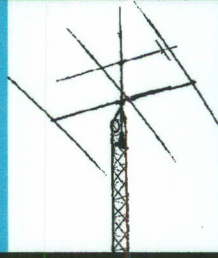


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2003, No. 1

January 2003

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be the Annual Winter Dinner meeting. It will be held on **Sunday, January 12 at 5:30 PM** at the **Ponderosa Steak House Restaurant in Pantops**. The program for the evening will be to just eat and enjoy the company of your fellow AARC members and friends.

See you there!!

Dues are Due !!!

AARC dues are due by January 1 of each year. Dues are the same price as last year. You may go the AARC website to download a PDF copy of the membership application form if you need one.

Also, when paying your dues by check, **please indicate in the memo line whether you are a member of ARRL or not.** **If you have already paid, then please provide this information to Marty, AG4DN, or Ralph, K4CFE as soon as possible.** Since AARC is an ARRL affiliated club, **we need to know this in our accounting to ARRL for the number of club members who also are ARRL members.** Mni trx for your cooperation!

The President Speaks

Steve, KF4ZGD

Welcome to 2003! I expect this to be a great year for the AARC. We have lots of exciting plans in the works, and you'll find out more about them throughout the year. To start things off, I hope to see all of you at the annual holiday dinner at Ponderosa Steakhouse on January 12. Come on out and enjoy some good food, and have fun swapping stories!

I'm looking forward to being your president for this year, and if you have any concerns or questions, feel free to let me know about them.

The easiest way to get in touch with me is by e-mail, and my address is kf4zqd@arrl.net.

73's -- Steve Traylor, KF4ZGD

Veep Peeps

Pete, W4PRT

Happy Holidays!

I truly hope that everyone had a safe and wondrous holiday season. I know that Thanksgiving has past, but I'd like to give thanks to everyone that helped me throughout the past year. I'd also like to thank everyone who participated with Field Day last year and made it the success that it was.

I've heard a lot of praise from everyone about the job that we did with Field Day. I welcome any and all suggestions on how we can make Field Day 2003 more successful than last year.

For those of you who haven't heard, **we placed 44th out of the 83 other clubs in the 1A Battery Class.** To be honest, I don't know how this compares with years past, but when we had finished that Sunday in June, I felt that we had really accomplished something.

I know that some folks had wanted to operate more than one station. This would have been possible if we had planned a bit better prior to the event. If we have enough interest this year, we'll try and run more than one station otherwise we'll run it like we did last year.

I'd like to see two things this year. First, I'd like to see more folks plan on camping out and staying the night. I've heard a lot of folks talk about Field Days past operating in the wee hours of the morning. I'd like to add this to my experiences also. We made a great attempt last year and if we had a few more people we might have been able to operate a bit longer. Maybe we could also arrange a cookout as well that weekend...what do you think?

The second thing I'd like to see is more folks operating the station this year especially if you didn't get a chance to last year. I know it can be a bit intimidating, but that usually doesn't last all that long before the excitement kicks in and you forget what you were nervous about. It's a great learning experience. Why don't you come out and join us?

My goal for Field Day is to operate CW. I figured that I'd try and give Bob Dorsey (K4UVT) a hand with that this year. I know that my code skills are rusty, but I'll be working on them in preparation for Field Day. If there is anyone out there who would be willing to help me achieve this goal and sharpen my skills please feel free to let me know.

Speaking of Goals...

Another of my goals this year is to meet all of the members of the club this year. At last count that would be 86 members. I know that in the past year and a half since I returned to Amateur Radio that I have met some new folks and gotten reacquainted with some folks that I already knew. That's just not good enough. I want to meet everyone! So, I am asking for your help. If you haven't been to a club meeting in a while, attend one! If you know of someone who hasn't been to a club meeting in a while, invite them! I'm sure that there are folks who haven't seen you in a while who would be glad that you came.

Remember, the next club meeting is the Annual Dinner Meeting, January 12th, 2003 at the Ponderosa Steakhouse (on Pantops) at 5:30pm. All are invited to attend and we're going to have a great time. Come and celebrate our hobby with our friends and family.

I'd also like to encourage everyone to take a look at the AARC webpage. We're trying to get all the current information on the webpage to keep everyone informed. We have a new "calendar" link on the main page and will be adding upcoming club events and activities. If you have anything that you know is upcoming, please let one of the Board members know and we'll get the information up on the web.

