ever popular "J-Pole."

When I first got into ham radio, I thought that a "J-Pole" was a large bulky antenna. It was not until I researched the topic that I realized what a J-Pole really was. As its name implies, a J-pole looks like a "J." It helps to visualize this antenna in this outlandish way: Imagine a small planting box, roughly four (4) feet by one (1) foot. At one end of this box is growing a 75 foot tree, and at the other end is growing a 25 foot tree. To complete the picture, we will replace the planting box with a piece of metal 3 inches by 1 inch. The trees would be replaced by two metal rods, one being 0.25 of a wavelength, and the other 0.75 of a wavelength, or, simply, a 1/4 wavelength rod and a 3/4th of a wavelength rod. That is certainly a strange illustration, but I think that it gets the point across in the best way I can. So, in reality, we are talking about a reasonably sized antenna that is relatively inexpensive to build! It does not need to be mounted on a tower to get a strong signal on all local repeaters. It also does not need hours of calculating complicated formulas! So lets get started! (If you are having problems with the "gremlin" on our repeater, this may be the antenna for you to build.)

For this antenna you will need:
 My first antenna article (in the February 1999 AARC newsletter)
 Four foot brazing rod
 Three foot brazing rod
 3 inch by 1 inch piece of sheet metal
 Coax with both ends stripped
 PL 259 connector
 HEAVY DUTY cutting tools
 Bench vice
 Soldering iron
 Solder

The dimensions given in this article are for a 2 meter J-Pole. If you would like to make one for another band you should use the wavelengths already given in the word picture that I gave earlier of this article and calculate the length of the rods for the particular band you in which you would like to operate. Refer to my other article, if necessary. Your finished J-Pole should look something like the illustration I gave at the beginning of this article.

The first step to building this antenna is to cut the three foot brazing rod to 19 inches. Save the other piece! Cut the left over piece to ten inches.

Now take the four foot brazing rod, insert it into the bench vice, and clamp the vice down. When this is done, solder the ten inch piece to the four foot piece (end to end). You should now have a brazing rod 58 inches long.

Drill two holes in the sheet metal about 1 1/2 inches to 2 inches apart. Solder one end of the 58 inch rod into one of the holes. In the same way, solder the 19 inch rod into the other hole. Now solder the PL 259 onto one end of the prepared coax. Take the other end of the coax and solder the outer braid onto the 19 inch rod, just above the sheet metal. Take the center conductor on the coax and solder it to the 58 inch rod. Now you are done! If desired you can use a SWR meter to cut the rods to a low SWR!

Well, that is all for this time, but I will be back next month, with plans for a portable 3 element beam! So, I guess I'll say 73, and see you next month, in the peak of springtime.

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Death...

The Amateur Radio community is often confronted with the deaths of fellow Hams. And, just like the deaths of others, they are noted and time goes on. Not much can be done. However, we are sometimes made aware of individuals who have achieved some notoriety or status. These deaths often get more publicity. One such death was recently the subject of another ARRL Bulletin. See ARLX001 King Hussein, JY1, SK. It is elsewhere in this issue.

Birth...

What a blessing birth is. The renewal of life - all kinds of life - is a wonder to behold. It is a pleasure to announce the birth of a daughter to one of the Ham families in this area, Pete (K4MW) and Alisa (KE4BRH) Wildman. The new arrival is called **Katie Wildman**. Pete announced the news on the Monday Night Information Net. Pete is a former President of the AARC. Congratulations to the Wildmans. I understand there will be some changes made.

THE "I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S A TOWER," TOWER

Grayson, KF4FYI

Do you need a tower but can't quite see yourself financially able to afford one? Or, can you afford one but can't see yourself paying a big price for one? Well, I think I may be of some help to you in both instances.

Some of you may be plumbers and some of you may be electricians or have worked in other professions. Regardless, you probably have had the occasion to run into a use for PVC pipe. You can find all sorts of sizes, type of fittings and many, many uses for the same. It is used for piping sewage, water and electrical wiring and whatever else you may want to use it for. Now, in this instance, lets say we are going to make a thirty foot tower. I can hear some of you now saying, how? Well, put it this way. It's light, strong and has a flexibility in wind. So, why not be able to construct a tower with it? The BEST PART is that it is VERY INEXPENSIVE. All you need is imagination.

