

# The AARC Beacon



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

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 11 at 7:30 PM** at the **Astronomy Building on the UVA campus**. The program for the evening will be an open discussion of **antennas**.

See you there!!

## VE Exam Session Next Month

The Albemarle ARC VE Team will conduct a VE Exam session following the completion of the Youth License class currently underway. It is tentatively scheduled for April 19, depending on weather in the meantime. More than likely, it will be held at the Astronomy building at UVA. **Please monitor the repeaters for updated info.**

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*: Beginning January 1, 2003, ARRL VEC requires that the fee charged for taking an exam will be \$12.** This is an increase over the \$10 charged in previous years.

## The President Speaks

*Steve, KF4ZGD*

Spring is coming! Yes, that means it will actually be warm enough to go outside and do antenna repair. As I've monitored the local repeaters recently, I've heard more than a few hams talking about the damage their antennas have sustained in the last three months due to weather. However, with spring also come thunderstorm season, and every year a lucky ham has their gear fried by lightning. I had a narrow escape with lightning in, surprisingly, a late-fall thunderstorm last year. A large storm system was moving through the area, and we were just starting to get some distant rumbles, so I went outside like I always do to disconnect the antennas. Then, suddenly, without warning lightning struck less than one quarter of a mile away, with



the thunder arriving at the same time. At the instant it struck, I was holding on to the coaxial cable with one hand, and the ground rod with the other, about to connect the two.

Needless to say, it scared the daylights out of me, and I've been almost paranoid about lightning ever since. So, don't forget to disconnect your antennas early!

OK, now an update on the transmitter hunt. Several weeks ago on the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net, we had a small-scale transmitter hunt, where a station went to an undisclosed location and put a carrier on the air. The net then found bearings on the station and reported those to Dave, who plotted everything on a map. The stations on the net did incredibly well, and the bearings pointed to a location very near the actual transmitter location!

The tentative date for our spring T-hunt will be **Saturday, April 5**. We're now looking for a station to provide a signal for us to track down, so if you're interested, let me know. I'm really looking forward to this, and it should be a lot of fun for everybody!

Also, while I'm talking about upcoming activities, we **WILL** be having a station at the Albemarle County Fair this year! Rick KO4WQ has kindly accepted the responsibility of reserving us a booth, and now we need all of you to support it in some way. I believe it's a six-day event, and we'll need several people every day to man the booth. We will have a clipboard at a club meeting fairly soon, so please assist Rick by signing up! Also, as a perk for volunteering, you will get free admission on the days you volunteer. This is a great way to tell the community about ham radio and get more people licensed, as there are so many people that come from all over the area. Oh, and since you are all wondering, no it won't rain very much if at all during this year's fair.

Well, I hope to see all of you at the March meeting! I understand the topic will be **antennas**, so it should be quite interesting.

73 -- Steve Traylor, KF4ZGD

## Veep Peeps

Pete, W4PRT

Greetings!

I've been pondering for a good while now what kind of antenna to erect here at the house. I used to have a Carolina Windom 160 set up and for a brief while, I had a dual band vertical up as well. Well, the antenna gods weren't too happy with the way that I had erected the dual band vertical, and one day it collapsed into the yard below.

So, I've been looking at all the different kinds of antennas (both HF and VHF) that are out there and have been

wondering which ones would be the best ones for me to erect.

I keep reading on the web that you should put up the best antenna that you can afford. I know that each kind of antenna has its advantages and disadvantages.

So, for this month's meeting I think that it would be interesting to have an open discussion among members of the club about HF and VHF antennas.

Specifically, what is the best wire antenna? A windom, G5RV, dipole, sloper? Are there any other good wire antennas?

What is the best monoband antenna? A tri-band yagi, a log periodic? Are there any other good monoband antennas?

Is it better to buy them or make them?

What is the best antenna configuration that you've ever installed?

Come prepared to talk about the best antenna configuration that you've installed.

I really want to get my antenna back up in the air. A couple of days ago I got my first QSL cards from the Bureau. It was a great surprise. I had gotten a few prior to these through the eQSL services, but getting these in the mail was much more pleasurable.

So, hopefully with this discussion, and the warmer weather approaching, some folks will hang that new antenna this spring.

73, Pete

## Virginia QSO Party This Month!!

Bob, K4UVT

Mark your calendars!!! The Virginia QSO Party will be held this month on March 16-18.

**This is the contest where Virginia hams work the rest of the country --- and the world.**

**Therefore, everybody will be looking for us!!**

Other amateurs will be trying to work as many counties in Virginia as possible. That should make it easy for us. All we need to do is call "CQ Virginia QSO Party" (or "CQ VQP" on CW) and then log 'em!!

Complete rules for the contest may be found on the web at [SM3CER Contest Service/Rules - 2003 Virginia QSO Party](http://SM3CER.Contest.Service/Rules-2003.Virginia.QSO.Party).

Hope to see you on the air in this event!!



## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes February 11, 2003

Board Opened at 6:30 P.M. Members Present: Steve KF4ZGD; Pete W4PRT; Marty AG4DN; Bob K4DU; Steve KD4HBX; Howard KG4TWQ. Members Absent: Ralph K4CFE; John KX4P.

