



Inside this Issue

- 1 Meeting Notice
- 1 Virginia QSO Party!!
- 1 The President Speaks
- 2 Peep From The Veep
- 2 So, What's Next?
- 3 New Name for the Bulletin Contest
- 3 The Lure of DX and Contesting – A Prelude
- 4 Club Business
- 5 Virginia General Assembly Heaps High Praise on Hams
- 6 Summary Treasurer's Year-End Report for 1999
- 6 Band Plan of the Month – 2 Meters
- 7 AARC Classified Ads
- 7 Hamfests of Some Note
- 7 FCC Database Updates
- 7 VE Session Schedule - 2000
- 7 Birthdays This Month

Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on March 14 at 7:30 PM, at the NRAO building at UVA. Buck Rogers, K4ABT, the Digital editor for CQ magazine, will give a presentation on packet radio.

Virginia QSO Party!!

Bill Lorentz, KS4II

The Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club would like to announce that the 2000 Virginia QSO Party will be held from March 18 - 20 2000. If you require additional information about the contest please contact me via E-mail at ks4ii@bellatlantic.net. Information about the contest can be found on the SPARC website at www.qsl.net/sterling.

73 de Bill Lorentz, KS4II, Virginia QSO Party Co-Chairman & Secretary, SPARC.

[Editor's Note: This is a fun contest, where the rest of the world is looking for stations in Virginia. I participated in it last year from Nelson County and had a great time – I even won first place for Nelson County! This year, I'll be giving out a lot of Greene County QSO's. The contest rules may be found at the website, or watch for them in the contest announcements in QST, CQ or Worldradio. CU in the QSO Party!!]

The President Speaks

Bob, K4DU

It looks as if we are going to make it through another winter. I must confess that I have been thinking about antennas. The new beam has arrived and I'm waiting for the ground to dry. Hopefully next month I'll be able to tell you about putting it together and getting it up on the tower.

As President I get the opportunity to use the office as a "Bully Pulpit" to speak on issues of importance. Our club is blessed with a wealth of knowledge and talent. We have also been blessed with people who are willing to devote time outside of meetings to make things work. One of the purposes of the hobby is to provide a pool of trained people skilled in the technical and communications field. The last time I checked people were still not being born with this knowledge, it has to be acquired. The technical committee is responsible for the clubs repeaters and our packet stations. If you want to learn about repeaters, duplexers and how all this stuff works, the best way is to get involved with the technical committee. New volunteers will not be expected to field strip a repeater and put it back together on the first Saturday morning. We learn by doing, and there is a lot of

work to be done! So if you would like to get involved call Mike AC4ZQ.

On another note, John Gray W6UZ has informed me that the spring session will be the last session that he will serve as coordinator for our VE Sessions. I have tried to avoid this by reminding John that we attempted to train someone to fill his shoes once before. That was several years ago. The fellow we trained left town and is now working with the Virginia prison system. It is clear to me that with restructuring the club will be holding more VE sessions in the coming months. If you have interest in this very important position, call me or contact a member of the board.

73, Bob

Peep From The Veep

Dick, W4BZW

The relocation and reconfiguration of the club's repeater system has been on going since the disaster on Carter's Mountain and has required many hours of work by members of the technical committee and others. One of the last components to come back on line will be the packet radio subsystem. Since the voice subsystems have received most of the club's attention in recent discussions and since the packet subsystem is coming back on line soon, it is a good time to have a packet radio presentation as a refresher for some and as an introduction for others.

We are fortunate to have Buck Rogers K4ABT, the Digital Editor for CQ Magazine, as our speaker this month at the AARC club meeting. He will present a Packet Radio forum and will pass out a free **Packet Radio Handbook** to all who attend. I am sure that Buck will also discuss the Southeastern Emergency Digital Association Networks (SEDAN) and provide any details the club membership may have on this emergency communications network. I am looking forward to this presentation and I hope to see you there.

73s, Dick W4BZW

So, What's Next?

Harry, W2HD

You have been introduced to the FCC's new licensing structure... three classes and one code speed of 5-wpm. You were given a prediction of new band alignments yet to come and now you're sitting here waiting for the whole picture to develop. What's next?