Hamfests, Hamfests, Hamfests

Frostfest is approaching!!!

Frostfest is Sunday, February 9th, 2003 at the Showplace, 3000 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Richmond Va. 8:30am - 3:30pm. This is a great Hamfest and I know a lot of us look forward to every year.

Also, the **Vienna Wireless Winterfest is Sunday, February 23rd, 2003 at Northern Va. Community College (Annandale Campus).** Doors open at 8:00am to the general public (best I can tell, based on what I am reading). I've heard folks talk about this Hamfest as well, although I have never been. I'm going to try and attend this year...hope to see you there.

Well, that's all for this months column. I have a few things that I am thinking about and refining for the future VP columns.

You'll just have to wait and see what I come up with.

73, Pete

AARC Financial Statement 2002

Tnx Ralph, K4CFE

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club 2001 & 2002 Income Statements FY 2001 and FYTD Dec 31, 2002

	2001	2002
Revenues:		
Dues	\$1,762.00	\$1,460.00
Donations	67.00	91.00
Fundraising		1,912.50
Total revenues	\$1,829.00	\$3,463.50
Expenses:		
Publications	\$650.86	\$371.80
Activities	212.21	247.74
Meetings	122.65	282.75
Office	26.29	96.35
Fees	45.00	20.00
Repairs	308.47	
Insurance	316.00	537.00
Support		150.00
Total expenses	\$1,681.48	\$1,705.64
Excess revenues	\$147.52	\$1,757.86
	=====	=====
Balances:		
AARC Fund		\$2,738.31
Repeater Fund		1,062.68
Packet Radio		78.51
		\$3,879.50
		=====

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes December 3, 2002

Members Present: Bob K4DU, Pete W4PRT, Marty AG4DN, Steve KD4HBX. Members Absent: Josh KG4NGV, Ralph K4CFE, Steve KF4ZGD, Will KJ4XZ, John KX4P.

This being the second Board Meeting in succession without a quorum, Bob K4DU expressed his disappointment and wondered if some missing members were aware the location of Board Meetings is no longer at the Library.

Informal discussions of club business did take place. Items covered were:

- Board and General Membership Meetings-should they take place on the same night-pro and con?
- Need for a Board retreat for one day to develop future club programs. In lieu of a retreat and the difficulty of setting on up at this late date, January 7 Board Meeting will be used as a planning session.
- Limiting Board Meetings from monthly to quarterly.
- The annual banquet to be held either on January 11 or 18. Pete will try to set the banquet up at the Ponderosa or Golden Corral. Those participating will be requested to provide \$1 per attendee as a gratuity. The club will obtain items for door prizes to be awarded at the end of the meal.

The group discussed in general terms, possible topics for presentation at the General Membership Meetings for 2003. Items noted were:

- Amateur TV
- Satellites
- WARC Conference
- Ham radio software
- Propagation
- APRS
- Digital Modes
- Antennas - quads, yagis, etc.
- Field Day
- Test Your Knowledge Night-competition
- FM Deviation Testing and calibration
- Annual Picnic/second Annual AARC Hamfest
- Issues of Controversy
- Greenbank Trip - Radio Astronomy
- DXpeditions
- Kit Building – soldering
- Section/Division Manager presentation
- Presentation to Scouts
- Youth Night (they decide on what to present)
- QCWA Night
- Linux and Amateur Radio

January 2003

- EOC Tactical Operations
- Skywarn
- Mobile Watch

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE MEMBERSHIP!!!!!!!

The purpose of including all these in the Beacon is to obtain membership input and ideas since it is obvious that in the course of a year all noted items cannot be covered. Send all comments and your ideas to Pete W4PRT, VEEP for 2003.

Bob raised the need of the club to become more regionally oriented by establishing liaison with other clubs in the Piedmont area. He noted that an exchange of programs and other coordination could be beneficial for all.

The need for a new chairman for the Tech Committee will be presented to the membership for resolution.

The mission of each committee will be reviewed and discussed at a future date.

A pro and con for obtaining Tax Exempt Status for the AARC was covered. Without the Treasurer present, with his input, the matter was left open.

The need for an inventory of club property and the custodians was noted.

The purchase and sale of club jackets for those who have joined the club after the first round of purchase will be discussed with the membership. If there is sufficient interest this will be followed up.

