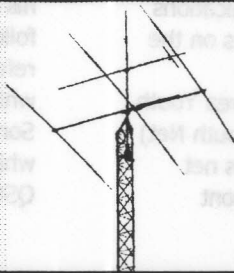


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2001, No. 8

August 2001

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Meeting Notice - AARC Picnic!!

The next regular AARC meeting will be the **Annual AARC Picnic**. It will be held on August 14 at 6:00 PM at McIntire Park. The featured program for this meeting will be simply to enjoy great food and the company of your fellow AARC'ers. It should be lots of fun -- See you there!!

Editorial PO Box Change!!!

Effective immediately, your newsletter editor has acquired a new PO Box, due primarily to a shift in work location. PO Box 977 in Charlottesville is **no longer valid**. All newsletter submissions sent via regular mail should now be sent to the editor at **PO Box 530, Ruckersville, VA 22968-0530**. Please correct your address books accordingly – especially your email address books!

The President Speaks

Stan, K2SSB

[Our President is on vacation this month]

Veep Peeps

Vic, N3DFS

BIO BITS – Steven Traylor, KF4ZGD

Steven was born in Lynchburg, VA on October 24, 1986 to Ralph, K4CFE and Brenda Traylor. In 13 years he has managed to upgrade to Extra Class and to become a member of the Board of AARC.

Steven first learned about Amateur Radio through a book from the library. He was licensed as a Tech on July 7, 1998, upgraded to Advanced 11 months later and to Extra 11 months after that.

He is interested in ragchewing, emergency communications and public service, antenna construction and he gets on the lower bands once in a while, mostly for DX-ing and contesting. He helped create the Central Virginia Area Youth Net (recently becoming the Central Virginia LYRA Youth Net) and is now a regular net controller. He has acted as net control on several occasions on the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net.

Other interests include computers (mostly web programming), bike riding (he rides several miles almost every day), gardening (raises a small vegetable garden) and playing the piano.

Steven is home-schooled, and will be a junior during the next term. He enjoys the sciences, especially physics and chemistry.

With accomplishments and interests like these, one wonders what he does in his spare time!



73, Vic

The Final Courtesy

Harry, W2HD

Introductory Notes

Some months ago a high school Ham Radio friend asked me to do a favor for a non-Ham friend of his. The latter fellow was writing a picture story about Amateur Radio QSL cards for a particular country. He had very little understanding of the cards and wanted an introductory section prepared for

his book. I agreed to help out and the column which follows is part of that introductory section with the specific references to country left out and other words substituted which are more in line with a Radio Amateur's background. Somewhere in my past recollection there was a phrase in use which said that "A QSL card was the 'final courtesy' of a QSO." Here's my column:

The Final Courtesy

From the early days of Amateur Radio operating, the QSL card was known as the final courtesy of a contact via the airwaves. First of all, this statement requires delving into history for further background.

In the experimental atmosphere of the early days of radio, signals did not travel hundreds or thousands of miles. An operator was pleased to know that his radio signal was even heard at tens of miles. To serve as a means of confirmation of reception of these signals at whatever distance, written reports of reception were exchanged by the operators. These reports, in the form of a simple card, were known as QSL cards. The three letter terminology developed from the operating signal "QSL" which served as the words, "I am acknowledging receipt" and was exchanged by stations using Morse code as a shortened form of the full meaning.

Thus, a QSL card is a written verification of a contact. It contains all the vital information such as the time of contact, the frequency, signal reports and so forth. Today, QSLs are primarily used by Radio Amateurs who are seeking various awards. They need QSLs to prove that the contacts were genuine. The original concept is still valid.

A simple postcard was sufficient to carry the confirming information, but the originality of "Ham Radio" operators began to show through and QSL cards became very much more than a mere report of signal, time and other data.

The simple card still existed, but elaborate presentation of the call letters; perhaps a photograph or line drawing or some other personalization was soon the popular approach to generation of a QSL card.

Page Two – The Final Courtesy

If you don't have any received QSLs, try and check into the collection of a Ham friend. You will see examples of the simple to the more complex, the ordinary to the beautiful and other prime examples of the originality and thought presented by the card. There are some absolutely beautiful cards sent out by stations throughout the world.

There are many other bits of communications information which abound on some QSLs. Precise descriptions of radio station equipment and antennas are a common addition. A

listing of the awards the station has achieved in its time on the air is many times found using recognized abbreviations for these awards, i.e. "WAS" stands for "Worked All States and DXCC for achieving contact with one-hundred or more countries.

Today, the high costs of printing and postage have made QSLing a dollar item in the operation of a station. No longer does a penny postcard do the job and commercially printed cards can cost quite a bit. However, Radio Amateurs are still proud of the QSL heritage and do their best to put a good foot forward. The higher costs have been answered by several assists from the countries of the world. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has an Incoming and Outgoing QSL service where cards are exchanged with similar services in other countries by bulk mail. Your card may take a little longer to make the trip, but it's a much less expensive approach. When you contact a station who says, "QSL via the Buro" he means that his country is part of this service.

