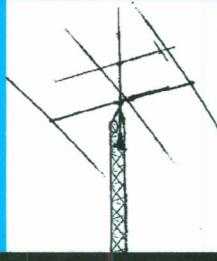


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2002, No. 9

September 2002

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO building on the UVA campus. The program for the evening will be a presentation by Jim Condon, AD4YM, on "**Really Old Radios**", which should be very interesting.

See you there!!

The President Speaks

Bob, K4DU

Once again we have reached the fall of the year. The HF operators in our midst are probably very happy to greet the fall. This summer has had its share of solar flares and disturbances to HF propagation. I've been playing with HF mobile. I have been using single band vertical antennas with an IC 706. I have antennas for 80-20-17-10. I know I need to do some work with the power cables and bonding. I noticed recently that while there always seems to be a great deal of noise on the band for which the antenna is installed, usually the next band up has less noise and better signals. For example, install the 75 Meter antenna, lots of noise on 75, but on 40 meters the band is less noisy and the signals are strong. Install the 20 meter antenna, lots of noise on 20 and 17 has less noise and strong signals. Can anyone tell me what's going on here?

Classes will begin again shortly, so if you know of someone who would like to be a ham or someone who would be a good addition to the hobby make certain that you let them know about the classes. Ham radio will continue to be under pressure until we have at least one million licensed operators in the US.

Fall generally brings the last public service events of the year. It is fair to say that we each have a few more opportunities to exercise your equipment and skills for the benefit of the community and amateur radio before the cold weather sets in.

September 2002

The picnic was a smashing success. I would like to thank Steve Clements KD4HBX and Marty Mait AD4GN and everyone else who worked to pull it together. The tailgate was a great addition. I guess you could say this it was Charlottesville's First Annual Hamfest! While I am in recognition mode, I want to offer a special thanks to Bud Beazell KB4JNI for the work that he has been doing behind the scenes to find buyers for some of the equipment donated to the club. I would also like to thank those of you who have purchased these items.

Fall is also election time for the AARC. In the next few days I will appoint a nominations committee, and they will propose a slate of officers for the clubs consideration. Of course nominations can be made from the floor. If you are asked to serve I encourage you to accept. If you would like to serve as an officer, director or on one of the committees I urge you to step forward, don't wait to be asked.

73, Bob, K4DU

Veep Peeps

Josh, KG4NGV

No VP column available at press time

"Really Old Radios"

Jim Condon, AD4YM

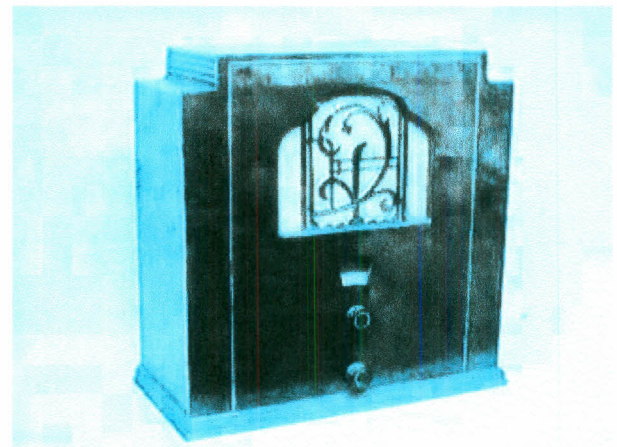
At the September meeting, Jim (AD4YM) will tell the story of early radio -- the engineering, the politics, the business, and the people who made it all happen -- and demonstrate AM broadcast and amateur radios built in the 1920's and 1930's.

Commercial radio broadcasting began in 1920 with live coverage of the Warren G. Harding election and quickly swept the country. Soon there were hundreds of amateur and commercial broadcast stations on the air, many transmitting on the same frequency (some things never change). Hundreds of manufacturers responded to the demand and sold simple battery-powered regenerative and TRF (tuned radio frequency) receivers covering the standard AM broadcast band, the "police" band, and even shortwave bands. In 1924 Herbert Hoover noted that "Radio has passed from the field of adventure to that of a public utility. The sale of radio apparatus has increased from a million dollars a year to a million dollars a day" in only four years. The brilliant ideas, patent battles, crooked accounting schemes, political jockeying, booms, and busts of early radio make today's digital telecommunication revolution look like *deja vu* all over again---the state of the art advances, but people remain the same.

