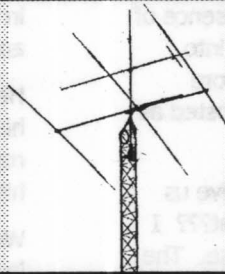


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2001, No. 2

February 2001

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on February 13 at the NRAO Building on the UVA grounds at 7:30 PM. The program is tentatively a double-header. Dave, K4DND and company will talk to us about cross-banding VHF-UHF. We also hope to have the Executive Director of the Red Cross there with a talk entitled "Damage Assessment". See you there!!

Dues Reminder

Dues for 2001 are now due!!! January is the month to pay your AARC Dues. Dues are \$20 for a Regular Membership or \$25 for a Family Membership ... where 2 or more adult family member hams are living in the same household. Youth Membership is free ... if member is less than 18 years old on January 1, 2001.

Payment should be made **payable to AARC** and should be mailed to the new Treasurer:

Ralph Traylor, K4CFE
4535 Woods Edge Road
Troy, VA 22974

The President Speaks

Stan, K2SSB

We hope that all of you had a good time at Old Country Buffet last month.

This month, we return to our usual meeting place, the NRAO building on Edgemont Road. Vic has planned an interesting meeting for us. Let's have a good turnout.

NRAO will soon be embarking on an extensive remodeling project. It will require roughly the last half of this year and all of next year. The auditorium that NRAO has graciously let us use may be unavailable for a part of that time. Regardless of the ease of entry into the building, parking

availability may be significantly reduced by the presence of construction equipment. Your officers are looking into alternate meeting locations. We expect to have more definite information after May 1. We'll keep you posted as we learn more.

I took half of my space last month asking you to give us program ideas for this year's meetings. Guess what??? I have been decidedly underwhelmed by the response. The only ideas that I have heard have come from our Veep. I have heard absolutely nothing from any of you, the members.

The Club exists to try to meet your needs. If we don't know what your needs are, we can't possibly meet them. How would you feel if you came to a meeting one month and there was no featured speaker? You'd say, well, Vic didn't do his job. Give us a break! Vic's job is to make arrangements for the speaker and to get the materials that the speaker needs to present his or her topic. It's not Vic's job to come up with all of the ideas. It's your job. Please let us know what you want. If you don't, you'll be hearing this same broken record over and over.

We also need volunteers. The By-Laws call for five named Committees. These are the Technical, Fund Raising, Education, Publications, and Activities Committees. According to the By-Laws, each Committee is composed of a Chairperson, a Director and at least two other members who are appointed by the Board. Other committees must be authorized annually. A Recruitment Committee was appointed for the year 2000. Committees can't exist unless people are willing to volunteer to serve. How many voices do I hear?

We'll see you on February 13. Bring along your ideas and your offer to help us all.

73, Stan

Peep From The Veep

Vic, N3DFS

Bio Bits – Bill Rupp, W4KSH

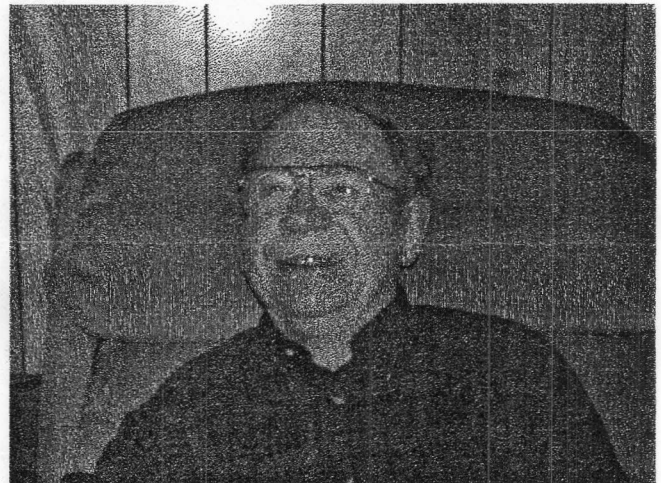
Veryl W. "Bill" Rupp was born at a very young age on September 28, 1913 in German Township, Ohio. He later wound up in Toledo.

