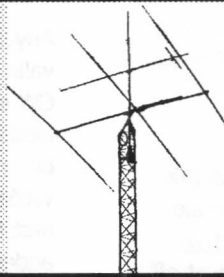


The AARC Beacon



*Amateur Radio News For
Charlottesville and
Albemarle County,
Virginia*

Volume 2000, No. 8

August 2000

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Meeting Notice – PICNIC !!!

The next regular AARC meeting is the **Annual Picnic** and will be held on August 8 at **Shelter 1 at Pen Park** at 6:00 PM. ***** THE PICNIC WILL NOT BE HELD AT MCINTIRE PARK THIS YEAR!!! *****. This is a potluck affair, so please bring a dish to share with the rest of the AARC gang. See you there!!

The President Speaks

Bob, K4DU

Summer is in full swing and I thought I would bring you up to date on some of those projects that I spoke of earlier in the year. The new Sommers beam needs some final adjustments before I can close the door on the project. At this point we have endured several weather related delays. Harry is convinced that if you need rain, just ask me to schedule antenna work and it is a sure bet. My wife reminds me that this works for us on vacations too! We are waiting for the ground to dry out enough to get the cherry picker into the back yard to complete the work.

Once the antenna work is finished I will be able to turn my attention back to the 220 MHz transceiver kit that is waiting on the bench. The kit is built in stages and you get the opportunity to test at the completion of each stage after the second stage is done. I'll be looking for some guidance from W3DX once I get back on the bench and am ready to test.

Speaking of 220, it appears that we may have found a new home for the 220 MHz repeater! Elmer, KF4UCI tells me that we may have access to a site on Carter's Mountain for this machine shortly. Stay tuned for more news, as it is available.

Speaking of technical questions, I wonder if anyone in the club would like to get into ATV? I know that of at least one ATV op in the group. And speaking of interest, would there be any interest in putting up a 6 Meter repeater?

Have fun and enjoy the days of summer!

Best regards & 73, Bob, K4DU

Peep From The Veep

Dick, W4BZW

The August meeting has traditionally been a Picnic and this year is no exception. There is however a change in venue from previous years. **The picnic will be in Shelter 1 at Pen Park** rather than at McIntire Park. Penn Park is just off Rio Road East about half way between Rt 250 Bypass and Rt29. If traveling on Rio Road from the Rt 29 intersection, **turn left at the next stop light after the Dunlora Subdivision entrance.** This is the **fourth light from the Rt 29 intersection.** If traveling on Rio Road from the Rt250 Bypass, turn right at the first stoplight. This light is **just past the construction site for the new Catholic School.** Enter the park and **turn left just before the tennis courts;** the golf course will be on the right. Shelter 1 is the **first shelter on the left** closest to the parking lot.

The club will furnish soft drinks, ice, cups, plates, napkins and utensils. The format is **potluck** so please bring a dish to share with others. Plan to arrive at 6:00 PM and the picnic dinner will be at 6:30. I hope to see you there.

73s, Dick

Field Day - A Closing Comment

Harry, W2HD

As Sunday, the 23rd of July, came to a close and good byes were said to my younger son and his family who had been visiting, the pages of May QST were opened to the Field Day rules. I had agreed with President Bob, K4DU, to prepare the dupe sheets and forward the final score information to the ARRL. OOOOOPS, what a shock when it was noted that the package had to be postmarked on the 24th of July!

A quick trip to the telephone with an apology to K4DU was in order and with a great sigh of guilt, the word was passed that we might not have a Field Day score for the year 2000 after all. However, an effort would be made to rush through the dupe sheets for all the contacts and a dash to the main post office would be made ASAP with whatever could be put together for submittal. The deadline was met! End of story!

No, not really the end because the story was more than the score sheet submittal. A small group of AARC members put together the simplest Field Day possible... the one transmitter class. That's one transmitter, one antenna, one shelter and lots of that old dedication to the cause. In this case the cause was simple: K4DU stated before the membership that he didn't want to go down in AARC history as the president when the club failed to make a Field Day appearance.

Anyway, after the dupes had been removed, there were 196 valid contacts on the 10, 15 and 20 meter bands phone and CW except for 10 where only phone prevailed. We were aided by a young lad, KF4ZGD, who hadn't really contested before and an older fellow who just qualified for his General, WB5BNT, who was inflicted with a disease that is common to first time HF-ers... HF-itis! A few dozen other contacts were added by folks with a little more time on the air.