The first "electric radios" that could operate on household AC power appeared in 1927 and brought radio out of the "radio shack" and into the living room. The superheterodyne circuit made the radio easy enough for even a child to tune, and radio became a practical part of everyday home life. By the late 1920's, elaborate console radios were built into fine furniture cabinets, and they became the single most expensive item of furniture in many homes. After the stock-market crash in 1929, manufacturers reduced their prices by putting simpler circuits into smaller table-top or "depression" cabinets, especially the tombstone and cathedral shapes that we now think of as epitomizing old wooden radios. Even during hard times, "social workers found that Americans would sooner sell their refrigerators, bathtubs, telephones, and beds to make rent payments than part with the box that connected them to the world." Radio ownership actually increased from 40% of American families in 1930 to 82% in 1938. The radio comedy series "Amos 'n' Andy" grew so popular that some movie theaters actually piped the show through their speaker systems to keep customers who would otherwise stay home.

The golden era of wooden radios and the shows they played is long gone, but not forgotten.

Radios from the 1920's and 1930's can still be found in attics, at flea markets, or on eBay (caveat emptor). Many of the AC-powered superheterodyne radios can easily be restored to good working condition and appearance for use as home AM receivers. For example, I have a 1933 Grunow model 500 in my kitchen so I can listen to the news while I eat breakfast. It works well enough for AM, and its veneered cabinet with art deco chrome cutout over the speaker cloth looks a lot cooler than most modern radios.



1933 Grunow model 500 "stepped tombstone" radio

Not every ham has experience working with "hollow state" AM radios, but it isn't hard and plenty of resources are

available. If you think you might be interested in restoring and using an old radio, I recommend that you go to one of the antique radio conferences sponsored by the organizations listed below. You will meet and learn from experienced radio collectors. There are all kinds of radios, tubes, and other parts sold at the conference flea markets and auctions. Experts give scheduled presentations on electrical and cabinet restoration. Picture books listing the most common old radios and their current values can help you decide what to look for and how much to pay. Other books are primers on radio repair, and you can find free schematic diagrams on the web for almost every radio ever made. Chances are that many of the original resistors and capacitors in an old radio are bad (resistors tend to increase in resistance, capacitors get leaky), but with a schematic, a multimeter, and a little detective work, you can track them down and replace them. I'm not a restoration purist, so I often use modern replacement parts.

I'd rather have my radios work reliably than look completely original under the chassis. Of course, even an old radio will just play new radio broadcasts. The term "Old Time Radio" or "OTR" refers to the old radio programs themselves, many of which have been preserved on tape or CD. If you're tired of sports-talk radio and would like to hear Orson Welles play Lamont Cranston in "The Shadow" for a change of pace, check out the OTR web site listed below.

Organizations:

The Antique Wireless Association (AWA) at web site <http://www.antiquewireless.org/> hosts the annual conference at Rochester, the biggest flea market for antique broadcast and communications radios. They also have a newsletter and operate a museum in Bloomfield, NY.

The Carolinas Chapter of the AWA (CCAWA) at web site <http://www.cc-awa.org/> is one of the most active nearby groups, with an excellent flea market at their Charlotte conference.

The Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club (MAARC) at web site <http://www.maarc.org/> has an annual "Radio Activity" meeting with a flea market, talks on radio restoration, and old equipment contests.

Books:

"Antique Radio Restoration Guide" by David Johnson is a complete "how to" book for repairing and restoring old radios. If you always wanted to know how the "All American Five" works or what the inside of an IF transformer can look like, this is the book for you.

"Old Time Radios! Restoration and Repair" by Joseph J. Carr explains the theory of old radio circuits but has less practical repair information than Johnson's book.

"Empire of the Air" by Tom Lewis is a history of early radio technology and broadcasting, centered on the inventions of Edwin Armstrong (regeneration, the superheterodyne, FM) and his patent battles with RCA under David Sarnoff.

"The Collector's Guide to Antique Radios" by Marty and Sue Bunis is a long list of old AM radios by manufacturers from A-C Dayton to Zenith, with pictures and current prices. I always carry my copy to flea markets.

Web sites:

Antique Electronic Supply at

<http://www.tubesandmore.com/> sells books, components, tools, and supplies for repairing old broadcast-band radios and sound equipment.

Nostalgia Air at <http://www.nostalgiaair.org/index.htm>

provides free schematic diagrams and other data (tube characteristics, color codes on obsolete condensers, etc.) useful for repairing old radios.

Old Time Radio at <http://www.otr.com/index.shtml> and

<http://www.old-time.com/> describe the content of old radio shows, many of which are still available on CDs or tape if you want to hear them yourself.