Here are a few simple instructions.

First. You will need an assortment of simple hand tools.

A hack saw w/mitre box, screwdriver, Phillips or straight blade, #10 screws - 1 inch long, a piece of fine sandpaper and pvc glue. Any kind of rule will do for making measurements.

Second. Figure out the height and square width and the size of pipe you need for the load it will carry. Then grab your checkbook or wallet and head for the nearest store that carries pvc pipe and fittings.

Third. Now comes the art of making the sections according to the size pipe you are going to use. When using pipe size 1 inch and under, you should make the sections 4 feet or less. Using larger size pipe, the sections can be 4 feet to 8 feet in length.

Requirements per section:

The first, third and fifth sections will need two Cross-Sections connected by four Uprights. Each Cross-Section will require 1-cross tee (X-T), 4-tee connectors (TC) and 4-short, straight pipe pieces (SS), cut to fit width of section you desire. Then cut sections of pipe (Uprights) to connect these two Cross-Sections together. After these sections (1, 3, 5) are complete, then cut the remaining pipe (Uprights) to connect these sections together. Make sure all sections are aligned properly so when set upright, the tower will be straight. The larger drawing shows a overhead view of

a cross section. The reduced size Side View drawing shows how the Upright pipes are connected. These pipes provide the vertical height to a section.

Each connection, after gluing and setting up, needs a safety factor. Drill a hole approximately 3/16" in diameter in each fitting where pipes connect. Screw a #10 screw into this hole and tighten securely.

Do this to each fitting where a pipe is fitted. This is to insure stability, in case a joint were to loosen, due to not enough glue.

Base mounting:

I haven't thought much about mounting, as it seems such a trivial thing, but it can be done just about anyway that is practical. I would suggest using the same size pvc pipe - embedded in concrete about the size of 2ft x 2ft x 1ft in depth. If the tower is used for emergency purposes only, just use your imagination to figure out how to stabilize it. If mounted in concrete, do not glue. Use bolts instead.

Antenna and rotator mounting:

This is another part where you can use your imagination. There are a couple of ways that I would recommend. You can install a square plate, depending on the rotator motor, and mount to that. Or, you can use a short piece of metal pipe and connect the motor to it.

Guying and grounding:

I recommend using guy wires, if the tower is high enough. Please don't forget to ground the metal parts of the tower for safety.

If anyone needs to know more about building towers out of metal or pvc pipe, I will consider giving classes at my home one night a week. All material will be furnished by the student. Any information needed, you can call me at home.

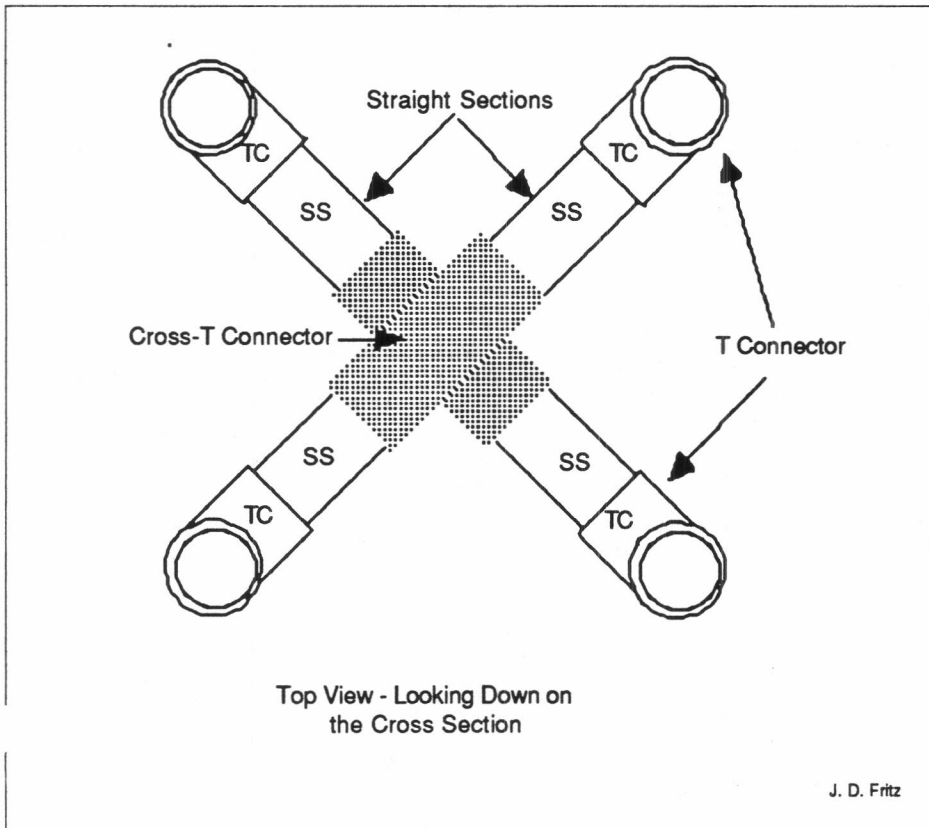
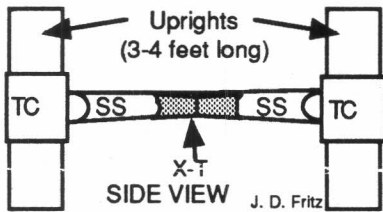
If there are any questions call Grayson (KF4FYI) at 293-4885. My home address is, 1411 Monticello Rd., Charlottesville.