Steve KF4ZGD called for committee reports.

Steve KF4ZGD made the "Finance" report for Ralph K4CFE. He noted that only 38 members had paid their 2003 dues. He also indicated that the club membership cards for those that had paid were available.

Pete W4PRT reported on "Programs." He was having some difficulties but had the April presentation for the April club meeting arranged, "Kit Building."

Bob K4DU covered the activities of the Membership Committee. He indicated the committee was contacting individuals that were members of AARC previously, but had dropped their membership.

Steve KD4HBX covered "Activities." He first noted that those club members who requested that "The Beacon" be mailed to them had not received their recent copies.

He noted that volunteers were needed to assist in his efforts, to include events such as "Field Day."

With non Board members present in the room the following comments came from the floor to clarify questions that arose before the Board:

The Tech Classes were in progress at Albemarle High School. Two of eight sessions have been held. The Tech test will be held the first Saturday in April. For the "Fall" of 2003 one Tech and perhaps one General class course will be offered.

Dave K4DND is the new Chair of the club Technical Committee.

Steve now addressed old business.

The 220 repeater will be back in operation shortly. The 220 net will begin to operate on 17 March at 8:30 P.M.

A liaison is needed from the club to ARRL. A volunteer will be solicited from the membership.

Steve indicated that on Thursday 20 February the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net will conduct a transmitter hunt for that evening's exercise. Those participants that have the ability to track the hidden transmitter will be request to relay the azimuth from their location to the hidden transmitter. In this manner through triangulation the transmitter will be located, hopefully.

Setting up a club display for the Albemarle County Fair in September as well as a booth at the Albemarle Square Shopping Center was addressed. Further consideration will be given to these activities.

Pete indicated the difficulty he was having getting the membership to come forward and participate in many of the club activities. Harry W2HD who was present in the audience indicated he would assist Pete in this effort.

With no further business before the Board the Board adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

*Submitted by Marty AG4DN, Secy.*

### Regular Meeting February 11, 2003

Steve KF4ZGD opened the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Pete W4PRT (Programs Committee) was the first speaker. He indicated that as part of the February Beacon there had been included a questionnaire for the membership covering activities and interests of the club membership. He distributed copies for those that had not had an opportunity to download and complete the survey. He requested they be filled out and given to him at the completion of the meeting. He then asked for a show of hands of those interested in having a 2-meter contest locally. The membership indicated there was great interest. The date is open and this will be addressed further. Pete noted that there was a new class station for Field Day this year, "F" class. This class would operate from an EOC. This will be explored further.

Ralph K4CFE (Finance Committee) indicated that the membership was being very slow to pay dues this year, well behind 2002. Additional efforts will be expended.

Bob K4DU (Membership Committee) indicated efforts were underway to increase membership by making contact with ex-members of the club to encourage them to rejoin AARC.

Dave K4DND (Tech Committee) noted that he had recently taken this responsibility and would do his best to fulfill his obligation. The 220 repeater still required some work. Harry W2HD stated that the 220 net would begin operation on March 17 at 8:30 P.M. Reminders will be sent as the date became closer.

Ben KG4QVP (Publications) Noted that he was working on the club membership database. He indicated there would be no delay in the hard copy distribution of the Beacon in the future.

Steve now turned to old business.

Dave K4DND made a motion that the movement of the Martha Jefferson controller be removed as a club project. The motion was second. Discussion followed. Dave noted that it was not possible to move the controller in the near



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time frame under any conditions and should not be any item to continually be discussed. After much discussion, an explanation of the problems involved and a rehash of the history, the membership voted for the motion.

A replacement for Dave as Liaison to ARRL was solicited. Rick KO4WQ accepted the position.

Steve now addressed new business.

In March or April the club will have a transmitter hunt. The NPEN exercise on February 20 is to be considered a warm up for the Spring hunt.

The booth of the Albemarle County Fair in September was addressed. Rick KO4WQ will organize the club effort.

Having omitted the introduction of those Amateurs and friends present at the beginning of the meeting Steve now called for introductions.

He indicated that Public Service Awards were being printed and ready for distribution shortly.

Mike KA4JJJ and Dave K4DND will operate a club booth at the Virginia Discovery Museum, Charlottesville Downtown Mall on March 8. The museum is set up as a children's museum to interest and expand their knowledge of the world around them.

The approval of the January 2003 Board and club minutes as appeared in the February 2003 Beacon was called for. The minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Page 5-Board Minutes, Title; change 2002 to 2003. Page 5-Regular Meeting, Title; change 2002 to 2003. Page 5-Board Minutes, para 6, line 1; change W3EIU to W2EIU.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved. The meeting closed at 8:20 P.M.

*Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.*

## Public Service Event Schedule - 2003

*Greg, N4PGS*

This is the current Public Service event schedule in which AARC will participate this year. Please come out and join us and help make these events a success!!