Now, fellow members, let's take a look at Field Day. The club has never treated this event as an all-out contest. We have used operators with little or no experience... just the desire to do something other than VHF FM. Sprinkle in the experience of some fine operators of the contest persuasion and we've put together some interesting Field Days over the years. We've had satellite communications, QRP rigs powered from solar charged batteries, "boat anchor" stations and Novice/Tech only set-ups. We've had a bunch of antennas... beams, wires, verticals and you name it. Field Day is fun!

However, for some reason, the year 2000 did not bring forth anyone willing to take on the responsibility of coordinating lots of individual efforts. It's not an extremely hard job. In fact, with a few people working together, a rather modest, but highly successful Field operation is possible. Our President decided that he would take the responsibility even though his business schedule was heavy. However, he wasn't feeling too hot after one of his recent trips and the "rescue squad" took over. Plans for two stations were tossed away and the one transmitter class resulted.

Operators were scarce, but there was sufficient equipment to mount an effort and 196 "dupe free" contacts were logged. The AARC will be listed in the year 2000 results.

So now, how about 2001? Will the same situation prevail? Should we start the plans for next year at this year's club picnic? Some clubs do just that. Of course, they are the groups with a dozen or more simultaneously operating stations. No, that won't be us, but two or three stations can be manned and Field Day 2001 can be another place for the communications training of our members. How about it? Who's first in line?

73.. /s/ Harry, W2HD

Sound Card Packet

Forwarded by Dave, K4DND, from an Email by KC2RLM

This will be of particular interest for those of you who might use emergency field or mobile packet.

A few months ago, I learned of a program that will let you send and receive packet using just your computer sound card -- no TNC required! This FREE program is called AGWPE and I've been using it with APRS (WinAPRS) and a neat

Windows packet terminal program (WinPack) for several weeks. As far as I know, this is the only program that will let you do sound card packet. (AGWPE does require Windows 95 or higher.)

I've been successful in getting it to work both on my desktop and on my laptop, but it did take some effort to first get it working. As a result of my "struggles", I've written some setup instructions, which are at our county's ARES-RACES web site:

<http://www.qsl.net/mcarv/Library/AGWPE/Overview.htm>

The pages tell you how to build the radio-to-computer cables (similar to PSK31 cables), obtain needed programs, and configure all the programs.

For those of you who might want to do packet in the field or mobile – or avoid laying out bucks for a TNC -- this program will be particularly interesting.

Let me know if you have any questions about the program or if you find any errors or omissions on the web pages. And if you elect to try sound card packet, I'd like to hear about your results.

73, Ralph, KC2RLM, Chatham, NJ

James Madison Stage Race

Greg, N4PGS

We had a very good crew at the last bike race of the year. The James Madison Stage Race was held down at the 'Kluge Loop' last Sunday, July 16th.

The following hams participated in the event:

Morning (1 Public Service point)

KF4UTD, Ed; KE4ZNO, Fred; K4EBL, Dick; N4HRV, Bob; W2EIU, Ernie; KO4WQ, Rick; KE4OID, Jessie; K4DND, Dave; N4FWA, Hein; N4PGS, Greg

Afternoon (1 Public Service point)

KF4FRO, Marty; KE4ZNO, Fred; KD4NRE, Al; K4TY, Charles; KB4RM, Rose-Marie; W2EIU, Ernie; KE4OID, Jessie; K4DND, Dave; N4FWA, Hein; N4PGS, Greg

Ruth Stormetta, KF4AGV, the race director, was pleased with our help. Although this is the last bike race of the year, the Public Service calendar tentatively shows one or two Walks in October and the Montpelier horse race in November.

Exact dates of these events are not yet available.

73 Greg, N4PGS

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws

Joe, KD4RWX, AARC Secretary

Rick Berman, KO4WQ requests that the AARC Bylaws be amended as follows. In Article IV Repeated below - that the paragraph indicated between the (----) lines be inserted.

