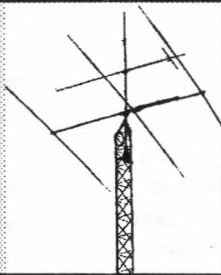


# The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2000, No. 11

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November 2000

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on November 14 at the NRAO Building at UVA at 7:30 PM. Our guest speaker will be our own Harry Dannals, W2HD, who will give us a talk titled "**Contesting -- It's a Fun Thing**". This talk comes just in time for the fall and winter contest season. See you there!!

## The President Speaks

*Bob, K4DU*

I am about to accomplish a major amateur radio milestone, a **clean shack!** For those of you who are new to the hobby, this may seem a little far-fetched, but as many of you will agree, having a clean shack for many is a full time job. In the course of cleaning this room which does double duty as a den, I have stumbled across a few treasures that I had forgotten about.

One of those forgotten treasures is an old cigar box that contains an assortment of insulators. In the past few years at hamfests while my friend Stu, W4PR has been looking for his RME 6900, I have been looking for glass insulators. W4PR found his RME 6900 at Dayton. I however am still looking for glass insulators.

What would I do with glass insulators if I found them? I would build a wire antenna for HF. Something to set perpendicular to the Carolina Windom and preferably an antenna that would work on 160 this coming winter. Stu says that I should put up a Rhombic for 20 because I have the land and the trees for it. Who knows perhaps you have a suggestion. If so please send it to k4du@arrl.net.

The elections (radio club) are over and the new administration is preparing to take office. In December we will hold a joint board meeting at the downtown library on the first Tuesday of the month. Give the new team your full support.

*Best regards & 73, Bob, K4DU*

## Peep From The Veep

Dick, W4BZW

We will all be spending more time inside during the coming fall and winter months and hopefully more time in the ham shack. Participation in contests is a popular activity for radio amateurs that provides a lot of enjoyment and at the same time, sharpens operating skills. Observing those that excel at it, it almost seems like an art. A number of contests are scheduled this fall and winter and it is a good time to look at this activity from an experienced contest operator's perspective. Harry Dannals, W2HD has many hours of experience operating contests and has agreed to give a talk at the November 14 club meeting titled "**Contesting -- It's a Fun Thing**". Harry always gives a very interesting and entertaining talk and I am sure that you will not want to miss this one.

There is another big event scheduled for November 14 and many of us have our fingers crossed that it goes well. The next-generation Phase 3D satellite is scheduled for launch on this date and hopefully we can make the announcement of a satellite in orbit at the time of the club meeting. One of our club members, Stacey Mills, W4SM, has devoted many hours of work to this project, mostly in the software development area. If you have never used one of these OSCAR satellites in a highly elliptical Molnyia orbit, I highly recommend it. It is possible to talk, full duplex, to stations thousands of miles away. These contacts can be very relaxed and last for long periods of time since the satellite's position in azimuth and elevation does not change very rapidly as the satellite approaches apogee. The latest version will have many more options for uplink and down link frequency combinations and will make heavy use of amateur microwave frequencies. We will have a talk at a club meeting early next year that will provide all the details for getting up and running with this exciting amateur radio communications mode.

73s, Dick

## w2hd@imaham.com

Harry, W2HD

Well now, isn't that a strange looking subject for an article? Yes, you might think so, but this is going to be... believe it or not... an article on message (traffic) handling. Just wait and see... No fooling!

Some of the folks who read these words will remember their experiences with the G.I. traffic world when they were communicators. For example, I was a radioman in the Navy and sent and received many a message during my years in that capacity.

You might remember the typical headings of military messages... stations of origin, stations for whom the message was to be sent, information addressees and the all-important date time group. Lots... maybe all... was encrypted.