Radio history at

<http://history.acusd.edu/gen/recording/radio-television0.html> and at <http://www.ipass.net/~whitetho/> contains numerous articles, historical documents, and links about early radio and TV.

AARC Picnic 2002

Photos courtesy of Steve, KF4ZGD



Planning the football game



Mug shot of Sarah (KG4OFX)



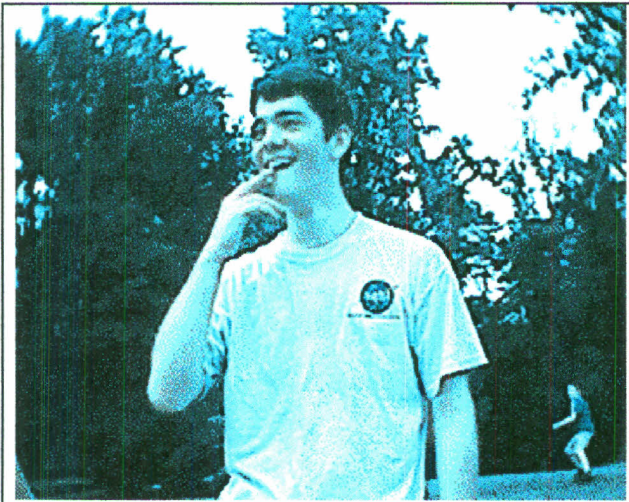
Emily (KG4OXY) and Brandy (ham to be) chatting



Steve (KF4ZGD) and Andy (KG4IFG) attempt to stick Matt (KF4TKJ) as Sarah (KG4OFX) and Brandy (ham to be) look on.



Jeffrey (KG4QWR) and Matt (KG4OVD) attempt to program their Japanese-made radios



Matt (KF4TKJ) enjoying himself

be 14 years old, and have the ability to make weather observations, and make reports to Sterling via any of the following: telephone, fax, internet or amateur radio.

4. September 21-22. MS150 Bike Tour of the Valley.

If you are interested in helping the MS Society with their annual Fall Bike Tour, please contact the MS Society Office here in Charlottesville, 971-8010. While as a group, we support the spring tour, anyone who wants to help the Society with this fall tour, should get public service "extra credit".

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes August 6, 2002

There was no board meeting this month

Submitted by Marty AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting August 13, 2002

In August each year the AARC has its traditional outdoor picnic in lieu of a regular meeting. This year again, the picnic took place in McIntire Park, Shelter 1. And as is normal for the August picnic, while the festivities were conducted in 90 degree heat, no breeze and high humidity, a great time was had by all. The event was coordinated by Steve KD4HBX, assisted by yours truly and impromptu support from numerous other club members who cooked, provided grills, refrigeration etc. The event was very well attended with over 60 club members and their families. Discussions were technical, not so technical, radio, family, weather, as old friends met in an informal surrounding and had ample food and drink (nonalcoholic of course).

Along with the familiar faces were a number of news ones. The club received three new applications for membership and one was received prior to the picnic. The names of the four new applicants will be presented to the general meeting in September for acceptance. A brisk tailgate sale of equipment was conducted and from the number of individuals and time spent around the tailgates business was extremely good.

As I viewed the crowd, one particular scene gave me the greatest satisfaction. This was the large number of youth members present. Perhaps the amateur radio community will not go out of existence as many doomsday prophets have proclaimed.

Submitted by Marty Mait, AG4DN, Secy.

Upcoming ARES/RACES Events

Dave, K4DND

Please check your calendars, and see if you are going to be available to help out for the following events:

1. **September 15, Airport Exercise.** This should be an interesting event that is based on a mass casualty event, complete with terrorists, hostages, SWAT team, field hospital, and anything else the planners have managed to include. This will take place in the wee hours, starting about 1AM in the morning, and concluding about 3:30AM. This time was chosen because the airport is closed down to normal traffic and activity, which means the exercise will completely take over the facility. If you can help out, tell K4DND, N4FWA, or N4PGS.

2. **September 22. UVA Community Awareness of Emergency Resources.** This will be in the Cage at UVA from 2 to 5PM. We have specifically been invited to participate. I would like to have a couple of tables for Amateur Radio, with the club banner. A battery operated HF station, battery operated base VHF/UHF station, handhelds, a map with locations of amateur's home stations, maybe a running APRS display, and operating weather radios. We will need people at the Cage to demonstrate equipment, as well as people at home stations to contact. We will also be recruiting the public for the Skywarn class which is the next item.