This proposal will be read at the September meeting. This represents an official notice of the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE IV Board of Directors

The Board of Directors (hereafter called the Board) shall be composed of nine Full Members who are elected for a term of one year commencing January 1 and ending December 31. The Board shall be comprised of the Club President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Directors. The Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Club between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Club, and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Club, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Club. If not elected or appointed to the Board, the Trustee shall be an ex-officio member of the Board. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, regular meetings of the Board shall be held monthly. Special meetings of the Board can be called by the President and shall be called upon the request of three members of the Board.

----- Proposed amendment begins -----

Those persons accepting nomination and election to the Board of Directors of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club should accept the obligations of that directorship in that they will be expected to attend at least 66% of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the club meetings of the AARC. As a director you are expected to help guide and shape the future of the AARC.

----- Proposed amendment ends -----

Each member of the Board shall assist in the operation of the Club as requested by the President.

John Gray, W6UZ, Honored for VEC Contributions

Joe, KD4RWX

John Gray, W6UZ, was honored for his contributions to the AARC as its VEC, and for the local area, for many years. President Bob Pattison, K4DU, presented John with a framed certificate commemorating his outstanding service.



John Gray, W6UZ and AARC President, Bob Pattison, K4DU, pose for a formal picture showing the framed certificate presented to John. Photo by Ed Deasy, KF4UTD.

The citation reads as follows:

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club

Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Special Recognition Award

**For service as an ARRL VOLUNTEER EXAMINER
COORDINATOR**

1984-2000

John Gray, W6UZ

THE WORD IS INTEGRITY

It was four decades ago and the FCC said they would entrust the conduct of certain exams in the Amateur Radio structure to individual Hams. The first two classes were Novice and Technician and the exams were given "one on one." The team concept had not yet been born. However, the primary consideration for the Ham examiner was to be honest in the conduct of the exam. This point of integrity has been the watchword of the entire system right up through the start of the Volunteer Examining system we know today.

Nowhere in the system will you be able to find a single person with greater integrity than our own John Gray, W6UZ, the coordinating examiner for the AARC sessions for more than a decade, concluding last April 8th. Those VE's privileged to work with John during this time know how thoroughly he prepared for the sessions, how completely he

checked all the submissions and how very successfully the sessions were conducted.

Woven into each VE session, and there have been dozens and dozens through the years, you always saw the firm direction that W6UZ provided. Every VE participating in these sessions understood how John wanted to proceed. There are hundreds of licensees in the area encompassed by the AARC who owe their licenses to the man who so ably made them possible... John Gray, W6UZ.

Whether an examiner or examinee, our hats are off to a real gentleman, a real Ham, a fine friend and an outstanding example of the word: Integrity!

Harry, W2HD, for the AARC.

Congratulations, John!!

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes July 4, 2000

No meeting, as this was a holiday.

Regular Meeting July 11, 2000

Bob Pattison-K4DU presiding.

Bob called John Gray, W6UZ to the front of the room. He then read a statement on the framed certificate that he was presenting to John for his outstanding service as a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator for the AARC and the local area. **[See separate article for details – Editor].**

John acknowledged that Morris Jones, NM4R conducted the first session in 1984. John conducted almost all of those which followed until his last one on April 8, 2000. A standing ovation caused John to give a sheepish smile and his face turned a little red.

Greg Faust, N4PGS commented on Public Service events held recently and announced an upcoming bike event. He also had several certificates from the Virginia Department of Public Services for: Ernie, W2EIU; Mella, W2HTJ; Stan, K2SSB; Rick, KO4WQ and one other whose name was missed.

The Marshall Manor agreement has not yet been finalized. We will likely be required to have liability insurance, estimated to cost about \$250.

Dave, K4DND mentioned that he had RACES patches. He indicated that Jerry, WD4CEN is related to someone at JWK Properties and that the relationship led to further contacts about the repeater site.

Joe, W2PVY made a motion that we secure the necessary insurance for the repeater site requirement. The motion passed. This insurance will likely be general for the AARC and cover all liability. \$1 million per incident and \$2 million per year.

The 440 control link will be on Elmer's 440 repeater, which will be co-located with the 146.760 repeater.

A repeater was placed on the front table for people to look at following the meeting. Dave purchased the repeater and hard line, which can be purchased by the AARC when all issues have been settled. The repeater cost is \$1065.