Refreshments for each General Membership starting in February will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Bob K4DU noted that the club had indicated its interest in the Lewis and Clark celebrations, but there was no follow up. He indicated he would pursue this himself.

There being no further discussions the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Marty AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting December 10, 2002

Bob K4DU opened the meeting at 7:40 P.M. The introduction of members followed.

Hein N4FWA was given the floor. He called attention to the "clipboard" of public service events for 2003 that was being passed around the room for sign up. Hein pointed out that not all dates have been confirmed and that there may be additions events not known at this time. The events for 2003 are as follows:

- 911 EOC Drill, March 6

- Bike Race, March date TBA
- MS Walk, April date TBA
- MS Bike Tour, Day 1-June 7
- MS Bike Tour, Day 2-June 8
- Mountain Mama Bike Tour, Monterey, August date TBA
- Montpelier Horse Races, November 1

Individuals who were not present at the meeting may sign up for any of these events by contacting Hein or Greg.

The annual banquet will take place on January 12, 2003, at the Ponderosa Steak House in the PanTops Shopping Center. Participants will go through the normal line at the Ponderosa and there will be an area reserved for the club. The gratuity will be collected at the door and is not included in the meal.

Howard brought to the meeting a Radiosonde (Weather Bureau) for examination by the membership.

The meeting now turned to activities for 2003. Bob requested in put from the membership as to programs and presentations desired for the coming year.

The items listed are many of the topics noted:

- NTS Messages
- Public Service
- On March 8 set up a radio demonstration for the Virginia Discovery Museum
- Support for Lewis and Clarke events
- Orientation on all club repeaters and maintenance of the repeater areas
- Emergency Communications
- ATV
- Internet linking
- Packet/APRS
- Where is Ham Radio going?
- Kits
- Amateur Radio software/propagation
- Hamfest/swapfest/picnic
- ARRL night
- Field Day
- Sky Warn
- Presentation by the Section Chief (ARRL)
- Training opportunities available

- Technical tutorials-power poles, soldering, standardization
- Software receivers; digital
- QRP, it works!
- AMSAT
- Dayton Hamfest trip by club members

The next item of discussion was the club committee structure. It was pointed out that the Bylaws of the AARC list the various committees and their membership. The attempt to revise the Bylaws a number of years ago was a project never completed. Bob pointed out that the club needed a chair for the Technical, Publications and Membership Committees.

Ralph made the Treasurer's Report. In summary the report indicated as of FYTD Nov. 30, 2002 that total revenues were \$3463.50; total expenses were \$1667.72; showing excess revenues of \$1795.78. Special Fund balances showed AARC Fund \$2776.23; Repeater Fund \$1062.68; Packet Radio \$78.51. Ralph pointed out that while on the surface this appeared to be very encouraging, it should be noted that dues collected for 2002 were \$1460, expenses were \$1667.72, thus showing a deficit of \$207.72. Had the club not sold much of the equipment contributed by Sperry we would be in the "red." This indicates a need to increase club membership.

The membership was reminded that annual dues are due in January. Dues remain at \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family membership.

Bob called for approval of the November 2002 AARC General Meeting Minutes. The motion was second and approved without amendment as they appeared in the Beacon.

With no further business, Bob called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made, second and approved. The meeting closed at 8:45 P.M. Refreshment followed the meeting.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Contest Highlights This Month

Bob, K4UVT

Just about every weekend, there is some sort of a ham radio contest going on --- be it one of the major international DX contests, a state QSO Party, a VHF/UHF contest or a special contest sponsored by a ham radio organization somewhere in the world. There are simply too many, even in one month, to list in detail here. So I'll try to at least note the contests of interest coming up this month.

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Jan. 1	Straight Key Night
Jan. 4-5	ARRL RTTY Round-up
Jan. 4	Kids Day
Jan. 18-20	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be obtained online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar - 2003](#) webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

Jan. 12	NRAU-Baltic Contest
Jan. 12	DARC 10-Meter Contest
Jan. 24-26	CQ 160-Meter Contest
Jan. 25-26	UBA DX Contest (Belgium)
Jan. 25-26	REF Contest (France)
Jan. 25-26	Kansas QSO Party

The [SM3CER Contest Service - Contest Calendars](#) is the most comprehensive web site to obtain info and rules for just about every contest that exists. Just click the link for the month of interest to see a full list of all contests scheduled for that month. Then click on the contest of interest to get info on that contest.