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GREMLIN UPDATE

Mike Duvall, AC4ZQ
Technical Committee Chair

I guess there are many people out there wondering what has been going on with the repeaters. What follows, believe it our not, is a brief discussion of what we have looked into. If you don't like details please skip to the summary at the end. I would like to take this opportunity to thank KF4UTD, AD4AD, and KF4FYI for their major role in helping with this effort. Secondly, I would like to thank all the people that helped out or just looked over our shoulders.



*** What have we done?**

Many of you remember the meeting we had about a year ago to brainstorm and come up with ideas on what was causing the gremlin noises on the repeater. All the information collected from that meeting was posted on the gremlin web page. Since that meeting, I have personally check out virtually ever statement on that web page. Some of the possible causes proved true. Others could not be substantiated.

*** What have we discovered?**

In the unsubstantiated column is spurious signals on our input frequency. We ran tests right next to CFW's pager transmitter using a spectrum analyzer supplied by them. No signals could be detected on our input frequency. I repeated the experiment using equipment provided by Sperry Marines Systems and connected directly to our repeater antenna. Again, no signals were detected on our input frequency. The spectrum analyzers used were both \$50,000+ instruments with recent calibration stickers. There was nothing unusual in the patterns. The only thing worth noting was that on our antenna, the levels of the most offensive pagers were between -14 and -18 db. VERY STRONG!!

I am sure some of you are saying, "I can hear a signal on the input. It must be there." You are right. I think I might have been the first one to mention it. You can hear something when your rig is tuned around 146.16 under the right conditions. So, why can I hear it, you ask. The signals appear when the pager signals get strong enough to overload the pre-amp in the receiver. When the pre-amp overloads, it creates mixing products that is impossible to distinguish from a real signal. The way to prove this to put a band pass or notch filter in the system. I tried this experiment using the radio and antenna on my truck at the base of our repeater tower. With the filter in place, I could not detect anything on our input frequency. This reinforces the measurements made with the spectrum analyzers.

In the substantiated column, we found that pagers on 152.12 and 158.1 MHz cause the most substantial portion of the gremlin problem. Both pagers are within 4000ft of our tower. These two signals when mixed appropriately produce an output on 146.140 ($2 \times 152.12 - 158.1 = 146.140$).

If you get close to the mountain and tune around this frequency chances are you will hear pager noise. In virtual all cases I have heard, both pages must be on to hear the gremlin on the repeater.

Computer calculations using the 7 POWER HOUSE pagers picked up using a scanner only identified 2 hits out of 1356 checks. Both were third order products. The first does not involve the repeater output.

$$152.1500 + 152.1200 - 158.1000 = 146.1700$$

Please note the 152.150 was identified as one of the product. 152.15 it does not seem to be that big a player.

Another interesting product is shown below.

$$158.1000 + 146.7600 - 158.7000 = 146.1600$$

Note that 158.1 and 158.7 are the most powerful signals heard on the mountain. Both were in the -15dbm range.

