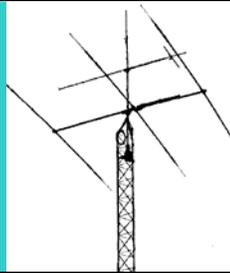


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2005, No. 10



October 2005

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 11 at 7:30 PM at the Astronomy Building on the UVA campus. The program will be announced.** See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello to all and welcome to another fine edition of the Beacon. Our summertime work schedule is coming to an end; however, we still have not had much time to work the radio. Here's what we managed to work during the past month. On HF we worked Croatia, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Morocco, Colombia, Germany, Bermuda, one of the Greek islands, Scotland, Ireland, Hungary and Serbia. On VHF/UHF we worked several new grids in the Turks & Caicos, the U.S. Midwest and some local grids. This activity for us was generally centered around the VHF/UHF contest weekend. I did enjoy my first opportunity to make contacts on all four VHF/UHF bands on which I have installed in the Yaesu FT 736, that being 50 MHz, 144 MHz, 220 MHz and 440 MHz. Those contacts were close by with KG4HOT but hey, there were contacts ... I'm not complaining. For those with HF privileges and the desire, K7C (Kure Atoll) is a much sought after DX entity and will be on the air for just another couple of days after the Beacon comes out. Look them up on the internet by doing a Google search using K7C DXpedition and make your choice of listed selections.

On to another issue, this issue being the "radio face" for which we are all responsible, in order to keep amateur radio structured and fun. Let me first say that a directed net is just that. It is directed by the net controller and those wishing to speak on a directed net anywhere, must ask and receive permission from the net controller. When this issue of net control was brought up during the emergency net of September 29, 2005 it seemed clear to me that there was someone on frequency who did not want to hear constructive criticism given by one of our club members who

is an experienced net controller. This seems to have resulted in malicious QRM on our repeater. I am most serious in my desire to never hear any malicious QRM on our repeater. Now, we all have viewpoints, opinions, desires and feelings. Everybody in our club is to be embraced as a club member, their feelings will be heard and they will be allowed to be who they are with no grief, aggravation or bad-mouthing. That means we have to be tolerant of people's idiosyncrasies and sometimes, shortcomings. There should never be the need for anybody to walk away from their radio or their club feeling badly. Politics and agendas tear clubs apart and there is no reason for political games or self-serving agendas in any club. A club is not the place to be single-minded nor does the control belong to any one person or group. Our club is and will remain a "feel good" club, a warm and fuzzy place. It is a place without too much expectation however it is a lead-in to some very serious areas of radio work. That's why we Elmer. As put by somebody who I respect very much in the radio world, "amateur radio is the great equalizer." It doesn't matter what religion you belong to, how much money you have, what your level of education is or what kind of radio you work. The only thing that matters is "you're 59, old man, 59. QSL?"

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear Friends -- At the last meeting I was asked to chair a nomination committee for officers and directors for the club for next year. I asked for volunteers. Steph K4BMM, Dr. Bill AD6JV, Bob K4DU, Tim KG4HOT and Harry W2HD all agreed to be on the committee and it was decided to have the meeting at Harry's on September 21. Even before the club meeting ended many suggested that we try to keep the same folks as we have this year, if they were willing to do this honorable work for another year. So at the committee meeting we decided to nominate most of the same folks. This is not set in stone and of course any who wish to be officers please step up to the plate and also we'll ask for nominations from the floor.

At the September meeting there was some confusion or minor mix-up about the refreshments and we had to run to the store during the business meeting to get some drinks and stuff and fortunately I had brought along hot dogs and an electric skillet that I had left over from the picnic. When things like this happen it really makes you appreciate the contribution Steve Clements KD4HBX made by always providing the refreshments for the meetings for so long! Hey Steve, thanks again, I think you're great!

Well folks that's about it, if I'm elected VP for next season

I'll try to form a program for the whole year with a couple of those bring your projects and experiments and just fellowship meetings. Also, I'm a new ham so my interests involve the magic of radio and what is really happening in the rigs, antennas and all the magic beads that make up the wonderful junk we like to play with. I imagine most of the friends got through this stage when they were very young and not a worn out 50-something year old carpenter. I'm concerned the programs I lean toward may be boring to the members who have been hams there whole lives so I'm asking any who would like to give a presentation to please let me know and we'll schedule it. Thanks and ...