Bob, K4DU shows the insides of the future 146.760 repeater to onlookers at the July AARC meeting. Several individuals later took the time to get a closer look. Photo by Ed Deasy, KF4UTD.

A motion was made and passed which indicated "subject to the testing of the new repeater, the AARC will reimburse Dave for his costs, whenever HE approves the transfer."

Greg, N4PGS offered to run the AARC Packet Bulletin Board along with his RACES Board. Motion was made to let him do so. It was approved.

Bob, K4DU announced that there was an opening for the Chair of the Technical Committee. They would not have to do everything - just manage it. Being part of the Technical Committee is an opportunity for individuals to build some knowledge and experiences related to repeaters. Bob described the purpose of the committee.

Joe, W2PVY indicated that the committee should be forward-looking about what the Club should do equipment wise.

Dave, K4DND asked why not ask Elmer to act as interim Chair. Bob called on the Board members present to act on such a motion. Joe, KD4RWX moved that Elmer, KF4UCI be appointed as Chairman of the Technical Committee. The Board Members approved.

Rick, KO4WQ indicated that he had taken a battery to Field Day and wanted the Minutes amended to show that he had done so; and some that were mentioned in previous Minutes had not. It was brought to his attention that this would not work. So, instead a motion was made to amend the June Minutes to indicate that Rick, KO4WQ had also volunteered to deliver a battery at Field Day. The motion passed and the Minutes will be so amended.

Rick, KO4WQ wishes to amend the Bylaws to specify meeting requirements for Board members. He was told how to initiate that process.

Sharon, KO4OC indicated that the AARC had \$4205.06.

Dick, W4BZW indicated that the August meeting would be a picnic and it will be held at Pen Park on the second Tuesday in August.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz, Secretary

We hear that ...

The AARC tent that we use at Field Day was thought to be lost. It has miraculously re-appeared and is safely back in proper custody. Whew --- we didn't want to lose that!!

Articles wanted!!

The AARC Beacon has been rather thin of late! We have not had too many article submissions to generate a "thicker" bulletin. Thus, your editor is looking for articles from the membership ... especially those of current interest. Once I get PSK31 figured out and up & running, I plan to some articles on that topic. PSK31 is a hot new mode & I, for one, want to learn more about it and actually use it!! I'm sure there are people out there with far more knowledge of this subject. Any takers for this one?

Pse remember, this is **YOUR** club bulletin --- let's keep it interesting and chock full of good info!

AARC Picnic Map & Directions



The picnic will be in Shelter 1 at Pen Park rather than at McIntire Park. Pen Park is just off Rio Road East about half way between Rt 250 Bypass and Rt 29.

If traveling on Rio Road from the Rt 29 intersection, **turn left at the next stop light after the Dunlora Subdivision entrance.** This is the **fourth light from the Rt 29 intersection.**

If traveling on Rio Road from the Rt250 Bypass, turn right at the first stoplight. This light is **just past the construction site for the new Catholic School.**

Enter the park and **turn left just before the tennis courts;** the golf course will be on the right. Shelter 1 is the **first shelter on the left** closest to the parking lot.

The club will furnish soft drinks, ice, cups, plates, napkins and utensils. The format is **potluck** so please bring a dish to share with others. Plan to arrive at 6:00 PM and the picnic dinner will be at 6:30.

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 k4uvt@yahoo.com **Please let K4RKA know when items can be deleted from this file. Updated 5/26/00**