Well, first of all guys and gals, what are YOU waiting for? You should be busy studying all the new requirements for licensing. They certainly aren't too hard and many of you

have already completed the most difficult (some say)... the code exam. Everything else will fall into place nicely if you study a little each day for the next phase of exams. Then, you will be prepared to swim in the big swimming pool. C'mon in, the water's fine!

Up to this time, most of you have relied on repeaters and the sometimes-reduced range or closed band conditions on ten meters. The doors will now open on the many, many bands you have never tried, but are there for your enjoyment. Don't throw away the 2m/450 HT.

You will want that for the local contacts when you tell all your vhf/uhf friends about your newly acquired privileges.

You will need an HF transceiver or even a used transmitter and receiver combo, which are almost always available at Hamfests, Flea Markets and the local For Sale listings. The cost could even be less than that dual-band HT you recently acquired. You will need a new antenna system. It doesn't have to be a big tower and multi-element beam (Oh, I hear you say! Look who's talking about antennas... He's the guy with a 5-band beam up more than 50-feet in the air and a 265-foot wire antenna, too!)

You're right, W2HD does have such an antenna system, but that's after many years of operating with considerably less. Would you believe a piece of wire going out a basement window, up the side of the house out to a telephone pole? An attic dipole fed with ladder line so that it would cover something more than a single band. A vertical, complete with a bunch of radials in an unfinished attic was also used in those early days. The vertical was a tri-band mobile antenna, which covered 10, 15 and 20 meters.

I used to talk to my Dad in Florida with those attic antennas. My first outside antenna after my bride and I moved to our first home was a 66-foot dipole on a twenty-foot mast section on one end and hooked to the chimney on the other end drooping to about 15-feet above the ground where it was fed with that good old ladder line again. My log shows a contact with an English station on 80-meter CW. using a World War II converted transmitter at 30-watts.

So you see, fellows and gals my antenna systems went through a lot of pages in the ARRL antenna manual, but something was proven with all of this effort. You can make your signal heard without the big beam up high in the sky or the monstrosly long wire stretching from tree to tree. There are those of us in the AARC who are ready and very willing to assist you in getting on the air with whatever "real estate" you occupy. One of our local stations who is using an attic antenna has joined several of us on the "Sperry Net" four times a week. He runs less than 100-watts and is heard by all the stations on the net on a regular basis. We'll talk more in future columns.

73... /s/ Harry, W2HD

New Name for the Bulletin Contest

Bob, K4UVT

The contest to find a new name for the AARC Bulletin continues through the month of March. So far, we have received an entry from one person. Let's make it tough for the Publications committee to decide on the best name! Entries may be submitted directly to your editor or to any member of the Publications committee.

Remember, the person submitting the best title will win a copy of the *2000 ARRL Handbook*, compliments of the AARC. You may be our winner!

The Lure of DX and Contesting - A Prelude

Bob, K4UVT

I suppose the thing that first got me into amateur radio 40 years ago was the fascinating idea that it was possible to communicate with someone across town or across the country without benefit of a physical wire connection such as a telephone. Then I discovered that you could talk to people in other countries around the world via radio as well!!!! From that moment on, I was rather hooked on DX. The more exotic the locale, the more I was fascinated – and I still hold that fascination to this day.

I've operated on both sides of the pileup, too. I've been privileged to operate (thus far) from the Hawaiian Islands, Barbados, the Cayman Islands and Tahiti (on the islands of Moorea and Bora Bora). Ever since I was five years old, I remember the nagging urge to someday visit the islands of the South Pacific. The full-color articles in National Geographic magazine and the travel brochures ultimately got to me and I said I've gotta go there!!