One thing we could not substantiate was receiver overload or image injection. I measured pager signals in the -40 to -50 DBm range at the input to the receiver. These are certainly unhealthy levels considering we are trying to detect weak signals in the -100 to -120 DBm range. Virtually all ham receivers will produce detectable mixing products when off frequency signals get to the -60 to -65 DBm range. The pager signals are 20 to 25 DB stronger than this level but out of band. Being out of band helps some, but the overloading occurs in the first stage of the receiver. You cannot filter it out in the receiver. The only way to demonstrate it would be to measure it in a lab.

We also know that the shielding around the receiver only provides about 40 to 50 DB of isolation at best. Many of the wires attached to the receiver are unshielded and about the right length to be resonate at 2 meters. This make it easy for the wire to pick up signals and couple them into the receiver. Calculation on the slots and holes in the enclosure demonstrates other leakage paths in the 30 to 40 db range.

Another thing, I found was that when you turn the tone off, the 146.76 repeater can go into oscillation. In this condition the audio from the receiver is transmitted and comes back in the receiver. Any change to the audio path changes the character of the sound. Putting the repeater on a dummy load eliminated this problem.

*** Why we tried 925?**

After reading the description above it should be obvious why we wanted to try 146.925 on the mountain. The first and most important reason was to get away from the pagers. The computer intermod calculations using the 7 POWER HOUSE pagers indicate that the 146.925 repeater input frequency was clear of mixing products. The second reason was to try a different receiver on the mountain. The 146.925 repeater has a higher IF frequency so it should be a cleaner.

*** What were the results?**

This was a rather trying experience. The 146.925 repeater was never run with the tone on at Martha Jefferson Hospital for any length of time. When we moved 925 to the mountain we found that tone access did not control the audio path through the repeater as it should. Anytime the transmitter transmits, a signal

strong enough to break the squelch will be transmitted. This is an easily correctable defect in the repeater that should not be held against it. After all 146.76 has had literally years of grooming to get that function working. I think a few tweaks of some pots will fix the problem.

On the plus side, the repeater works great with weak signals. You no longer hear people with clean signals into the repeater getting BRAAAAPPPED out by the pagers. Indeed the most common problem now is people fading below the squelch threshold. Several times I have used the HT at home to talk to people on the repeater. One night N7IVV, KF4FYI and myself talked for about an hour using only HTs. N7IVV lives out near 33. KF4ZDG has talked to me several times using his HT and indoor antenna from near lake Monticello.

There was one negative in the experiment. For some strange reason the 925 has the same stupid audio feedback problem that 146.76 has. This causes the screeching sound you hear after someone unkeys. This is one of those problems that should not be there. We know that reducing the repeater output power eliminates the problem. Indeed, from Saturday when the 146.925 repeater and cans were installed on the mountain, until Wednesday night, the repeater was only putting out 2 watts. The reports on the Monday night net were fantastic. Late Wednesday night, I made a late night run up to the mountain when the repeater died and fixed it. I corrected the power output problem, as well. The repeater power was increased to 15 watts. I immediately had to put the tone on.

*** What does it all mean?**

It sounds like the 146.925 frequency pair works fine on the mountain. Weak signals have few problems getting into the machine. There is a problem with feedback that can be corrected by fixing the tone access problem. Using the 146.925 pair would give us a nice clean, sensitive machine. If we could figure out why the repeater wants to oscillate without tone we might even come closer to cleaning up 146.76.

*** Where do we go from here?**

The next thing we should do is have a meeting of the people that use the repeaters and discuss the short term solutions and the long term goals. The best thing to do at this point would be to recrystal the 146.76 repeater to 146.925. This will give us all the functionality we had on the old 146.76, better coverage and weak signal capability.

Mike Duvall, AC4ZQ

Technical Committee Chairman

Editor's Note: The 146.760 repeater was reinstalled on Carters Mountain. The Transmit antenna is not on the tower. The receive antenna is still on the tower.

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TONES, REFRESHMENTS and AMATEUR RADIO PRACTICES

by, KD4RWX

One of the perks of being the Editor of this newsletter, is that, within reason, I can comment on a variety of subjects. Who knows, I might not give it up after all. A lot of things to say and not much time to say it all.