Bill was first licensed by the Detroit, MI, FCC field office as W8AEW after taking an elective course while a senior in high school in Toledo. He held a Class B license (equivalent to General nowadays) and then upgraded to Class A (the equivalent of Extra). He was also licensed in First Class Radio Telephone for the broadcast business. He later achieved Second-Class Commercial status. He worked briefly at a radio shop in Wauseon, OH, and then as a combo man

in Kingston, NC, where he was involved in the technical side and announcing.

He spent some 20 years in Suffolk, Virginia, where he met his wife, Hazel Tolley; they married in 1941. Hazel was a registered nurse. They raised two children. Sadly, Bill lost his wife early on Valentine's Day 1998.

World War II intervened and he was inducted into the Army in 1942. He went overseas to England and then via LST to Le Havre and up the Seine River to Roen and Versailles. He was assigned to the 5th Mobile Radio Broadcast Company, supporting the OSS with a one-kilowatt station. He also worked in writing and editing news, working for a while with actor Broderick Crawford. He followed Headquarters, First Army. Although he did not see combat, he could hear the commotion caused by the Ardennes Counteroffensive. He installed a 600-watt PA on a truck for propaganda work. He returned to the U. S. in August 1945 to Indian Town Gap Military Reservation, PA, and was discharged.



He got back into amateur radio soon after the war with the call sign WB4MXK. He applied for and got W4KSH, but his privileges were cut back to Class B.

From 1962 to 1982, Bill worked for the Voice of America in Washington as a recording engineer.

Bill operates a Kenwood TS-830S with a North Carolina Windom antenna. His work now is mostly SSB, but he occasionally dabbles in CW.

73, Vic

Power Revisited

Harry, W2HD

Several times over the course of writing these articles for our AARC Newsletter, the subject has turned to your station and

mine relating to signals transmitted and received. We start out with a signal source... most of the time these days it's a transceiver... and "some sort" of antenna! It is frequently the latter item that should receive the most attention, but often does not!

Buying a transceiver these days isn't as big an expense as it once was when you take into fact the cost of living increase over the years. (This has been previously discussed.) Actually, a modern radio is a "BUY" with all its bells and whistles for the buck. The majority of today's transceivers are rated at the 100-watt output level. Ten-Tec makes the "Scout" with plug-in band modules and a power output level of 50-watts (just 3 dB down from 100-watts.) Elecraft and couple of other kit manufacturers sell QRP rigs in the 5-watt range. Yaesu has entered the market with a radio that can be called a "do all everywhere" model. It's a QRP rig... under 5-watts, but runs on an "AA" pack and can be carried about very readily. It also covers the BC band, general coverage, WFM, the aircraft band, 6-meters, 2-meters and 70-cm. Can you talk to stations with it? Yes, you can! MFJ also supplies some low-power mobile gear that accounts for itself very nicely on the ham bands at around ten-watts or so.

OK, so what's the joke with all these low-power rigs (especially those at ten-watts or less)? It is no joke, readers. You can have a lot of fun on the air without running up a big power bill at the same time. The explanation is rather simple and one of the points has nothing to do with equipment or antenna systems. That point is called confidence in the fact that your signal can indeed compete with others even at a low power level. In an informal survey of my log over the last two months or so, there are many, many contacts with stations running 100-watts with modest antennas... simple dipoles, the ever famous G5RV in an inverted Vee configuration and many of these antennas only 15 or so feet above the ground! Additionally, mobile contacts have been made with stations in the 100-watt or less class utilizing Hustler whips, Ham Sticks or other simple mobile vertical antennas.

It would be rather foolish to state that the above signals "overpower" the station with a multi-element beam at dozens of feet above the ground. Of course, they don't, but you would be amazed to hear these stations come through with very, very readable signals under stiff interference conditions. Oftentimes the receiving station provides the signal at a level that can be heard and the fixed station beam provides the "ears!" At any rate, if you have that confidence factor, you won't hesitate to call other stations. You will also develop a sense of timing in your calls. Don't battle the kilowatt stations on their terms, but establish your own calling pattern. One way to find out if you are capable of being heard at some distances is to ride the coattail of a local higher-powered station who can have someone listen for you. It works!!!

