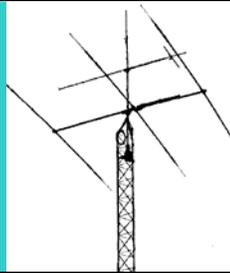


The AARC Beacon



*Serving radio enthusiasts
and communities in
Central Virginia –
The Radio Club for
Central Virginia*

Volume 2005, No. 6



June 2005

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 14 at 7:30 PM** at **the Astronomy Building on the UVA campus**. **The program this month will be planning for Field Day**. See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello and welcome to yet another edition of the Beacon. We didn't get to do as much radio time as we would have liked during the past month but here is what we heard. On HF we contacted stations in Australia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Chatham Islands, Moldova, Algeria, a ham in Denmark (who's wife is from Charlottesville), Island of Crete, Serbia, Morocco, Belize and Guantanamo Bay. The majority were heard on 20 and 17 meters with some work on 15 and occasionally 17 meters.

It's E skip season for VHF and low UHF. There's been a large upswing in 6 meter activity over the last two weeks or so. Areas worked on 6 meters included: a nice opening to the U.S. Midwest, Caribbean Islands (Martinique, Trinidad, Grand Cayman, Turks & Caicos), Guantanamo Bay and northeast Canada. Stations heard but not worked were Suriname, Uruguay, Argentina and Mexico. Kudos to W4TJ, KG4HOT and others who were lucky enough to have made contact with these entities. KG4HOT reports that some mornings have yielded good 2 meter tropo-ducting.

Field Day is quickly approaching. We have sent out nearly 200 invitations. Thanks to K4BMM for hand addressing all of the envelopes. I'm expecting a larger turnout of the general public than in years past. The invitations were sent to schools, radio clubs, public service organizations, and non-club member hams in the counties of; Augusta, Albemarle, Buckingham,

Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson and Orange. It's quite urgent that our operation appears well organized and professional for the good of our club and amateur radio alike. For this we must have people there who can relate well to the public and put a good face on the art of radio. Please plan to attend the next club meeting to discuss organization of the event and the volunteering of time to accomplish certain tasks. Nobody will be required to carry an overly heavy load but most all are expected to participate in whatever capacity they feel comfortable. Tasks which will need attention are: radio set up, antenna set up, tent set up, signage, publication / information distribution and parking assistance. I would like to assign people to these tasks at the next meeting. If you plan to participate in Field Day, please plan to be at the next meeting.

A number of us from the Charlottesville area (KG4HOT, K4UL, K4DU, K4AZV, K4BMM, Stu W4PR, K4LTX and several from the Waynesboro/Staunton area) attended the Dayton Hamfest. There was a fairly substantial caravan on I-64 that provided good conversation and entertainment along the way. Public attendance at the Hamfest was up this year however vendor attendance was slightly lower than last year. Many people brought items for sale with most items selling. We all enjoyed scavenging, selling and bartering at the flea market. There were many educational experiences offered in the forums. It was fun meeting and talking to hams from all over the world. Some of them included, Nick Powell whom we last talked to in Antarctica and Gordon West who came by and lavished affection upon our dog, Maya. The most heartwarming experience came when I was face to face and shaking hands with Bharathi Prasad and her husband. To meet these people nearly brought tears to my eyes thinking of the kindness and support they displayed after the earthquake and tsunami.

Thanks to all for being part of our club. 73 and until next time...

73, Jay K4AZV

Field Day Invitation

*The honor of your presence
is requested at the
Albemarle Amateur Radio Club's
2005 Field Day*

*Saturday June 25th
& Sunday June 26th*

*At least two HF stations and one
VHF/UHF station with control
operators will be provided for
your operating pleasure*

*The event to be held at Walnut
Creek Park*

Talk-in on 146.76

*Set-up to begin 14:00 (Local)
Operating to commence when
set-up is complete and run until
17:00 (Local) 21:00 (UTC)
on Sunday*

*Refreshments and food
to be provided*

*For more information call:
(434) 263-5795*

Veep Peeps

John, K14DJT

Dear Friends --- It's June and that means Field Day!! Instead of Earlysville FD we get to have Field Day at Walnut Creek Park near North Garden. The park is a very nice place and we should be able to get some decent antennas going as the place is on a fairly tall hill. I hope we can set up near one of the picnic structures. They have these nice roofed pole buildings with lots of picnic tables where several of us and all the bike folks got fed at the end of the M.S. 150 last year. This season I'll be doing the cooking and bringing the food. If any would like they may bring a salad or dessert. I'm going to try for burgers and bratwurst but if I cannot get a good brat deal from the meat place in Catlett we'll have to suffer with burgers and hot dogs.

For the June meeting we'll be discussing Field Day and I'm going to try to get some of the friends who attended Dayton Hamvention to give us a taste of what when on. I hope we can see some pictures too.