I finally realized that dream in 1987 on a three-week trip to Tahiti. The spent the first few days in Papeete, the capital city of French Polynesia, as I needed to go by the government Telecommunications Office to activate my ham license for Tahiti. Then, I spent one week each on Moorea and Bora Bora. Just being there was joyous enough. But getting to do a little hamming from there was the icing on the cake. I did make one huge mistake going to Bora Bora, though, and that was coming back!! The sheer natural beauty of Bora Bora and its waters is utterly indescribable. I could have stayed there forever. I kept begging people there to bop me on the head hard enough to give a case of amnesia lasting a year or two, so I'd forget to get on the plane back home, but no one would assist me in that matter. Oh, well... I have always had a terminal case of travel-itis,

so I expect I'll return again some day. Radio propagation conditions from the island were totally different from what I'd come to expect back in the States. And being on the "other" side of the pileup, where everyone else is trying to contact *ME*, is a very interesting experience. A tad daunting at first, but once you get used to it, it gets to be a blast!

In my early days in ham radio, I did a good bit of traffic handling on CW and held an ARRL appointment as an Official Relay station (ORS). ARRL every so often held what were known as the CD QSO Parties, which was a contest amongst ARRL appointees. I started tinkering in these QSO parties a little bit first. Then one year, as a young lad of 17 years, I actually *WON* the QSO party for the state of Virginia! Wow!!! This is wild, I said! Thus began my journey into the world of amateur radio contesting. Since then, I've been in major contests both from the USA and overseas.

How hard is it to enjoy DX or to participate in a contest? What kind of station and antennas do you need? What are the rules of a contest? I intend to address questions such as these in future articles. Sure, having a big station with stacked yagi antennas on 200-foot towers doesn't hurt. But you don't have to have all that to enjoy DX or contests!! In the last six years, my HF operation has been done solely with a 100-watt transceiver and a Butternut vertical antenna. In that time, I have worked 291 countries on the DXCC list. I worked one ****very**** rare DX station on both CW and SSB running 50 watts into a mobile whip out on the patio!! I grant you that some of these contacts were real squeakers where both the DX station and I had signal strengths just about a hundredth of a dB above ESP. But we made the contact and I have the QSL cards to prove it. In the ARRL CW DX Contest on February 19-20 this year, I made 800 contacts with DX stations – still using only 100 watts and the vertical! It can be done!

Contesting can also be an enjoyable activity to pursue as a club. Individual stations contribute their scores to arrive at a total aggregate club score. Personally, I would like to encourage club participation in those selected contests in which club members may have an interest. And contests are not just HF only – there are plenty of VHF and UHF contests, too! In the 1980's, I was Contest Chairman for both the Northern California DX Club and the Northern California Contest Club. It was my job to encourage club participation in certain contests and to compile the club score from member scores after the contest. Since that time, I have been known in DX contest circles as "*The Great Kahuna*". How I came to gain that title is a rather long, but entertaining, story. Remind me to tell it to you sometime... you'll get a chuckle out of it, just as I do thinking back on it.

If you'd like to try your hand at a contest, the Virginia QSO Party this month on March 18-20 would be an excellent one to start with. That weekend, stations from the USA and abroad will all be looking for QSO's with hams in the state of Virginia. They will be looking to find YOU! It's a lot of fun!

See the article at the beginning of this month's bulletin for further details.

Next month I'll begin a series of articles on this subject. In the meantime, I'll be happy to chat with any club member on these subjects if they have an interest in them. 73 till then!!
Bob

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes Feb. 1, 2000

Attending: Pres. Bob-K4DU; Sect. Joe-KD4RWX; Treas. Sharon-KO4OC; Dir Pete-KC4UCK; Dir Mike-AC4ZQ; Dir Mike-N4HRO; Dir Elmer-KF4UCI

Bob read portions of the insurance policy the Club has on equipment. AARC Equipment List: Mike (AC4ZQ) is to compile a current list of equipment that the AARC owns.

A motion was made and passed "That the Annual Report of the Technical Committee contain an up to date report of the AARC Equipment List."

Mike is to check on the status of a "loaner agreement."

Sharon (KO4OC) reported a tentative year-end balance of \$3558.93.

Joe (KD4RWX) suggested that a budget device be set up. The President appointed Sharon, Joe and Mike (N4HRO) to make a format proposal. Board approved the action.