73 de KI4DJT

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes September 13, 2005

Members Present: Jay, K4AZV, Pres.; John, KI4DJT, Veep; Marty, AG4DN, Sec'y; Bob, K4DU, Treas.; Stephanie, K4BMM; Pete, W4PRT. Members Absent: Bill, AD6JV; Mike, W4XN; Dennis, K4THE.

Jay called the Board meeting to order, there being a quorum present.

Marty called attention to the Board the necessity of forming a nominating committee for election of club officers. Jay indicated the matter would be brought to the attention of the membership at the general membership meeting to follow.

Pete announced that the current meeting place has been reserved for club use through June 2006. There was discussion about alternative meeting sites that could provide more room than at present. This will be followed up.

Marty presented Bob a number of administrative matters for his action as he sees fit, to include QSL cards, response to inquiries from a packet directory, new stationary for the club. Of note was the need to renew the club station license and change of trustee.

Bob noted that Dick St. Clair's W4TQS estate had informed him that Dick indicated he wanted his amateur radio equipment given to the club for its disposition as the club desired. Any monetary return from the equipment was to be for the club use. Bob will follow this up, inventory and arrange for sale or auction of the equipment. Bob did note that the equipment in question was quite old and its value to new amateurs was questionable. Older amateurs may very well take an interest in such items. Bob will write the "thank you" letter from the club to the family.

Bob reported that the club balance in its general fund was \$4466.99 prior to expenses for the club picnic.

With no further business for the Board Jay closed the meeting at 7:09 PM.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting September 13, 2005

Jay opened the meeting at 7:35 PM. As is the custom, Jay called for introduction of members and guests.

The Secretary presented 4 new club members for approval by the membership. All were approved with no comment and were welcomed to the club.

Marty read a "thank you" E-mail from Steve Policastro, Chair of the Triathlon event for Albemarle County. He warmly thanked the club for its support by providing communications for the event. He noted that next year he definitely would contact the club earlier in the year to provide support. (Copy of E-mail available upon request and is attached to these minutes.)

Then Jay called for the approval of July's Board and General Membership Meeting for July as they appeared in the August copy of the Beacon. The minutes were approved with no changes or comments.

The next item on the agenda was the appointment of a nominating committee for the 2006 Board of directors. Jay called for a volunteer to chair the committee. John K14DJT volunteered to be chair. The following club members volunteered to be on the nominating committee:

Harry, W2HD; Bob, K4DU; Tim, KG4HOT; Stephanie, K4BMM; Bill, AD6JV. The committee was charged with presenting its findings not later than the October AARC meeting. At that time additional nominations will be requested from the floor and the election of officers will take place.

Bob then reported on the financial state of the club. (See Board Minutes).

Bob went on to inform the membership of the contribution of amateur radio equipment by the estate of Dick St. Clair. (See Board Minutes).

Tom W4RAE announced that he no longer can chair the education committee. No class has been planned for this Fall. Jay called for a vote of thanks for Tom for the outstanding work he has done in the past. Jay indicated that he will be looking for a member to pick up the duties of Chair for the Education Committee. A general discussion followed on the merits of having short one day or two day weekend class followed by the examination. It was acknowledged that such an approach will take a great deal of preparation by the students. This will be discussed further once a new Chair is selected.

Tim KG4HOT now reported for the Technical Committee. He noted the need to purchase a 220 antenna and a power

station. The membership approved of the expenditure without comment. Discussion followed on how secure the club is in maintaining the 76 repeater site of Kluge property. The questions raised surrounded the rights of the club to maintain the site vs. the owner's right to ask the club to take down the repeater. The matter was referred to Bob to discuss with Dave K4DND who initially made the arrangements for setting up the repeater on Kluge property. Tom also indicated that there is room for the 440 repeater on his property. Ron K4RKA currently has the 440 repeater at his residence. Bob reminded the club that any establishment of a new repeater site must be coordinated and permission granted.