Date	Event
Thursday, March 6 0730-1400	EOC drill. EOC is located in Zehmer Hall
Sunday March 30	Bike Race
Some time in April	Flood related drill- Scottsville
Sunday April 6, 1400-?	Multiple Sclerosis Walk
Saturday, June 7	Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour, first day
Sunday, June 8	Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour, second day
June??	Triathlon, Walnut Creek Park
Saturday, August 2	Mountain Mama Bike Tour, Monterey VA. A heavy-duty bike tour through mountains of Virginia and West Virginia. About 100 miles with more than 10,000 feet of climbing. All in one day.
August ??	Triathlon. Walnut Creek Park
Saturday, November 1	Montpelier Horse Races

## Contest Highlights This Month

*Bob, K4UVT*

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Mar. 1-2 ARRL Int'l DX Contest (SSB)

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

### Other Contests of Interest

Mar. 15-16 Alaska QSO Party

YLISB Contest

**Mar. 15-17 Virginia QSO Party**

Mar. 29-30 CQWW WPX Contest (SSB)

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.

*73, Bob K4UVT*



## 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 should be placed directly to the Editor: 804 990-2659 or via E-mail to the Editor at [k4uvt@yahoo.com](mailto:k4uvt@yahoo.com) Please **let K4RKA know when items can be deleted from this file.** Updated 1/23/2002.

**Need a Manual??**  
Here are some sites recommended on the Thursday night net... [www.w7fg.com](http://www.w7fg.com), [alinco.com](http://alinco.com), [kenwood.com](http://kenwood.com), [icom.com](http://icom.com), [hamradio.com](http://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...

**02/20/03 FOR SALE: 2 Meter Rigs**  
Brad, N7IVV, offers FT221R all mode 2m 25 watt out and HW202 crystal 2m transceiver. Call 434-974-2725.

**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

**2/27/02 FOR SALE: Estate Sale Several Items**  
Kenwood TS-820S SSB Transceiver, Kenwood TM2570A 144 MHZ FM transceiver, Kenwood MC-50 microphone, Kenwood SP-520 speaker, Thomson-CSF NPC Electronics 108R Power Supply Regulated, Astatic Silver Eagle microphone, Daiwa SWR and Power meter (Cross needle meter), Antenna: Larson NMD 150 BK Coil/whip 3db 144 - 174 MHZ (Still in package), Valor trunk mount kit PAT2B, 17' RG58 cable w/PL-259 connector, Radio Shack VHF FM Transceiver, HTX-202. Wilson EElectronics Corp. 1405 microphone. Asking \$500 for whole package, but may consider offers on individual items. Call Lewis Bragg at 974-9667 or email to [LEWPONG@aol.com](mailto:LEWPONG@aol.com).

## Area Hamfests

None reported

## FCC Database Updates

### New Calls

None reported

### Upgrades

None Reported

## VE Session Schedule - 2003

<b>March 6 Richmond</b>  (Richmond ARC)  (ARRL VEC)	Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: Don M. Ratcliff (804) 272-7167 Location: Old West Hampton School 5800 Patterson Avenue REAR -REGISTER IN CAFETERIA RICHMOND, VA 23225
<b>March 15 Madison</b>  (Madison VE Team) (ARRL VEC)	Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: John Berry (540) 543-2580 Email: <a href="mailto:AF4CY@ARRL.NET">AF4CY@ARRL.NET</a> VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: Madison War Memorial Bldg. MAIN ST. MADISON, VA 22727
<b>Date Location</b>  (ARRL VEC)	For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the <a href="#">ARRL Exam Session Search</a> web page.

## AARC Club Officers

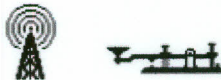
President	Steven Traylor	KF4ZGD	<a href="mailto:kf4zgd@juno.com">kf4zgd@juno.com</a> 434-296-7418
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Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	<a href="mailto:mandim8@aol.com">mandim8@aol.com</a> 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Ralph Traylor	K4CFE	<a href="mailto:rw6t@virginia.edu">rw6t@virginia.edu</a> 434-296-7418
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	<a href="mailto:rep4@aol.com">rep4@aol.com</a> 434-985-4828
Director	Will Seay	KJ4XZ	434-823-5665
Director	John Green	KX4P	<a href="mailto:jgreen@comdial.com">jgreen@comdial.com</a> 434-975-4493
Director	Howard Gay	KG4TWQ	<a href="mailto:kg4fyf@earthlink.net">kg4fyf@earthlink.net</a> 540-456-6445
Director	Steve Clements	KD4HBX	

## Contest Calendars

<a href="#">ARRL Contest Calendar 2003</a>	ARRL sponsored contests
<a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2003</a>	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
<a href="#">Contesting Online</a>	Just about everything 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 - 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month

Contact Information  
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 (434) 990-2659  
[K4uvt@arrl.net](mailto:K4uvt@arrl.net)

Next Club Meeting : March 11 - 7:30 PM UVA - Astronomy Building

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 UVA Astronomy building at 530 McCormick Road.  
**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**  
**INPUT/OUTPUT**      **Tone Access (if needed)**  
 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
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 30	Bike Race
April 6	MS Walk
June 7	MS Bike Tour, Day 1
June 8	MS Bike Tour, Day 2
August 2	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.