3. **October 5. Skywarn Basic I class** at NRAO auditorium 2-5PM. This introductory class will be presented by the Sterling NWS office trainers. Anyone is welcome to attend, the only requirements being that participants need to



VIRGINIA BEACH HAMFEST



And Electronics Flea Market
SEPTEMBER 28 & 29, 2002

ARRL Roanoke Division Convention

NEW LOCATION AND DATE CHANGE

PEMBROKE MALL

RT 264 EAST – EXIT 17 B NORTH
GO 4 STOP LIGHTS – TURN RIGHT IN FRONT OF SEARS AUTO CENTER
FIRST LARGE BUILDING ON RIGHT AFTER SEARS

SHOW SATURDAY 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
SHOW SUNDAY 9:00 AM TO 3:30 PM
DEALER LOAD – IN FRIDAY 12:00 NOON TO 9:00 PM
DEALER LOAD – IN SATURDAY 6:00 AM TO 9:00 AM

DEALERS

Lewis Steingold, W4BLO
1008 Crabbers Cove Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
FAX (757) 486-0757

E-MAIL INQUIRIES TO
HAMFEST@EXIS.NET

TICKETS

Lynn Lilla, W9DJQ
848 Stacey Place
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Please visit our Web Page at WWW.VAHAMFEST.COM
For more Virginia Beach Hamfest Information

Name _____ Telephone _____ Fax _____

Business Name/Call Sign _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

EVERYONE MUST HAVE A TICKET

----- TICKETS \$5.00 EACH (CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY PAYING ADULT)-----
----- TABLES \$30.00 EACH (WHILE THEY LAST!)-----

S.A.S.E. Required - Make Checks & Money Orders Payable to " TRCI " TOTAL -----

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 August 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 4/5/2002.

5/30/02 FOR SALE: by AARC	The AARC offers for sale the following: Heath audio generator, model AG-0A, works fine \$25. Data Precision 5740 frequency counter, works to 100 MHz, \$25. Autek QF-1 short wave interference filter \$10. Contact Ron, K4RKA, on .925 or at 434 973-3640
6/27/02 WANTED: Kenwood TH21BT HT	Ernie, W2EIU, is looking for an old Kenwood model TH21BT 2mHT. Call him at 434 985 4180
5/02/02 WANTED: 17-inch cabinet	Carter, WD4AYS, is looking for a 17 inch deep cabinet for a SP600 or R390. He is also looking for EH Scott radios SLR or SLRM. Call 434 979 7383.
8/15/02 FOR SALE: K4MTX Estate Sale	Cushcraft Junior Boomer 14 element 2 meter beam, rotor, mast, \$50. Heath HP23C supply \$20, Wollensak & Channel Master stereo headphones, Tektronix 545 oscilloscope with cart, 3 position co-ax antenna switch, 6 outlet ac power strip, \$5 each. Speaker, several co-ax patch cables, 1992 callbook, \$2 each. Contact Ron, K4RKA, on .925 or 434 973-3640

FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	

VE Session Schedule - 2002

September 14 Madison	Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: John T. Berry (540)543-2580 Email: AF4CY@ARRL.NET
(ARRL VEC) Madison County VE Team	Location: Madison war Memorial Bldg. Upstairs Auditorium Main Street Madison, VA 22727

Area Hamfests

September 29-29 Virginia Beach	See flyer above
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Birthdays This Month

Sept 2	N4HRO	Mike
Sept 10	K8EV	Richard
Sept 13	KF4UCI	Elmer
Sept 17	WD5HMW	Jim
Sept 18	WA4IUN	John
Sept 21	KE4ZNO	Fred
Sept 23	AA4CN	Bruce
Sept 26	KD4IDU	Meg
Sept 28	W4KSH	Bill

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6833
Charlottesville, VA 22906

<http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/aarc/index.htm>



Affix First Class
Postage Here

THE AARC BEACON
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September 2002



ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information
Daniel R. (Bob) Dorsey, Jr. K4UVT
PO Box 530
Ruckersville, VA 22968-0530
(434) 990-2659
K4uvi@arri.net

***** Next Club Meeting *****

September 10 - 7:30 PM

UVA - NRAO

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 Buffet** 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

<u>INPUT/OUTPUT</u>	<u>Tone Access (If needed)</u>
146.160/146.760	151.4 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
September 10	Regular Club Meeting
October 8	Regular Club Meeting
November 12	Regular Club Meeting
December 10	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
Sept 15	Airport Exercise
Sept 22	UVA Community Emergency Awareness
Sept 21-22	MS150 Bike Tour of the Valley
Sept 15	Skywarn Basic I class

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.