Jay congratulated John for getting his General License.

Pete noted that there is a need for a Chair for the 2006 Field Day. In order to be successfully executed the planning should begin in January 2006. He also noted that Fluvanna County will have its Old Farm Day on Saturday 1 Oct. Amateurs in Fluvanna County have requested club support setting up an HF site. Jay, Pete and Joe W2PVY have volunteered to assist.

John was the speaker for the evening. He made an interesting presentation on the value of directional antennas. He demonstrated a simple and inexpensive antenna he had made. The great value of directional antennas lies in their db gain and that they can be set up in areas that have restrictions on outside antennas and in apartments.

Bob then played a DVD narrated by Walter Cronkite covering BPL. The DVD was produced by ARRL and presented the dangers to the existing amateur and public safety frequency bands from BPL. The Spectrum Protection Act now pending in Congress seems to be the best protection these bands can expect considering the position of the FCC and the current national administration.

With no further business Jay called for a motion to close the meeting. The motion was made, seconded and passed

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

EchoLink Basics

Joe Giovanelli, W2PVY

When two stations cannot communicate directly, we know that a repeater makes such contacts possible, within geographical or topographical limits. These limitations and more can be overcome by adding Echolink to our repeater's capabilities --- which has been done on our '76 repeater. It is maintained by Cayman, KG4OVD. (Much thanks and credit is due him for his hard work.)

Echolink is a fusion of radio and the internet and it permits people using computers and special software to make direct contact with each other. For this brief discussion, however,

we will look at communications with the idea that you have no computer and you wish to use your existing 2 meter rig and our WA4TFZ repeater on 146.76 (receive).

If you take the **passive approach** in using EchoLink, you can still talk to stations anywhere in the world even if all you have is an HT. If you are monitoring traffic on the repeater and hear an announcement that someone has "CONNECTED," you can then talk to that station or computer merely by responding to him as you would with any other repeater contact.

Assuming that you have a DTMF pad, you can take an **active approach**. In other words, you --- yourself --- can connect to a station or a computer which is equipped with the appropriate software. All you need is what we call the "**node number**" of the person to whom you wish to talk. If you dial a friend's phone number, his phone will ring, and nobody else's. The telephone number is an address which is unique to the person you are calling. An Echolink "node number" is no different. If you know the node number for that person, key up the repeater and enter that number using your DTMF pad. No prefix or suffix is needed --- just the node number. (Note, however, that if a person or a station does not have Echolink enabled, a connection won't occur.)

When you have concluded the contact, you must disconnect the repeater from that station or computer. Just press "#" (pound). On the other hand, when a station connects to our repeater, he ends the contact by disconnecting. If he fails to do this, you can do it by pressing "#." If you wait long enough, the connection will time out on its own. That is all there is to it. It is possible to have multiple stations connected. To disconnect all stations, press "#" twice.

During an Echolink contact other stations might check into the repeater in the usual way, and they, too, can talk to the connected station or computer.

When you go on to our repeater, you might want to know if there are any stations connected to it or you might want to know if Echolink is operating properly. To obtain this information, simply press "08" on your pad and release the PTT. The repeater will give you the information.

Keep in mind that you will be using a repeater; long transmissions either by you or the station or computer to which the repeater is connected will time it out.

As configured at the time of this writing, the machine can be connected to two stations/computers simultaneously. The repeater's carrier must drop out before the other party can transmit. This results in delays between transmissions. I shorten the "hang time" of the machine by entering "b13*" on my touchtone pad. This eliminates the courtesy beep and drops the carrier almost immediately (except when the repeater identifies itself). Be sure to wait a bit before transmitting just in case another station wishes to join the

QSO. When finished, **BE SURE TO RETURN THE REPEATER TO NORMAL OPERATION** by entering "b10*."

All that remains, then, is to know a few "node numbers of stations or of people using computers. If you have friends who you know use Echolink, ask for their node numbers. While asking, give them our node number: 255560.