Here in the U.S.A., you should have an envelope on file with your local call area bureau so that cards can come to you on the return route "via the Buro!" If you need any assistance with such instructions, please don't hesitate to ask some of our big DXers in AARC, and we have them, too!

The proud tradition of "The Final Courtesy" remains. Millions of QSL cards are exchanged regularly between the Radio Amateurs of the world. There is still that desire to know if your station's signals were truly acknowledged in that faraway country. There are hundreds of awards issued for radio contacts with counties, states, countries, islands and special events. The QSL card remains an important part of Amateur Radio!

73... /s/ Harry, W2HD

Revised Morse Code Reference

Joe, KD4RWX via Ken, KF4OW

New! Easy to download! William G. Pierpont's "The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy", new Third Revised Edition, dated July 8, 2001, has just been released in Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat PDF formats and may be downloaded from the web site at <http://www.qsl.net/n9bor/n0hff.htm>. This edition contains miscellaneous corrections to the previous version, and most significantly, adds a High-Speed Appendix, with fascinating interviews and stories of what can be done and how to do it. This is truly the definitive book on the subject of radio telegraphy. As Bill points out in the document, "The art and skill of telegraphy is unique. The psychologists who have seriously studied those who have developed this skill have been fascinated and challenged to try to understand it. Isn't the very idea of being able to communicate your thoughts to another by means of

intermittent tones something intriguing in itself?" And, he also says, "It is my hope that you, as the reader, will find it both interesting and useful. I make no claim that it is complete, perfect or final, or that it contains everything of possible value or interest. I had to leave out some interesting items, especially of history. Perhaps some of these, plus anything you, as reader, may wish to contribute, could be added in further editions. This book may be freely reproduced and published, but only on a non-profit basis in order to make it as widely available as possible to those who need it..." The book will be made available in many forms in the days to come. The decision has been made to make the book downloadable so it can be read off-line, as well as printed, by the computer user. This obviates the need for an HTML edition as was previously available. *From Fred Adsit, NY2V*

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes July 3, 2001

Canceled due to closeness of Holiday.

Regular Meeting July 10, 2001

Stan, K2SSB presiding.

New Member Approved: Joseph Greenberg, KJ4PE.

Motion was made to approve payment of \$233 Insurance bill. Seconded and approved.

Tom, W4RAE reported that plans were being made for a fall class. Details later.

Ron, K4RKA is looking for a piece of equipment he loaned out. If you borrowed it, please return it to him.

Josh, KG4NGV will coordinate the club provided items for picnic.

Stan, K2SSB will check on Board meeting room reservations.

Vic, N3DFS asked for meeting program ideas. Stan mentioned HF antennas. Ron suggested different people bring items which they have and explain how they function. Vic will develop ideas and present in the newsletter.

Attention was drawn to Bud, KB4JNI being in hospital.

Hein, N4FWA: **PLEASE NOTE:** Parking in the upper parking lot is to be restricted to **MARKED PARKING SPACES ONLY.**

Dave, K4DND mentioned that some brush clearing had been done at repeater site. He will meet with UVA Real Estate

personnel to discuss our continued placement at the web site.

The program for this meeting was **RF: You Can't Live With It; You Can't Live Without It!**, presented by Bill Lakatosh, W4TJ.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz, Secretary

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes July 3, 2001

Cancelled due to closeness of Holiday

Regular Meeting July 10, 2001

Stan, K25B presiding

New Member Approval: Joseph Greenwood, K0RRE

Motion was made to approve payment of \$233 Insurance

bill. Seconded and approved.

Tom, W9RAE reported that plans were being made for a fall class. Details later.

Ron, K1RWA is looking for a piece of equipment he loaned out. If you knowed it, please return it to him.

Josh, K2ANV will coordinate the class provided items for picnic.

Stan, K25B will check on board meeting room reservations.

Vic, K2DZT asked for meeting program ideas. Stan mentioned HF antennas. Ron suggested different people bring items which they have and explain how they function.

Vic will develop ideas and present in the newsletter.

Attention was drawn to Bud, K2KMI being in hospital.

Help, M1WVA: PLEASE NOTE: Parking in the upper parking lot is to be restricted to MARKED PARKING SPACES ONLY.

Dave, K4GND mentioned that some brush clearing had been done at regular site. He will meet with UVA Real Estate

listing of the awards the station has achieved in its time on the air is many times found using recognized abbreviations for these awards, i.e. "WAS" stands for "Worked All States" and DXCC for achieving contact with one hundred or more countries.