After several years of traffic handling, many of us became civilians and many of us also became Radio Amateurs. And... guess what... many of us became traffic-handlers in the Ham world. That's where I found myself during the early days of W2TUK... my first Ham call. The basic rules were the same: relay the message exactly as received and as quickly as possible. It was almost the same as the service days except that we did not wear uniforms! However, while the rules of the game were similar, there was a new heading and addressing in the Ham world. Looking at a message heading, you would see: "NR 1 W2TUK CK15 HEMPSTEAD, NY 2000 OCT 20" and the address would be the same as a postal address: name, street, city and state (No Zip, yet) and possibly a telephone number. The same message might be sent to more than one addressee and they were called "book" messages and only the different headings were sent while the text remained the same.

As the years flashed by, the National Traffic System (NTS) was born and a nation-wide system of local nets, state nets, area nets, regional nets and national, high-level relay nets, were established. The system was in place. Message headings eventually became what they look like today: "NR1 ROUTINE HXG W2HD 15 ANYWHERE USA 2000 OCT 20." Precedence and handling instructions had been added. The address was still the address of the recipient.

However, over this period, two new approaches to handling traffic were developed... the Packet Network and E-mail. While some of the older, dyed in the wool, traffic ladies and gentlemen winced in pain, it didn't take too long for most Hams to recognize that Packet was faster (most of the time) and E-mail was a quantum jump ahead of all. A typical Packet address would be: W2HD@WA4TFZ.CVA.U.S.A.NOAM. Messages would be entered at a Packet station and routed via the various parameters following the call sign of the station (W2HD.)

E-mail is something that almost everyone using a computer recognizes at a glance. A typical address would be the title of this article" w2hd@imaham.com. However, it is more correctly noted as w2hd@arrl.net. or HDannals@prodigy.net. The World-wide Web (WWW) is the "in thing" today and it's as fast as greased lightning. It's interesting to those of us who have lived through the rapid development of communications to see the latest in action. Do we want to return to the military procedures of WWII? Hardly! But... and there is my favorite "BUT" again... let's not lose our skill in handling traffic in the good old NTS format.

Why, you ask? Isn't the new system rapid and error free? The answer is a resounding YES! BUT (that word again) what happens when the telephone lines go down and the

WWW and its E-mail are floundering in the dark? The system goes dead, fellows and gals, and we, as usual, must depend on the tried and true Radio Amateurs... their HT's, battery-powered gear and know how to keep things running.

Soooooo, the next time we have one of those old-fashioned drills with NTS format, get behind it and learn the procedures. No gripes... let's do the job or be prepared to do the job when necessity demands that performance.

73, /s/ Harry, W2HD

## Election Results - 2001 Officers

The Election results are in and we are pleased to present your new AARC club officers for 2001:

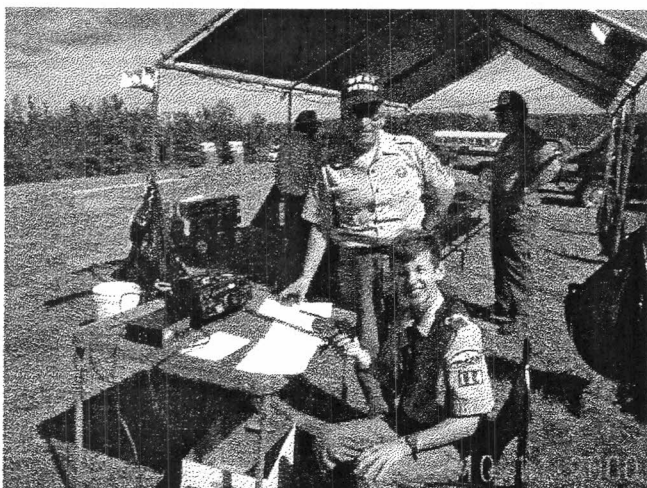
|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| President      | Stan Hazen, K2SSB    |
| Vice-President | Vic Vickery, N3DFS   |
| Secretary      | Bow Owen, K4QKH      |
| Treasurer      | Ralph Traylor, K4CFE |

The new Directors are:

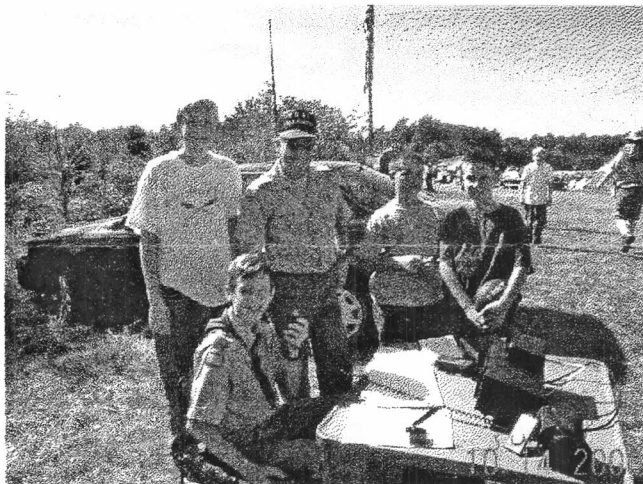
Mike Colburn, N4HRO  
 Greg Faust, N4PGS  
 Dick Mullikin, W4BZW  
 Bob Pattison, K4DU  
 Elmer Scott, KF4UCI

## WR4I Demos Ham Radio at the Apple Harvest Camporee

Article and Photos by Dennis, WR4I



I had the pleasure of participating in the Apple Harvest Camporee held the weekend of September 23 for Scouts of the Stonewall Jackson District. The scouts learn and show off their talents in pioneering, cooking, orienteering and many other related activities. I was there showing Scouts Ham Radio and was able to put several of them on the air with other Hams around the country as well as with other Scouts who were participating in a similar event in upstate New York near the Catskills. I also demonstrated the art of CW to the amazement of some of the boys, which brought out such comments as ... "you understand that stuff?? I could never learn that!". Etc. One of the adult Scout Masters came up and related a contact he had made when he was a scout visiting a Ham. He said he thought it was a "King of some country". I asked if that might be the late King Hussein of Jordan, JY1? Yup, that was the one! It made such an impression he remembers it to this day ... some thirty years later.



Equipment used was a Ten Tec Argonaut QRP rig, gel cell battery and my Outbacker mounted on top of the car. I had brought along a G5RV but the tallest trees were only about 12 ' tall where they wanted me to set up!

The weather was great and everyone had a good time. I was there Saturday afternoon from around noon to 4 PM.

I am also Den Leader of Cub Scout Den #7, Pack 492 sponsored by the Murry Elementary School.

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes October 3, 2000

Meeting cancelled.

### Regular Meeting October 10, 2000

Bob Pattison, K4DU presiding.

A presentation by Jon Siverling, WB3ERA was presented. Jon works for the ARRL at a Washington, D.C. location. His topic was "The Realignment of the 40-meter Band at the WRC-2003".

The Treasurer was absent, so there was no Financial Report.

Greg, N4PGS mentioned the completion of the American Heart Walk. He announced the Montpelier Race event on November 4<sup>th</sup>, as well as a possible support for the 5-mile run by the Shelter for Health and Emergency on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Bob, K4DU mentioned that the Boy Scout gathering in Fluvanna County next weekend needs assistance.

Greg, N4PGS presented the Nomination Committee's slate of Nominees.

- President: Stan Hazen, K2SSB
- Vice-president: Vic Vickery, N3DFS
- Secretary: Bow Owen, K4QKH
- Treasurer: Ralph Traylor, K4CFE
- Directors:

- Mike Colburn, N4HRO
- Mike Duvall, AC4ZQ
- Greg Faust, N4PGS
- Dick Mullikin, W4BZW
- Bob Pattison, K4DU
- Tom Rae, W4RAE
- Elmer Scott, KF4UCI
- Stephen Traylor, KF4ZGD

A motion was made to close the Nominations (Passed). A motion was made to accept the Officer Slate (Passed). W2PVY moved that the Secretary is to cast one vote for each (Passed). The Secretary now casts one vote for each of the Officer candidates. They are elected.