To get you started, here are a few node numbers. Many of you know John, K6OJ. His number is 257414. The following numbers will connect you to repeaters in far-flung places:

HL9UL (K4UL), Brian, Seoul, South Korea: 6887

Repeater in Pretoria, South "Africa: 185459

N8AD (remote base, tied to HF; not sure if you need HF privileges): 54056

NH6XO, Honolulu repeater: 45176

K4IJ, in the Roanoke/Blacksburg area: 126596

4X44ARC, Tel Aviv, Israel: 26350

6K5BAT, South Korea: 209748

9H1BBS, Malta: 5661

JA1KSO, Yokohama, Japan: 53129

Many more node numbers can be found at <http://www.echolink.org>.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Oct 22-23 **ARRL EME 50 – 1296 MHz**

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

Other Contests of Interest

Oct 8-9 **Oceania DX Contest**

Oct 15-16 **JARTS WW RTTY Contest**

Oct 16 **RSGB 21-28 MHz Contest**

Oct 29-30 **CQWW SSB DX Contest**

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

73, Bob W4RQ

Amateur Radio Antenna CC&R Bill Reintroduced In Congress

ARRL Bulletin ARLB023

New York Congressman Steve Israel has reintroduced legislation that could make it easier for radio amateurs living in communities with deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) to erect suitable antennas. Arkansas Congressman Mike Ross, WD5DVR, signed aboard as an original cosponsor of the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" (HR 3876).

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has encouraged League members to write their elected representative and ask that they cosponsor and support the bill, especially given two hurricane emergencies in short order.

"Amateur Radio is certainly a part of this nation's communications infrastructure," Haynie said. "What we're asking for is just a fair shake so we can put up antennas and help our fellow citizens." While the League has ramped up its efforts to educate members of Congress about Amateur Radio, Haynie said lawmakers respond best to individual members.

The one-sentence measure is identical to the text of the CC&R bill that has been introduced in the last two sessions of Congress. It would put private land-use regulations, such as homeowners' association rules, on the same legal plane as state or local zoning regulations under the FCC's PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

HR 3876 has been assigned to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Information about the bill and a sample letter to use when contacting your representative are available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr3876/>.

In his public announcement September 19, Israel said that "often unsung" Amateur Radio volunteers were instrumental in helping residents in the hardest hit areas in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, including saving stranded flood victims in Louisiana and Mississippi.

"State and local governments, as well as disaster relief agencies, could not possibly afford to replace the services that radio amateurs dependably provide for free," said a statement from Israel's office. "However, the hundreds of thousands of Amateur Radio licensees face burdensome regulations that make it extremely difficult to provide their public services."

Amateur Radio Volunteers Still Needed For Hurricane Relief

From the ARRL Letter, Sept. 30, 2005

As of week's end, Amateur Radio volunteers still were needed to assist relief agencies in the southern Mississippi counties hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina. In addition ham radio volunteers were being sought to support Hurricane Rita FEMA operations in Texas. ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, who's been at the American Red Cross volunteer staging area in Montgomery for nearly a month now, says turning the "operator pipeline" back on after holding off on soliciting additional volunteers has been slow.

"Three Mississippi Gulf Coast counties need amateurs in EOCs, American Red Cross shelters and other locations to provide reliable communication," Sarratt said. He's trying to fill a need for 18 operators in Hancock County, 24 in Harrison County and 9 in Jackson County. Sarratt reported he was already getting word on the availability of fresh recruits via the nationwide network of ARRL SMs and SECs.

Prospective volunteers may indicate their willingness to deploy by first signing up on the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Communications & Volunteer Registration and Message Traffic Database <http://katrina.ab2m.net/>, then awaiting word on whether to deploy. Operators should not self-deploy! If requested to report, they should notify their ARRL SEC.

Volunteers who are asked to deploy would report to the Montgomery marshaling center to receive orientation and a specific assignment. Some volunteers will help support communication at Red Cross shelters set up for evacuees, while others will provide tactical communication for feeding stations.

Amateur Radio Station W4AP at the Montgomery staging facility monitors 7.280 MHz days and 3.965 MHz evenings to keep in touch with HF-equipped mobile operators who are traveling to or are at their assigned locations.

Operators requested to deploy should be self-sufficient with some food, fuel, water and camping gear sufficient to cover their travel to and operation in affected areas. Shelters are supplying food for ham radio volunteers in affected communities, however.