Being a fairly new ham and just beginning my electrical experiments I think I would do better next year at Dayton. That is, knowing a little more would really help me to know what to shovel into the wheel barrow as I go through the swap tables. If I could ever teach myself to be a good telegrapher I'll really start having a ball as you can build all your own QRP stuff. I've been bitten pretty badly by the building bug and I've heard the QRP fest they have there is just the best. At these parties the folks build the most beautiful stuff and show it everyone. The place is packed with real smart and friendly engineers who love to design new stuff and share it with everyone. It sounds like a real fun bunch of folks to make friends with.

Dennis, K4THE has inspired me with his underground antenna presentation; thanks Dennis! I have tried an underground long wire that works ok and have just fashioned an underground dipole I haven't tested yet. I will try to get some results, see how it does and make a very short presentation about it at the meeting. Take care and 73!

73 de K14DJT

Award to Jim Crosby, K4JEC

Jim Crosby, K4JEC (formerly WD4HMW) was awarded **the 2005 Virginia Governor's Transportation Safety Award**. The award was presented on May 19 during a luncheon at the Virginia Science Museum.

The award is presented in many categories and Jim was recognized in the category of Water Safety. He writes a monthly boating column for Virginia Wildlife Magazine and has taught hundreds of people courses on boating safety.

Jim was nominated by Jeff Decker, Virginia's Boating Education Coordinator for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Mountain Mama Race

Jerry Moats, WD4ITN via Elmer, KF4UCI

We have been asked again this year to provide SAG and communication help with the Highland Co. Rec. Dept. **Mountain Mama Bike Ride on Saturday, August 6th.** If you are interested in helping this year you might want to make note of that date. I will be emailing everyone again later in the summer to get an idea on who might be helping.

73, Jerry

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes April 12, 2005

Members Present: Jay, K4AZV (Pres); Bob, K4DU (Treas.); Stephanie, K4BMM; Dennis, K4THE; Mike, W4XN; Bill, AD6JV. Members Absent: John, K14DJT (Veep); Marty, AG4DN (Sec'y); Pete, W4PRT.

Jay opened the meeting at 6:40 PM. He decided that the Board Meeting would take the form of an informal discussion.

The first item he addressed was to urge Board members and the membership in general to take action on its own. He urged initiatives without his "blessing." The critical point being to keep the Board informed of all action taken so there will be no duplication of effort and hold down confusion.

The next item he discussed was his desire to place emphasis upon working with the public schools in the area. He specifically noted showing amateur radio to upper elementary and middle school grades.

Dennis next commented on the membership survey recently circulated. The membership has not responded in any great number to sending these back to the Board. Bob noted that he believed the best way to increase interest and get the surveys back was to place the survey on the club web site and request members E-mail their completed surveys to his E-mail address (K4DU@arrl.net).

The next item Jay addressed was his desire to appoint a committee to pursue the donation of space for a club radio station. Mike agreed with the proposal, as did the other members of the Board. Jay agreed to appoint a committee for this purpose at the general membership meeting.

Bob noted that Jay and Stephanie have made a donation of \$186.73 toward the funding of AARC Field Day 2005

June 2005

activities. Others on the Board and all memberships are encouraged to support the effort with participation and contributions if possible.

With no further items for discussion the Board meeting closed at 7:25PM.

(Minutes developed from notes submitted by Bob Pattison K4DU with Marty's thanks and appreciation).

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting April 12, 2005

Jay opened the meeting at 7:25 PM with the introduction of members and guests.

Bob, K4DU acted as Secretary in the absence of Marty.

Jay now called for committee reports. The membership committee reported that at present there were 67 club members (paid, Life, and Youth). Bob notified the membership that Jay and Stephanie had donated \$186.73 to the club for use on Field Day activities 2005.

The Field Day Committee reported that **plans are moving ahead for use of Walnut Creek Park, Route 708 and Old Lynchburg Road for the Field Day club site.**

Current plans call for one GOTA Station (Get on the Air), two HF Stations and one VHF/UHF Station. John, K14DJT agreed to take the responsibility for the food necessary to support the effort.

Under Old Business it was announced that the EchoLink project was well under way. Cayman, KG4OVD indicated that the Young Hams had met on the repeater using Echo Link on 6 May 2005.

Tim KG4HOT noted the changes that had taken place on 224.600 and requested those who have 220 MHz capabilities to determine what the minimum power rating necessary to bring up the machine and note it. This will then be compared with the performance of the 224.760 machine when it is moved to that location.

Jay request the membership set aside 4 June as "Site Clean-up Day" for the area surrounding the 76 repeater.

Under the heading of new business Rick Berman KO4WQ moved that the minutes of April's AARC Meeting be approved as they appeared in the May issue of The Beacon. Kevin Ward K4DR seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote with no changes.