Written ballots were distributed for the election of the Directors. A team was appointed to count the ballots. The

report returned listed Colburn, Faust, Mullikin, Pattison and Scott as being elected. The results for the election are:

- President: Stan Hazen, K2SSB
- Vice-president: Vic Vickery, N3DFS
- Secretary: Bow Owen, K4QKH
- Treasurer: Ralph Traylor, K4CFE
- Directors:

- Mike Colburn, N4HRO
- Greg Faust, N4PGS
- Dick Mullikin, W4BZW
- Bob Pattison, K4DU
- Elmer Scott, KF4UCI

Greg, N4PGS mentions that there is a need to re-register on the state ARES web site ([www.ares.va.org](http://www.ares.va.org)). If you do not have access to the Internet, you can ask Greg or Dave, K4DND for paper forms.

Hein, N4FWA mentioned that a radio for SKYWARN was to be installed on Fan Mountain. He also indicated that there is a tentative SKYWARN class at the December meeting.

Don, KA4MCA mentioned that there will be a BBQ at the Earlysville Fire Department on October 21st. Come out to support them.

Jerry, WD4CEN won a cell phone drawing.

Harry, W2HD encouraged individuals to become members of the ARRL.

A proposed amendment to the Bylaws was read: The proposed change is as follows: "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". Rick, KO4WQ moved its approval. A second was heard. A few individuals spoke against various parts (W2PVY, KF4UCI, K4DND) and KO4WQ spoke for it. Joe, KD4RWX read an extensive pre-written statement which appealed for voting against it. A call for the question was made. The motion to amend failed.

The Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

*Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz, Secretary*

## AARC Classified Ads

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:** Check also the WA4TFZ/AARC web page at [members.aol.com/wa4tfz/aarc](http://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](mailto:k4uvt@yahoo.com) Please **let K4RKA know when items can be deleted from this file.**  
**Updated 5/26/00**

7/27/00 FOR SALE:  
DENTRON HF AMP

Dentron Clipperton QRO 1 KW amp.  
Covers 10-160 meters. Uses 4 572B tubes. Call Bob, K4UVT, at 804 990 2659 or Email at [k4uvt@yahoo.com](mailto:k4uvt@yahoo.com).

## Area Hamfests

None this month

## FCC Database Updates

### New Calls!

None Received

### Upgrades

AG4DN – Martin Mait

To Extra Class – formerly KF4FRO!

KA4VMP – Ed Taylor

To General on Sept. 9, 2000 !

## VE Session Schedule - 2000

November 4  
Fredericksburg

(W5YI VEC)  
VDEN ARC

Edward A. Forman (540) 439-0568  
EFORMAN@EROLS.COM  
9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUESTED**  
Salem Church Library - MTG Rm B  
2607 Salem Church Rd  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407

## Birthdays This Month

| Nov.    | KD4TOR | Bill   |
|---------|--------|--------|
| Nov. 8  | W4CZY  | Billy  |
| Nov. 8  | KC4UCK | Pete   |
| Nov. 10 | KE4NNT | Jan    |
| Nov. 13 | KA0JG  | Joe    |
| Nov. 15 | WD4AYS | Carter |
| Nov. 19 | K4UVT  | Bob    |
| Nov. 22 | W4EI   | Roger  |
| Nov. 23 | N2YDW  | Al     |
| Nov. 28 | W4LNT  | Clay   |
| Nov. 29 | KF4MEF | Nancy  |

**Happy**

**Thanksgiving!**

November 2000

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



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month

Contact Information  
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(804) 990-2659  
K4uvt@yahoo.com or k4uvt@earthlink.net

KA4JJD G 2000

CURRENT MEMBER

**Michael F. Rein**  
109 Sturbridge Rd.  
Charlottesville VA 22901

\*\*\* Next Club Meeting \*\*\* November 14 - 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**

**AREA REPEATERS**

**WA4TFZ**

| INPUT/OUTPUT    | Tone Access (if needed)   |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 146.160/146.760 | 88.5 Hz                   |
| 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 |

**Other Area Repeaters**

145.410 (-) 100 Hz Tone (if enabled) - **AF4CY (Madison)**  
442.075 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone - **KF4UCI**

**AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

| DATE        | EVENT                |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 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.