In Louisiana, where New Orleans and several parishes suffered severe damage from Hurricane Katrina, SEC Gary Stratton, K5GLS, says local ARES members are still handling communication request and needs that arise. He says that first responders are expected to enter Cameron Parish this weekend. Amateur Radio volunteers have been asked to accompany law enforcement personnel to support their internal communication on this mission. Flood waters in

Louisiana have been receding, and most shelters now have telephone service, electricity and running water.

Meanwhile, the Amateur Radio response to Hurricane Rita continues. North Texas SEC Bill Swan, K5MWC, reports that two teams from his section are in Jasper, Texas, to assist the Salvation Army. He predicts that more ham radio volunteers will be called to assist after cities such as Beaumont and Port Arthur are reopened for residents to return.

In San Augustine County, Texas, Marshall Williams, K5QE, says that up to eight ARES-trained Amateur Radio volunteers are needed for one week minimum stints to support the FEMA-coordinated disaster relief operation with mobile HF SSB and VHF FM. Prospective volunteers may register their availability on the Hurricane Rita Disaster Communications Volunteer Registration & Message Traffic Database. The FEMA support requirement is likely to continue for several weeks, with up to eight volunteers needed each week.

The need is for self-contained operators who can provide their own shelter, water and some or all of their food for a week. The duty tour will involve working in high humidity and temperatures, so anyone with medical problems that could be aggravated by these conditions should not volunteer for this assignment.

The West Gulf ARES Emergency Net (7.285 MHz days/3.873 MHz evenings) is providing daily updates on the Hurricane Rita emergency response at noon and 7 PM Central Daylight Time.

Amateur Radio Vanity Processing Falls Victim To Hurricanes

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has suspended the processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. A WTB staff member, speaking to ARRL on background, said the FCC halted vanity processing on or about September 23 after realizing that filing and regulatory deadline extensions for hurricane-affected licensees in certain states could adversely impact the vanity system. The WTB staffer pointed out that the filing extensions announced this month also apply to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period."

"Because these extensions apply to the grace period, it could affect vanity processing," the WTB staffer told ARRL. "We stopped processing when it became clear that some call signs could be affected." No decision has been made on when vanity processing will resume.

On September 1, the FCC extended until October 31 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between August 29 and October 30 for licensees in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina. On September 24, it extended until November 21 all filing and regulatory

deadlines falling between September 20 and November 20 for licensees in Louisiana and Texas affected by Hurricane Rita.

The WTB staff member emphasized that the FCC intended the deadline extensions to apply only to licensees who have been directly impacted by the storms. "These are not statewide extensions," the staffer said.

Under Part 97, Amateur Radio licensees have two years from the date of license expiration to renew their tickets without having to retest or risk losing their call signs to a vanity applicant. The staffer confirmed that WTB had disabled the "auto-termination" feature of the Universal Licensing System (ULS) so that it will not automatically cancel licenses that have not been renewed by the end of the grace period.

"We can't assume based on address who might be affected," the staff member explained, "so we're not auto-terminating anything at this point."

In the meantime, the FCC is encouraging radio amateurs to continue filing vanity applications as they normally would. "Everything will be held in queue," the WTB staff member said.--thanks to Dean Gibson, AE7Q, for alerting ARRL to this situation.



AARC Public Service Schedule	
August 6	Mountain Mama Bike Race

Area Hamfests	
None reported	

FCC Database Updates	
New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
KI4DJT	Our VP, John Turchi – to GENERAL
Vanity Calls	
None Reported	

VE Session Schedule - 2004	
October 8 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 COLL 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	
Antenna, Coax, Mast	Ringo Ranger II ARX-2B 2 Meter antenna w/manual, 10 foot steel mast, 30 feet Belden 9913 RG-8U Coax with PL-259 on each end. Asking \$30, Call Fred, KE4ZNO at (434) 589-5488.

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



THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2004 No. 10
October 2005



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information
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Next Club Meeting : October 11 - 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
October 11	Regular Club Meeting
November 8	Regular Club Meeting
December 13	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
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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