Jay raised the possibility of having a club station. Stephanie agreed to chair the committee. Mike agreed to be a member of the committee.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting.

Dennis made the presentation for the evening. He covered two topics: underground antennas and how to construct an

inexpensive two-meter beam antenna from a Radio Shack TV antenna. The presentation was well received by the membership.

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved with no comment at 9:00 PM.

(With thanks to Bob, K4DU for providing the notes of the General Meeting)

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Jun 11-13 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

Jun 25-26 ARRL Field Day

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar 2004](#) webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

Jun 18-19 All-Asia DX Contest CW

The [SM3CER Contest Service - Contest Calendars](#) has info and rules for these contests and just about every contest that exists.

73, Bob W4RQ

Dayton Hamvention 2005

Bob, K4DU

Each year in the month of May the city of Dayton, Ohio opens its arms and hams from all over the world journey to the Hara Arena (actually in Trotwood, Ohio) for a very special event. Yes, it is a hamfest, but a hamfest unlike any other. If your travels bring you to Dayton when the Hamvention® is also the ARRL National Convention then you are in for a very special treat.

Every aspect of ham radio is on display at Dayton. If you can "do it" in amateur radio you will meet others who share that passion at Dayton. The Hamvention® by itself is too big to absorb in three days. But wait there is more! There are scores of formal and informal gatherings that take place in Dayton during the Hamvention®. You can hang out with the contesters in the evening in receptions at the Crowne Plaza or attend one of several banquets that take place during the weekend. Get together with the 6-meter crowd, the Southwest Ohio DXer's, ATV people, the 10-10 people, the County Hunters or the QCWA folks just to name a few. Meet some of those people you got QSL cards from.

10-10 International

ARRL Clubs and Mentoring

Techniques of the Best Operators

Magnetic Cores of Baluns and Un-Uns

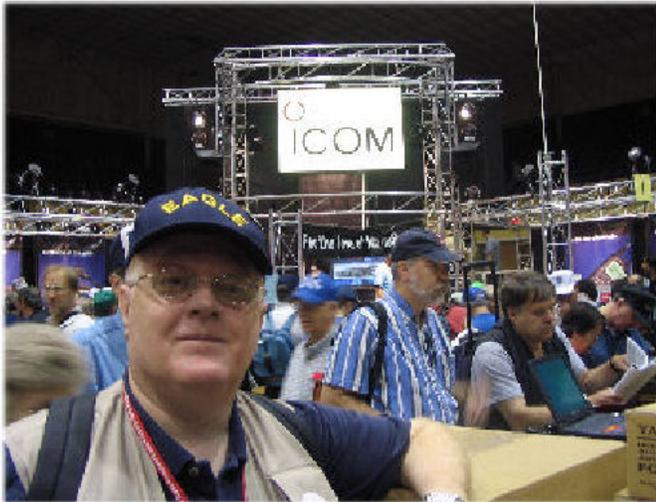
Fighting BPL and Winning

County Hunters

Disasters and Ham radio

And those were just the Friday sessions.

The commercial exhibits inside house every manufacturer and every organization serving the hobby. Talk to the folks from Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood, Ten-Tec, Alinco and more! Visit the folks at the ARRL and CQ. Want to understand how a Force 12 or SteppIR antenna works? Ask the engineer who designed it! There were more than 500 commercial exhibitors at the Hamvention® this year. Manufacturers often unveil new products at Dayton. This year the buzz was about an IC-7000 a mobile version of the IC-756 that will be available in late summer. The retailers generally offer their best prices at the show. Shop and save!



Bob, K4DU checking out the many exhibits indoors (and lusting after all the new ham toys, no doubt).....

To avoid frustration I strongly suggest that one develop a plan of attack. Getting in some walking in advance of the show is a good idea too! There are three basic types of activities that occur during the hours that the show is open; forums, exhibits and the flea market. When you arrive at Dayton I suggest that you get a program and look at the forum schedule. Plan your time around the forums that you wish to attend. There are several large rooms spread out around the facility and at least three forums going on at all times. A partial list of the forums from this year is below:

APRS
 TAPR/Digital
 Collins Radio Restoration
 YLRL
 The Box-Kite Yagi
 ARRL Grassroots Lobbying
 ARRL Goes to Washington For You
 QRP
 Kit Building
 Teachers Workshop
 AM
 Antenna Design Breakthroughs
 Tropospheric Ducting
 Amateur Radio and the Law
 ARES



Stu, W4PR about to spring for an Enigma machine and do some serious cryptography in his spare time.....

Then of course there is the flea market. If it was manufactured for ham radio, the odds are you will find it in the flea market! Looking for a Hallicrafters SX-100 or a Central Electronics 100V? How about a Collins KWM-2A? They are out there! Walking the flea market can be like a walk down memory lane. By the way this year there was a

booth selling Enigma machines! Wow! (No I did not bring one home.)