Someday in the not-too-distant future, we'll talk about some simple antennas that are just a little better than other simple antennas. Until that time, put up the best antenna you can and have fun. You will be surprised at the results you can obtain with a few watts. We have several QRP stations in the area and they can tell you their stories of success. Lots of states... lots of countries... with the development of confidence!

73... /s/ Harry, W2HD

Education Committee News

Joseph D. Fritz, KD4RWX

One of the main reasons we are a Virginia State Incorporated organization is the education of members and others concerning issues related to Amateur Radio. Lately, that emphasis has been minimal. I want to increase that emphasis.

This current column is an unofficial report concerning the Education Committee (EC). No Chair was appointed at the January Board meeting as prescribed in the Bylaws. I have informally asked to be appointed as the Chair of the EC. If I am appointed, this column will become a frequent source of information concerning the plans, activities and requests for assistance. If I am not appointed, all bets are off.

I have received commitments from three (3) AARC members who would like to help with the planning. There will be room for many more to serve in some capacity while carrying out the goals of the EC. Importantly, conducting classes for those individuals who wish to enter the world of Amateur Radio will be foremost. Many of you were once students in classes held by the AARC. The entry level class will not be the only class offered. It will be our goal to promote achievement of theory for the General and Extra class levels.

I wish to overstate my unofficial circumstances. I am NOT the Education Chair. But, if I become the Chair, you can be sure that many of you will be asked to participate in the planning and carrying out of an expanded set of goals and objectives for education within our club. Some of you might wish to volunteer to assist when the person needs are determined.

At a minimum, there will be a need for several instructors to serve in the classes offered. Some individuals might be needed for an outreach program to area schools. Consideration will be given to providing special seminars related to expanding members' understanding of Amateur Radio issues. Perhaps, some programs will be developed specifically for presentation at club meetings.

Look next month for additional information.

We Hear That ...

Joseph D. Fritz, KD4RWX

- Brian Fox, W1FOX, has a new address and email address:
43595 Osage Court
Ashburn VA 20147
703 729-4675
Email: W1FOX@earthlink.net
- Leroy, WA4MHP, has changed his email address to wa4mhp@arrl.net, which will forward to his normal ISP email.

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes January 2, 2001

Attending: President: Stan, K2SSB; Vice President: Vic, N3DFS; Treasurer: Ralph, K4CFE; Acting Secretary: Joe, KD4RWX; Directors: Dick, W4BZW; Mike, N4HRO.

Joe was asked to complete IRS Form SS-4.

The following meetings are scheduled at the Main Library: February, March and April. Efforts will be made to locate a more convenient location. Joe will check Aldersgate UMC and the Seminole VFD for a possible regular meeting place, when we are unable to use the NRAO site during their renovation. Locations like those mentioned are likely to cost as much as \$25-50 per night. Will the club be able or be willing to pay such amounts?

Stan will check with Ron, K4RKA concerning Frostfest tables.

No Committee assignments were voted on during the meeting. Mike, N4HRO indicated that he would work with the Publication Committee. Joe, KD4RWX indicated that since he was volunteering to stand for election as Secretary at the February meeting, he would continue to publish the Directory. Thus he would serve on the Publication Committee, but he would not Chair it.

Joe, KD4RWX indicated that he would stand for election as Secretary for 2001 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the elected 2001 Secretary, Bow, K4QKH/SK.

Several topics for programs were discussed. Vic, N3DFS, will report details as details are completed.

A call for more "inspirational" meetings was made.

Joe read specifics of the ARRL Special Service Club requirements.

Regular Meeting January 7, 2001

The January meeting was held at the Old Country Buffet. This was the annual winter dinner meeting. After dinner, some certificates were distributed personally by Dave, K4DND. These were related to participation on the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net.

Later, Joe, KD4RWX presented certificates to the following individuals:

Elmer Scott, KF4UCI	Ham of the Year
Sharon Duvall, KO4OC	President's Award
Mike Duvall, AC4ZQ	President's Award
Jimmy Walker, K4JMY	President's Award
Dave Damon, K4DND	President's Award
Greg Faust, N4PGS	Special Recognition
Hein Hvatum, N4FWA	Special Recognition
David Brown, AD4GK	Public Service Certificate: Level I (20)
Marty Mait, AG4DN	Public Service Certificate: Level I (20)
Fred Newman, KE4ZNO	Public Service Certificate: Level III (48)

The new president, Stan Hazen, K2SSB, spoke briefly and encouraged people to participate at the AARC table at the upcoming Frostfest in Richmond.