Tones...

Having been involved with publishing the newsletter and the Directory for a few years, I often wondered if people actually read the material. I am always please to hear comments (positive ones sound better to me) concerning the documents. On occasions I hear comments over the air which make me think, "Read the newsletter!" The recent repeater problems have caused us to use tone on the 146.925 repeater. Harry (W2HD) has informed several local individuals to turn on their tone. Some would respond, "What is the tone?" Harry would reply, "88.5." The response was often, "When did it change?"

The tone was changed about 2-3 years ago. It has been published in just about every issue of the Bulletin and in every issue of the Directory since it was changed.

Some ask, "When is the next meeting?" I grit my teeth and look at the last newsletter to see if I forgot to include a meeting notice.

Refreshments (Food for Thought)...

With apologies to Jessie (KE4OID), who promised to not speak to this issue again, I will speak my mind.

The vote is in. The rejoicing is over. I do not know the complete history of this topic, but I know a little about it. Former Treasurer, Ed Burnet (WA4UPI/sk 1994) did it without fail and all rejoiced --- "How nice - chat - chat - chat and we all went home!"

Along came Sharon (KO4OC). She assumed it was part of the job and did it a long while and all rejoiced --- "How nice - chat - chat - chat - chat and we all went home!"

Then a "little bird" (me) told her that was NOT the responsibility of the Treasurer. "How nice - chat - chat - chat - chat and we all went home!"

Jessie began to get members to sign up to bring the refreshments. A few did. Sometimes repeating. Most volunteers seemed to be Lady Hams. Hmmm! "How nice? - Chat - chat - chat - chat and we all went home!"

Not liking to see repeat volunteers, Jessie threw down the gauntlet - No more redundant "Bringers of Refreshments." She felt more sharing of the load was in order. Shall I report

the results? You bet.

At the February meeting there were no refreshments. No one had volunteered. "Where's the food? - Chat - chat - chat - chat and we all went home!"

I can't recall the last time we went without refreshments. You might suppose that there was a clamor to sign up when requested. NOT! Only one person responded. Yes, a Lady Ham. Yes, she had done it 2 or 3 times before. So much for sharing the load.

We let Ed do it by default. We let Sharon do it by default. We had some success when others came forth. But, now we have reached a "fork in the road."

Two things come to my mind. Continue to have refreshments and establish a Committee which has rotating responsibilities to provide this service. Then let the committee work out the details for the year. "How nice - chat - chat - chat - chat and we all go home!"

Or, we can not have the refreshments at all. We could save about \$150-\$200 each year. "Chat - chat - chat - chat and we all go home!"

Amateur Radio Practices...

Several years ago, I was dialing through one of the HF bands on which I could not "talk" and I came across some troubling communications. I spoke of this observation at the next General Class I was taking. The reaction was, "Yes, we have some troubling situations. Not much is being done about it."

This surprised me. I had learned that no foul language was permitted and no malicious interference was permitted. Also, you were absolutely required to send your ID within certain time limits and situations. What I had heard was a mess. Cussing, degrading racial slurs, willful interference and no identification. Just about everything was scrapped and these were Hams.

Fast forward to late 1998 and early 1999. Testing irregularities had become a problem as, well.

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, was placed in charge of such things as enforcement of Amateur Radio practices. If you have listened to the Monday Night Information Net, read QST, and monitored the ARRL Bulletins, you have seen a dramatic increase in the FCC's actions regarding Regulation violations. (Read the ARLB012 below.)

It looks like that the FCC is now prepared to act against those activities which have been giving Amateur Radio a "black eye." Fortunately, we do not have any problems in our area which are sustained. We certainly have periodic minor infractions, but the FCC is acting against the serious problems. We

have never has a testing problem to my knowledge. John Gray (W6UZ) runs a "tight ship." And, the next exam session is set for May 8th. Begin your preparations now.

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ARRL Bulletin 12 ARLB012
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT February 19, 1999
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB012
ARRL012 FCC takes enforcement actions

The FCC has told a Delaware ham that she must take her Amateur Radio examinations again or lose her license. The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says "questions were raised" about how Sheila Bowden, N3QQS, of Millsboro, upgraded to Extra. He said the FCC is requesting that Bowden start from scratch and retake "all the elements." Bowden was notified February 16.