Mike (AC4ZQ) Reported: Bud (KB4JNI) had agreed to work with the 220 cans. Possibly these will be ready in a month. Additional testing is taking place on the .76 repeater. Noise seems to be related to faulty grounding within the tower.

Elmer (KF4UCI): Reported that he needs to get the Club to purchase crystals for a Commercial repeater he is working on. When complete, it is his intent to donate it to the Club.

Bob indicated it was important that we recruit more individuals to work on the technical side of things. On-the-Job-Training (OJT) could help individuals learn the ropes. Bob will address the issue in the President's Letter.

Mike (AC4ZQ) is to write about Technical Committee projects. Mike is to convene a Tech Comm. meeting after articles

Bob (K4DU): The 911 issue is to be resolved by the Feb. meeting.

An Executive Session was conducted.

The following Presidential appointments for committees were made. No Board action has yet been taken.

Education

Chair - Bill (KC4TQF)

Director - Pete (KC4UCK)

Publications

Chair - Joe (KD4RWX)

Director - TBA

Editor - Bob (K4UVT)

Others - (KF4UTD)

Fund Raising

Chair - TBA

Director - TBA (Note: Treasurer is automatically a member of this committee.)

Activities

Chair - TBA

Director - TBA

Technical

Chair - Mike (AC4ZQ)

Director - Elmer (KF4UCI)

Others - Jimmy (K4JMY), Bob (K4DU), Hein (N4FWA)

Membership and Recruitment

Chair - Mike (N4HRO)

ARRL Liaison

Chair - Mike (N4HRO)

Regular Meeting Feb. 8, 2000

The meeting opened with attendees giving their names and call.

The Program for the evening was presented by Harry Dannals (W2HD). The topic was "**Where Are We Going?**" It was well received by the group. Some interaction with audience was encouraged. A good talk! Thanks, Harry.

New members approved: Donna Hill (KG4FOL); Brad Risk (N7IVV); and Howard Gay (KG4FYF).

Sharon (KO4OC) reported an end of year balance of \$3558 and a few cents. She encouraged that ARRL renewals come through her, because the Club can earn a few dollars that way. (Check with her about the process.)

There were no students to show for the Technician Class. Bill will check again next week.

Mike (AC4ZQ)- Technical Committee Report: At this time there has been no deal struck in lowering the phone bill for 911 Autopatches. A cell phone requires an interface costing

\$150 or more; just 911 cell; wired like before \$36-37 per month; or Remote phone link at someone's house.

KO4WQ moved that we move the controller from the .76 to the .925 at Martha Jefferson Hospital and implement the 911. The motion was approved.

Mike: The .76 repeater noise is due to a problem with the joint in the tower. Suggested that new/used tower sections be obtained to replace the current tower. Grayson has indicated to Mike that he will refund the money the club paid him and he will use the tower for himself. Bob (K4DU) mentioned he would appoint a sub-committee to tower construction and installation. (Not named during this meeting.)

Greg (N4PGS): Noted the following activities are now scheduled.

March 25 bike event at Orange

March 26 bike event at Kluge area

June 10-11 MS150

July 7th Bike Virginia

Others to be reported later.

Joe (KD4RWX) Publications: Recognized Bob's (K4UVT) good efforts on the newsletter.

Dick (W4BZW) reported that the next meeting would have Buck Rogers, from Lynchburg, to speak on packet radio.

Bob (K4DU) read over the tentative appointments to committees. (See Board Minutes) One basic addition is that Greg (N4PGS) has agreed to continue on as Activities Chair.

Bob emphasized the importance of member's involvement in activities.

Harry (W2HD) mentioned that in the near future a new VE Coordinator will need to be named, as John (W6UZ) will be relinquishing those duties. (Morris Jones did the first VE Session in the local area, John has done the ones since, with the exception of illness or being out of town.) Advance registration and keeping the software up to date are important aspects.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz, Secretary

Virginia General Assembly Heaps High Praise on Hams

Reprinted from the ARRL Letter, February 11, 2000 - Courtesy of the ARRL Web site

Virginia's General Assembly has praised Amateur Radio efforts during the response to Hurricane Floyd last fall. A joint resolution unanimously passed the House and Senate January 27. A signing ceremony has been set for February 17, 11:30 AM, at the Capitol in Richmond.