Hopefully these highlights will whet your appetite to jump in and try your hand in one or more of these events. You can participate as much or as little as you like --- but the object is to **have fun!!** There is a strange thing about contests --- they tend to bring more people out of the woodwork and onto the air more so than other times. If you don't believe me, just listen to the bands during one of the contests! It's a wonderful way to make new contacts and see how well your station is doing.

Since I do a fair amount of contesting, I'll be happy to help you learn more about this fascinating facet of our hobby.

73, Bob K4UVT

Have a
Prosperous
New Year
In 2003!!

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.

Need a Manual??	Here are some sites recommended on the Thursday night net... www.w7fg.com , alinco.com , kenwood.com , icom.com , hamradio.com . If that is not enough, W2EIU, Ernie has a bunch of manuals, both old and new and K4RKA has several military equipment manuals. Good hunting...
10/31/02 FOR SALE: 10 element 2M Beam	Ron, K4RKA, has for sale a 2 meter beam for \$20. Call 434-973-3640.
11/14/02 FOR SALE: Rohn Tower	Jeffery, KG4QWR, wants to sell a 55-60 foot Rohn tower, presently in concrete but will be taken down. Asking \$150 or best offer. Please contact Jeffery on 146.76 or 147.075 repeaters. Also a discone scanner antenna \$30 & a 2m 5/8 MFJ vertical \$15. C all 540 894 9177.
10/31/02 FOR SALE: 450 MHz Scanner	Lewis, WD4PKS, offers a Unimetrics Durascan 4 450 MHz, 4 channel scanner with crystals for our 444.250 repeater. \$20 or trade for ?? Call 434-979-7077
8/15/02 FOR SALE: K4MTX Estate Sale	Channel Master stereo headphones, \$5. 6 outlet ac power strip, solder sucker, soldering iron, Wollensak stereo headphones \$3 each or best offer. Speaker \$2. Contact Ron, K4RKA, on 925 or 434 973-3640
12/27/02 FOR SALE: Ringo Ranger	Frank, AE4OW, offers a Ringo Ranger 2M ARX-2, for \$25. Call 434-589-4567.

Area Hamfests

None reported

FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	

VE Session Schedule - 2003

Date	For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the ARRL Exam Session Search web page.
Location	
(ARRL VEC)	

AARC Club Officers

President	Steven Traylor	KF4ZGD	kf4zgd@iuno.com 434-296-7418
Vice President	Pete Thorsen	W4PRT	prt7u@virginia.edu 434-973-6888
Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	mandlm8@aol.com 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Ralph Traylor	K4CFE	kf4zgd@iuno.com 434-296-7418
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	rep4@aol.com 434-985-4828
Director	Will Seay	KJ4XZ	434-823-5665
Director	John Green	KX4P	jgreen@comdial.com 434-975-4493
Director	Howard Gay	KG4TWQ	kg4fyf@earthlink.net 540-456-6445
Director	Steve Clements	KD4HBX	

Contest Calendars

ARRL Contest Calendar 2003	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2003	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests

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
 PO Box 530
 Ruckersville, VA 22968-0530
 (434) 990-2659
K4uvt@arrl.net

Next Club Meeting : January 12 - 5:30 PM Ponderosa at Pantops

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
Youth Net: Each Wednesday at 7:30 PM on 147.075
Northern Piedmont Emergency Net / Swap Net / Technical Session: Each Thursday at 8:00 PM
All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater (except for the Youth Net)

AREA REPEATERS

WA4TFZ

<u>INPUT/OUTPUT</u>	<u>Tone Access (if needed)</u>
146.160/146.760	151.4 Hz
146.325/146.925	151.4 Hz
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
January 12	Annual Winter Dinner Meeting
February 11	Regular Club Meeting
March 11	Regular Club Meeting
April 8	Regular Club Meeting
May 13	Regular Club Meeting
June 10	Regular Club Meeting
July 8	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
March 6	911 EOC Drill
March ??	Bike Race
April ??	MS Walk
June 7	MS Bike Tour, Day 1
June 8	MS Bike Tour, Day 2
August ??	Mountain Mama Bike Tour, Monterey
November 1	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.