Just a small part of the **HUGE outdoor flea market and it's not raining, either!!!**

My best advice for flea market aficionados is to be prepared for all kinds of weather. Bring a jacket for rain, sunscreen, a hat and a backpack or something with wheels if you plan to cart in or cart off a large item. Most of the flea market is paved and the spaces are numbered. The flea market space numbers range from 101-4268. (The numbers are painted on the asphalt in the front of the booths.) If you see a deal, make your best offer. I can't tell you how often I have seen people decide to come back to buy something only to find that it was already sold. Remember the price marked on most items is a starting point. Expect to haggle! Jay, Stephe and Tim set up a booth in the flea market and had a wonderful time!

During the past 20 years Stu Gilman, W4PR (ex-KC0PR) and I have traveled to Dayton together for Hamvention® at least twelve times. Over the years we've met old friends and made new ones in Dayton. This year's new acquaintance was Mac, JA3USA. We met Mac at our breakfast spot (The Breakfast Club) on the first day and became fast friends. Radio has a way of doing that! Mac had flown all night from Japan through Chicago to Dayton. We learned about his 40-meter beam at 120 feet and his "work" testing radios for Icom.

Some folks make it a point to meet old friends at Dayton. John Green KX4P gets together with buddies from his high school days that now live all over the country. Several years ago while walking through the commercial exhibits I happened across W3MA. John was the ham who gave me my novice class exam near Philadelphia in 1963.



What hamfest would be complete without antennas? I'm sure most of us would like these in our back yard!!

Dayton is the ultimate hamfest experience. I hope that you make it a point to go. Next years Hamvention® is May 19, 20 & 21. If you plan to go I suggest that you reserve accommodations before February 1, 2006. Hotels rooms fill up quickly. Who knows --- maybe the club will charter a bus and book a block of rooms and show up in force. Wouldn't that be swell!



Learning how all the new equipment works!!

AARC Public Service Schedule

August 6	Mountain Mama Bike Race
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Area Hamfests

June 5 Manassas	Sponsor: Ole Virginia Hams ARC http://www.w4ovh.com/ Talk-In: 146.970-; 224.660-; 442.200+ Contact: Keith Bennington, KM4AA 12205 Woodlark Court Manassas, VA 20112 Phone: 703-909-1512 Fax: 703-369-2877 Email: km4aa@arrl.net Prince William County Fairgrounds 10624 Dumfries Road
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FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	
Vanity Calls	
K4IB	Bill Arnold – formerly KD4TOR
W4RBM	Bob Miller – formerly KA1KYO

VE Session Schedule - 2004

June 11 Richmond (ARRL VEC)	Sponsor: Richmond ARC/RAVE Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: PATRICK WILSON (804)932-9424 Email: W4PW@ARRL.NET Location: J Sargeant Reynolds Comm College 1651 E PARHAM RD-BLDG B WWW.W4PW.ORG (TO REGISTER) PRE-REGISTRATION URGED! RICHMOND, VA 23228
Date Location (ARRL VEC)	For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the ARRL Exam Session Search web page.

For Sale Items

None reported	
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AARC Club Officers

President	Jay Rostow	K4AZV	k4azv@turing.org 434-263-5795
Vice President	John Turchi	KI4DJT	m51John@juno.com 540-543-2037
Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	ag4dn@earthlink.net 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Bob Pattison	K4DU	rep4@aol.com 434-960-3344
Director	Pete Thorsen	W4PRT	w4prt@arrl.net 434-982-4690
Director	Mike DiGirolamo	W4XN	w4xn@arrl.net 434 977-6377
Director	Stephanie Rostow	K4BMM	434-263-5795
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net 434 872-0686
Director	Dennis Mennerich	K4THE	k4the@arrl.net 434 973-5407

Contest Calendars

ARRL Contest Calendar 2004	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2004	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
Contesting Online	Just about everything contests!

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

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



THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2004 No. 6
June 2005



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information
Daniel R. (Bob) Dorsey, Jr. W4RQ
PO Box 530
Ruckersville, VA 22968-0530
(434) 990-2659
W4RQ@yahoo.com

Next Club Meeting : June 14 - 7:30 PM Astronomy Bldg. at UVA

CLUB MEETINGS and NETS

REGULAR Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM
BOARD & TECHNICAL Meetings: Prior to regular meeting at 6:30 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

<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
June 14	Regular Club Meeting
July 12	Regular Club Meeting
August 9	Annual AARC Picnic and Hamfest
September 13	Regular Club Meeting
October 11	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
August 6	Mountain Mama Bike Race

Please sign up at meetings as the SIGN UP CLIPBOARD is passed around. Contact Greg N4PGS indicating your interest in working particular events.

Membership application available in PDF format at http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/aarc/images/AARC_Application.pdf