The resolution praises the work of Virginia's ARES/RACES members last September when Hurricane Floyd totally isolated the City of Franklin, and rising flood waters forced city officials to abandon their Emergency Operations Center, forcing the city to rely completely on Amateur Radio for communication with the outside. "With traditional lines of communication inoperable, the Amateur Radio operators, members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), provided the only reliable communication into and out of the flood-ravaged Franklin area," the resolution says.

The resolution notes that the Hurricane Floyd activation was "the widest geographical and longest-running ARES/RACES activation in Virginia's history" and involved nearly 150 ARES/RACES volunteers who put in some 9500 hours of duty to help coordinate emergency operations in Franklin.

"Due to the tireless efforts of amateur radio volunteers, the tragic effects of Hurricane Floyd were mitigated, the lives of those in the flood zone safeguarded, and the suffering of Franklin's residents alleviated," the resolution said in expressing the General Assembly's "admiration and gratitude for the vital contributions of Virginia's amateur radio operators."--*Tony Amato, KR4UQ*

Summary Treasurer's Year-End Report for 1999

Submitted by Sharon Duvall, KO4OC

The following is the summary end of year Treasurer's report for the 1999 calendar year.

INCOME	\$2,316.30
Club Donations	\$939.30
Cash for Repeater	\$44.50
Education Donation	\$170.75
Cash Donation to Club	\$21.05
Fund Raising	\$108.00
Surplus Material Sold	\$595.00
Club Dues	\$1,371.00
Dues 1999	\$1,331.00
Dues 2000	\$20.00
Dues - Other	\$20.00
Subscription Renewal	\$6.00
Payment for QST	-\$89.00
Renew for Club Member	\$95.00
EXPENSES	\$3,056.08
Corporation Fee	\$25.00
New 76 Repeater Cost	\$814.32
Electric Power for 76	\$151.21
Field Day Picnic Food	\$532.34
Insurance	\$149.00
Parts & Equipment for Repeater	\$337.01
Printing & Postage	\$928.16
Subscriptions	\$20.00
Telephone	\$99.04
Income Less Expenses	-\$739.78
Balance Forward AARC Acct	\$4,298.71
Net Total	\$3,558.93

Band Plan of the Month - 2 Meters

Courtesy of ARRL Web Site

This month we present the band plan for 2 meters as found on the ARRL Web site.

Freq (MHz)	Assigned Modes
144.00-144.05	EME (CW)
144.05-144.10	General CW and weak signals
144.10-144.20	EME and weak signal SSB National calling frequency
144.200-144.275	General SSB operation
144.275-144.300	Propagation beacons
144.30-144.50	OSCAR sub band
144.50-144.60	Linear translator inputs
144.60-145.20	FM repeater inputs
145.20-145.50	FM repeater outputs
145.50-145.80	Miscellaneous and experimental modes
145.80-146.00	OSCAR sub band
146.01-146.37	Repeater inputs
146.40-146.58	Simplex
146.61-146.97	Repeater outputs
147.00-147.39	Repeater outputs
147.42-147.57	Simplex
147.60-147.90	Repeater inputs

AARC Classified Ads

This list contains FOR SALE or WANT listings for the last 30 days or so. All items must be related to amateur radio and must be surplus to the owners operation (i.e. no dealers or for profit). Price may be listed if desired.

Note: Current month/week sale listings may be found on the **WA4TFZ bulletin board on 145.03 MHz**, the oldest continuous bulletin board in the state of Virginia. You can also find this list plus more on the internet at the WA4TFZ/AARC club page maintained by KD4RWX at members.aol.com/wa4tfz/aarc. Please note that all small letters must be used for this address.