Those attending had an enjoyable time.

Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz, Acting 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. 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

12/28/00 WANTED: Viking Valiant & Modulation Transformer	Dee, W4PNT, is looking for an AM transmitter tube modulation transformer in the 100 watt neighborhood. He would also like to acquire a Viking Valiant transmitter. Call him at 540 249-3161
12/28/00 FOR SALE: 9600 Baud Modem	Rick, KO4WQ, has an almost new 9600-baud modem in the original box. Call Rick at 804 823-1128
12/28/00 FOR SALE: 220 MHZ Antennas	Ron, K4RKA, has a Hi Gain 220 MHZ gain ground plane antenna for sale for \$20 and/or a nice home-made (by KA3NXN) 220 j-pole for \$10 (it's at my house now). Call 804 973-3640.
1/11/01 FOR SALE: Older Computer - Cheap!!	Henry, KD4CQX, has a Kaypro desktop computer 80286 with keyboard, mouse, and monitor (probably EGA) for the great sum of \$15 (he might bargain) to anyone interested. It has both 5 1/4 and 3 1/2 drives and two hard drives. Useful for word processing or packet. Call 296-8585 or call Elmer, KF4UCI (same number during work hours)
1/11/01 FREE: Even Older Computer!	Ron, K4RKA, offers a Compaq "luggable" (looks like a portable sewing machine), the original "portable", hard drive, built in monitor, the lid contains the keyboard, only one 5 1/4 drive. Call 804 973-3640
1/4/01 FREE: EMI Filter	Lewis, WD4PKS, offers, FREE TO A GOOD HOME , a 250 VAC EMI filter. Has 20 amps one leg, 14 amps on the other, complete with circuit breaker. Call 804-979-7077.

Area Hamfests

Annandale, VA Feb. 25	Sponsored by Vienna Wireless Society (http://winterfest.home.att.net). Contact: Mike Toia, K3MT at 723 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA 22066. Phone: 703-757-7021 or Email at k3mt@erols.com
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FCC Database Updates

New Calls

None Received

Upgrades

KA4VMP
Edward P. Taylor

To Amateur Extra on January 4, 2001!!

VE Session Schedule - 2001

February 3 Dayton (ARRL VEC) VARA & MARA	Gerald E. Nauman (540) 434-0859 Edward A. Forman (540) 439-0568 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) kn4fm@arrl.net (Freq 145.130) Woodmen Of The World Bldg State Route 42 Dayton, VA 22821
February 10 Lynchburg (ARRL VEC) Stafford ARA	Curt R. Bartholomew (540) 720-2392 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) North Stafford High School, Route 10 839 Garrisonville Rd I-95 Exit 48, 3 miles west Stafford, VA 22554
February 11 Winchester (ARRL VEC) Shenandoah Valley ARC	Brian L. Mawhinney (540) 665-0761 bmawhinney@woodmark.com 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed) SVARC Clubhouse 2126 Grace St. Winchester, VA 22601

Birthdays This Month

Feb. 9	KF4FRN	Roe
Feb. 19	K4PRT	Bernard
Feb. 20	KB4RM	Rose-Marie
Feb. 20	KO4WQ	Richard
Feb. 28	KO4OC	Sharon

February 2001

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6833
Charlottesville, VA 22906
<http://members.aol.com/wa4fz/aarc/default2.html>



THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2001 No. 2
February 2001

ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information
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PO Box 977
Charlottesville, VA 22902-0977
(804) 990-2659
K4uvt@yahoo.com or k4uvt@earthlink.net

CURRENT MEMBER: 2001
KA4JJD G 2001
Michael F. Rein
109 Sturbridge Rd.
Charlottesville VA 22901

*** Next Club Meeting *** February 13 - 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 - KF4UCL

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
February 13	Regular Club Meeting
March 13	Regular Club Meeting
April 10	Regular Club Meeting
May 8	Regular Club Meeting
June 12	Regular Club Meeting
July 10	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT

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.