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73... Al Hart, W5HD

Revised Morse Code Preference

Joe, K2MRX via Ken, W4VOW

New! Easy to download! William G. Rippon's "The Art and Skill of Radio Teleggraphy", new Third Revised Edition, dated July 8, 2001, has just been released in Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat PDF formats and may be downloaded from the web site at <http://www.qsl.net/w4vow/teleg.htm>. This edition contains miscellaneous corrections to the previous version, and most significantly adds a High-Speed Acoustic with facsimile interviews and stories of what can be done and how to do it. This is truly the definitive book on the subject of radio teleggraphy. As Bill points out in the document, "The art and skill of teleggraphy is unique. The psychologists who have seriously studied those who have developed this skill have been fascinated and challenged to try to understand it. Isn't the very idea of being able to communicate your thoughts to another by means of

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 <http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/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 to the Editor at k4uvt@yahoo.com Please **let K4RKA know when items can be deleted from this file. Updated 4/01/01**

7/22/01 FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-901DM HF Transceiver

For 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters. All solid state except 6146B finals and driver - 100 watts. Digital & analog readout. Built-in keyer, split operation, etc. AC and 12 VDC power supplies built in. Includes mic and mobile mount (new in box) and maintenance manuals. Excellent condition. \$375 OBO. Prefer pick up rather than ship. Call John, KX4P at 804 975-4493 (Home) or 804 978-2452 (Office).

7/22/01 FOR SALE: Five-Foot Rack

Professionally finished rack with blank panels, rear locking door, side panels, louvered top, mounted on casters. Includes miscellaneous hardware - rails, screws, etc. \$135 OBO pick-up only. Call John, KX4P at 804 975-4493 (Home) or 804 978-2452 (Office).

3/22/01 FOR SALE: AEA TNC

Rick, KO4WQ, offers an AEA PK232MBX TNC, complete with original carton, manual, cables plus an MFJ microphone switch for use with the TNC. All in good working order. Reply to rberman@rlc.net or call 804 823-1128

3/1/01 FOR SALE: Icom 228H 2M Mobile

Bob, K4UVT, has an Icom 228H 2M Mobile rig with mobile mounting bracket and DTMF microphone. Also still have the manual! This rig still works FB - it just doesn't fit anywhere in the new automobile! Call 804 990-2659.

8/2/01 WANTED: 2M/440 Transceiver

Ralph, K4CFE, is looking for a 2M/440 transceiver with DTMF & CTSS. Repeat function desired but not necessary. Call Ralph at 434 296-7418.

7/19/01 WANTED: CW QRP Rig/CW Key

Looking for 10 - 80 meter rig. For the right price an 80-meter only rig is OK. Also need good rugged straight key for CW. Mill, KG4JAO at 540 967 23401

Area Hamfests

August 5 Berryville, VA

Sponsored by Shenandoah Valley ARC.
Web site: <http://www.Vvalley.com/svarc/>
Contact: Guy Avey, W3INT, 110 Longcroft Road, Winchester, VA 22602
Phone: 540 678-9970 or email at guy@vissuallink.com

September 22-23 Virginia Beach, VA

**** VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION ****

Sponsor: Tidewater Radio Conventions
Web site: <http://www.vahamfest.com>
Contact: Art Thiemens, AA4AT, 2836 Greenwood Road, Chesapeake, VA 23321. Phone: 757 484-2857 or Email at thiemens@pinn.net

Birthdays This Month

Aug 1	KB7ZWG	Bonnie
Aug 4	KA4MCA	Don
Aug 6	KD4NRE	Al
Aug 7	W6UZ	John
Aug 12	K1EE	Ed
Aug 13	K4MW	Pete
Aug 16	KE4OID	Jessie
Aug 16	K8HC	Harold
Aug 17	K4DND	Dave
Aug 26	W0ANN	Ann
Aug 28	WD4CEN	Jerry

FCC Database Updates

New Calls

None reported

Upgrades

None reported

VE Session Schedule - 2001

August 4 Dayton

(ARRL VEC) VARA & MARA

Gerald E. Nauman (540) 434-0859
10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Sign-in 9:00 AM
kn4fm@arri.net (Freq 145.130)
Woodmen Of The World Bldg
State Route 42
Dayton, VA 22821

August 11 Richmond

(ARRL VEC) Richmond ARC/RAVE

Patrick Wilson (804) 932-9424
w4pw@arri.net
9:00 AM (NO Walk-ins allowed)
J. Sargeant Reynolds Comm. College
1651 E. Parham Rd. Bldg. B, Room 201
Richmond, VA 23228
Register at www.w4pw.org

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 6833
 Charlottesville, VA 22906
<http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/aarc/index.htm>



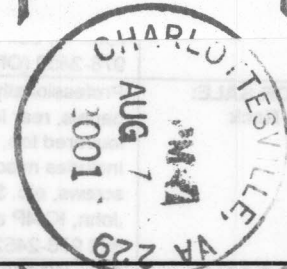
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ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information
 Daniel R. (Bob) Dorsey, Jr. K4UVT
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K4uvt@yahoo.com

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

CURRENT MEMBER: 2001



***** Next Club Meeting *** August 14 - 6:00 PM McIntire Park**

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 *Wood Grill* ~~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
August 14	AARC Club Picnic - McIntire Park
September 11	Regular Club Meeting
October 9	Regular Club Meeting
November 13	Regular Club Meeting
December 11	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
Early September	Simulated Emergency Training Exercise
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.