New ADS may be placed directly to the Editor: 804 990-2659 or via E-mail at k4uvf@yahoo.com

Please let K4RKA know when items can be deleted from this file. Updated 12/20/99

10/28/99 WANTED: 9600 BAUD TNC	Brad, N7IVV, wants a 9600-baud TNC. Call him at 804 985-1528.
1/20/00 WANTED: R-390/390A or SP-600 RECEIVER	Carter Elliott, WD4AYS would like to find a R-390/390A or SP-600 receiver. Call him at 804 979-7383.

Hamfests of Some Note

None this month
within 100 mile radius

FCC Database Updates

New Calls

None reported

Upgrades

None reported

VE Session Schedule - 2000

March 9 Chesapeake (ARRL/VEC) CARTS	Patricia A. Phelps (757) 421-9598 7 PM (Advance Registration Required – No walk-ins; please call) Location: Public Safety Building Training Classroom Fire Side Albemarle Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320
March 11 Madison (ARRL/VEC) Madison County VE Team	John T. Berry (540)543-2850 9 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Location: War Memorial Bldg Upstairs Auditorium Main Street Madison, VA 22727
March 12 Bedford (ARRL/VEC) Bedford ARC	Judy Friel (804) 525-6142 2 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Location: Bedford Central Library 321 N Bridge St. Bedford, VA 24523
March 19 Roanoke (ARRL/VEC) Roanoke VE Team	Raymond W. Crampton (540) 992-2844 2 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Location: American Red Cross 352 Church Ave. SW Roanoke, VA 24016
March 25 Virginia Beach (ARRL/VEC) Virginia Beach ARC	Melessa Errington (757) 430-3948 9 AM (Advance Registration Required – No walk-ins; please call) Location: Virginia Wesleyan College Academic Village II 1584 Wesleyan Drive Rooop Hall, Room 1 Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Birthdays This Month

Mar 1	W4DGN	Phil
Mar 2	W2EIU	Ernie
Mar 2	K4UNX	Chris
Mar 3	N4DGR	Jim
Mar 7	KJ4XZ	Wil
Mar 8	NM4R	Morris
Mar 8	KG4DIB	Herb
Mar 22	KF4TKJ	Matt
Mar 24	KD4CUJ	Kay
Mar 24	W4DO	Harrison
Mar 29	KG4BKD	Charlie
Mar 31	AG4N	Ed
Mar 31	KF4JHE	Debbie

March 2000

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6833
Charlottesville, VA 22906
<http://members.aol.com/wa4tfz/aarc/default2.html>



AARC BULLETIN
Vol 2000 No. 3
March 2000

ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

TO CORRECT LABEL INFORMATION CALL PHONE 973-1738: Your License expires.. Oct 31, 2004 D Y A
KA4JJD G 2000 **CURRENT MEMBER**

Michael F. Rein
109 Sturbridge Rd.
Charlottesville VA 22901

Contact Information

Daniel R. (Bob) Dorsey, Jr. K4UVT
PO Box 977
Charlottesville, VA 22902-0977
(804) 990-2659

K4uvt@yahoo.com or bdorsey@cstone.net

***** Next Club Meeting *** March 14 - 7:30 PM NRAO Bldg - UVA**

22901-2113 43

CLUB MEETINGS and NETS

REGULAR Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM
BOARD & TECHNICAL Meetings: First Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM
Meetings are held at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) building on Edgemont Road (UVA)
LUNCHEON: Wednesdays – Area hams gather at the **Old Country Buffet** (OCB) next to TOYS R US on Rte 29 North from 11 AM – 1 PM
Monday Night Information Net – Each Monday at 7:00 PM
YL Net: First Monday of each month at 8:30 PM
Northern Piedmont Emergency Net / Swap Net / Technical Session: Each Thursday at 8:00 PM
All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater

WA4TFZ REPEATERS

INPUT/OUTPUT **Tone Access (If needed)**

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*
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

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
March 14	Regular Club Meeting
April 11	Regular Club Meeting
May 9	Regular Club Meeting
June 13	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
March 25	Bike Event - Orange
March 26	Bike Event - Kluge area
June 11-12	MS-150 Bike Event
July 7	Bike Virginia

Please sign up at meetings when the SIGN UP CLIPBOARD is passed around. You can also send an email to Greg (N4PGS) indicating your interest in working particular events.