6/29/00 FOR SALE: 2M RINGO RANGER	Rick, KO4WQ, has a 2M Ringo Ranger for sale. Call him at 804 823-1128
7/24/00 FOR SALE: YAESU FT-101ZD TRANSCEIVER	Yaesu FT-101ZD 160-10M transceiver in nice cosmetic/working condition with original manual and original box- \$ 275. Carter Elliott, WD4AYS, 804 979 7383 or CElliott14@aol.com
7/24/00 FOR SALE: YAESU FT-101EE TRANSCEIVER	Yaesu FT-101EE 160-10M transceiver with CW filter, fan, original hand mike, original manual. Works well and looks nice. \$ 225. Carter Elliott, WD4AYS, 804 979 7383 or CElliott14@aol.com
6/29/00 FOR SALE: ANTENNAS	Ron, K4RKA, has a 10M vertical gain antenna plus three 220 MHz antennas, 2 meter J-pole, and 450 MHz J-pole (from KA3NXN). Call 804 973-3640.
6/29/00 WANTED: KENWOOD DUAL BAND MOBILE	Tim, KG4HOT, is looking for a newer Kenwood dual band mobile with cross band capability and/or a ICOM 746, ICOM 706 MK2G. Call 804 831-2963.
6/15/00 FOR SALE: ICOM 271H 2M XCVR	Tim, KG4HOT, has an Icom 271H 2M transceiver with SP3 speaker and mast mounted preamp for sale or trade. Call him at 804-831-2963.
6/22/00 FOR SALE: ICOM 738 HF XCVR	Debi, KG4DCY, has an ICOM 738 HF transceiver w/20 ampere Astron power supply, D-104 Silver Eagle mike with Heil DX-5 mike element, ICOM SP-3 speaker. 160-10 meters, 100 watt. Email dhaw@rlc.net or call 804 263-5673. <i>(This listing posted by Grayson, KF4FYI)</i>
6/29/00 FOR SALE: YAESU FT900AT HF MOBILE XCVR	Dick, K4VY, has a Yaesu FT900AT HF mobile transceiver, 100 watts, detachable front panel, general coverage, 100 channel memory, TCXO, mike, mounting bracket. 10-160 m. \$850. Call Dick at 804 974-9852
7/6/00 FOR SALE: HEIL MICROPHONE	Joe, W2PVY, has a Heil dual element mike for a Kenwood or Yaesu transceiver. Call him at 804 589-1495.
7/20/00 WANTED: HEIL MICROPHONE	Ralph, K4CFE, is looking for a dual band mobile w/ CTCSS and DTMF. Crossband not necessary. Call 804 296-7418.
7/24/00 WANTED: CRYSTAL RADIOS	Looking for old crystal radios, commercial or homebrew. Carter Elliott, CElliott14@aol.com, 804 979 7383.
7/27/00 FOR SALE: DENTRON HF AMP	Dentron Clipperton QRO 1 KW amp. Covers 10-160 meters. Uses 4 572B tubes. Call Bob Dorsey at 804 990 2659 or via Email at K4UVT@yahoo.com .

Area Hamfests

August 6 Berryville, VA Shenandoah Valley ARC	http://www.vvalley.com/svarc/hamfest Contact: Irvin Barb, W4DHU 2549 Senseny Road Berryville, VA 22611 Phone: 540-955-1745 Email: ibarb@visuallink.com
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FCC Database Updates

New Calls!	
None Received	
Upgrades	
*** See Main Text ***	

VE Session Schedule - 2000

August 5 Fredericksburg (W5YI VEC) VDEN ARC	Edward A. Forman (540) 439-0568 EFORMAN@EROLS.COM 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) PRE-REGISTRATION REQUESTED Location: Salem Church Library-Mtg Rm B 2607 Salem Church Rd Fredericksburg, VA 22407
August 12 Richmond (ARRL/VEC) Richmond ARC/RAVE	Pat Wilson (804) 932-9424 9:00 AM (Advance Registration Required - No walk-ins ; please call) Location: J. Sargeant Reynolds Comm. College 1651 E. Parham Rd, Bldg B, Room 201 Richmond, VA 23228

Birthdays This Month

August 1	KB7ZWG	Bonnie
August 4	KA4MCA	Don
August 6	KD4NRE	Al
August 7	W6UZ	John
August 13	K1EE	John
August 13	K4MW	Pete
August 15	KD4WXY	Shawn
August 16	KE4OID	Jessie
August 16	K8HC	Harold
August 17	K4DND	Dave
August 18	N3GLZ	John
August 23	K4VY	Richard
August 26	W0ANN	Ann
August 28	WD4CEN	Jerry

August 2000

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



THE AARC BEACON
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ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information
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K4uvt@yahoo.com or bdorsey@cstone.net

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

Michael F. Rein
109 Sturbridge Rd.
Charlottesville VA 22901

***** Next Club Meeting *** August 8 - 7:30 PM NRAO Bldg - UVA**

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
August 8	Club Picnic at Pen Park!
September 12	Regular Club Meeting
October 10	Regular Club Meeting
November 14	Regular Club Meeting
December 12	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
November 5	Montpelier Horse Races

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.