The FCC has the authority under Part 97 to re-administer exam elements previously administered by VEs. The FCC told Bowden that she must retake the Amateur Extra Class examination series at an ARRL/VEC session before March 19 or lose her license.

Hollingsworth said the FCC plans to call in additional amateur licensees for retesting in the near future. In all of those cases, Hollingsworth said, the FCC has reason to suspect the integrity of the examination process.

"The ham community needs to have a sense of confidence in the examination system," Hollingsworth said. "This is a critical link in the chain."

Last month, the FCC dismissed the Extra class license formerly held by Bowden's husband, Wayne, after the Commission discovered "irregularities in the administration of the examination by the Volunteer Examiners." Wayne Bowden, formerly AA3RT, took the complete Amateur Radio examination series at an October 4 W5YI-VEC session. He had not held an amateur license before then.

The FCC is continuing its probe into alleged testing irregularities at Pennsylvania W5YI-VEC sessions October 4 and 6, including allegations that examinees might have been coached or given test answers.

In a separate action, the FCC has suspended the HF privileges of a New Jersey ham. The FCC notified Walter P. Miller Jr., W2YEE, of Edison that his privileges to operate below 30 MHz were being suspended for 180 days. The license-modification letter February 16 from Hollingsworth came in the wake of an earlier warning letter to W2YEE.

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

<http://members.aol.com/wa4tfz/aarc/>



AARC BULLETIN
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MARCH

DEADLINE FOR EACH ISSUE
The 23rd of each month

Contact Information

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TO CORRECT LABEL INFORMATION CALL PHONE 973-1738. Your License expires Oct 31, 2004 D Y A
KA4JJD G 1999

Michael F. Rein
109 Sturbridge Rd.
Charlottesville VA 22901

CURRENT MEMBER

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Notify Joe (KD4RWX) to place
information on the calendar.

Committee reports;
Nominations due for
Ham of The Year

Nov: 9 Meeting
Dec: 14 Meeting

| Month | Day(s) | Activity |
|--------|--------|------------------------------------|
| Mar: | 9 | Meeting |
| March | 21 | Jefferson Cup Bike Race |
| April | 11 | MS Walk |
| Apr: | 13 | Meeting |
| April | 18 | Lake Monticello Boat Race |
| April | 25 | March of Dimes Walk |
| May | 8 | VE Session (NRAO) |
| May: | 11 | Meeting |
| May | 15 | Tour de Cure Bike Tour |
| May | 15 | Walnut Creek Road Race |
| June | 5 | MS 150 Bike Tour - 1st Day |
| June | 6 | MS 150 Bike Tour - 2nd Day |
| Jun: | 8 | Meeting |
| Jun | 26-27 | Field Day |
| Jul: | 13 | Meeting |
| August | 8 | DelMarVa State Championship Bike |
| Aug: | 10 | Picnic Meeting |
| Sept: | 14 | Meeting Nominating Committee named |
| Oct: | 12 | Annual Meeting Elections and |

CLUB MEETINGS

Regular Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Board and Technical Meetings: First Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Meetings are held at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) building, Edgemont Road (UVA area)

WA4TFZ REPEATERS

| INPUT/OUTPUT | TONE ACCESS (if required, etc.) |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 146.160/146.760 | 88.5 Hz |
| (If tone is enabled, you can turn the tone off and back on temporarily by: | |
| Temporary Tone OFF | DTMF 325* |
| Remove Temporary Tone Off | DTMF 326* |
| Door alarm off | DTMF 100* |
| Emergency Autopatch to 911 Center | DTMF 911* |
| Emergency Autopatch to 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 Packet Bulletin Board | |

LOCAL NETS: (146.760 repeater)

Monday night: Information Net (each Monday) 7 PM
YL Net (1st Monday of month) 8:30 PM

Thursday night: Northern Piedmont Emergency Net & Swap Net & Technical Session (each Thursday) 8 PM

LUNCHEON:

Wednesday: Area Hams gather at the Old Country Buffet (OCB) next to TOYS R US on 29 North 11 AM - 1 PM