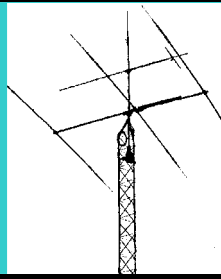


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2006, No. 1



January 2006

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Meeting Notice - Winter Dinner

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 15 at 6:00 PM** at the **Ponderosa Restaurant at Pantops**. No program or club business --- just enjoy the company of your fellow AARC'ers. See you there!!

Dues are Due!!!

It is club dues time again!! Marty, AG4DN, has developed a new short renewal form. The new form can be obtained from the web site or members can request one from Marty via Email or at any meeting. The form is also reproduced elsewhere in this issue of The Beacon. **There are no changes in membership fees.**

Parking Etiquette at NRAO

There are some parking spaces topside near the door at NRAO. **Do not park in the circle in front of the door. There are many parking spaces behind the building.** Use the front door to enter the building. It will be unlocked. The door down by the lower parking lot will remain locked.

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello and may we all have a healthy, happy, peaceful and prosperous 2006. Kind of lofty isn't it? But hey you've got to start somewhere. I hope the holiday season brought good times and fun gatherings to all. As we set upon the beginning of this new year we have the opportunity to keep things moving in a positive direction within our club.

If I may I would like to propose 2006 as the year of emergency readiness for the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club. This will take getting involved in a group or on an individual

basis and by doing such things as attending the local emergency planning network meetings at the University of Virginia police station on the last Wednesday of each month, participating in as many simulated emergency training exercises as possible in your area and maybe even upgrading your portable and/or base station radio systems to be more reliable in times of disaster. 2005 saw an incredible amount of natural disasters from hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Amateur radio was the only method of communication in many of the disaster stricken areas. The media rather publicly affirmed our ability to provide these communications. As one of our club members recently said, "Now is the time to keep this ball rolling." The way to keep the ball rolling is to be personally responsible in whatever way you are capable with the tools of your abilities. This makes you the one. **THE ONE.** If we wait for somebody else to take responsibility the window of opportunity often closes. Therefore take the responsibility. Do it on your own time table and be as much of the group effort as possible. Nobody expects for one person to do it all but all are expected to participate in order to be fruitful.

There is a nice momentum gathering about the club right about now and this will also continue to grow as long as interests remain high. High interest is generated with some restructuring and new projects on the table. We want to encourage new projects to be brought to the club. It is important to keep things fresh and fun. Fun is really important here so I also solicit ideas for a couple of "just for fun" projects or maybe even a special event. Over the last couple of years it seems as though the interest in contesting has grown somewhat and the intent this year would be to participate in a couple of ARRL contests to give those interested in contesting something to do as a club and to introduce those who have never contested before a chance to get their feet wet in this aspect of the hobby.

VHF and UHF radio seemed to be a little more sparse this E-skip season compared to last year although there were a few tropospheric ducting openings on 2 meters and a couple of E-skip openings on 6 meters there just wasn't much to brag about. HF radio has been quite fun and the last month has brought a fair bit of juicy DX to those who like such things. Some of the countries worked were: Australia, Algeria, Dominica, Serbia, Namibia, St. Vincent, India, Falkland Islands, St. Helena Island, Nicaragua and the grandmother of all ... KP5 - Desecheo Island.

Looking forward to seeing everybody at the club dinner.

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear Friends -- **The first meeting and annual club dinner of 2006 will be at the Ponderosa Steak House at Pantops at 6 PM on January 15.** I hope all can make it.

In February KB4JNI Bud will be giving a presentation on a computer program that tells you how to construct antennas. In March I hope to get Jim AD4YM to give a boat anchor program and describe how to get old rigs running again. Kevin K4BDR would like to give his SSTV program in the new place at NRAO and be able to use the screen so everyone can see how to do it. I'll try to line it up for April. In May I think we'll have a show your home brew projects and hot dog meeting. The June meeting is for ARRL Field Day. That's all I have so far.

Today is Christmas Eve. My family is in Florida visiting my Mother-in-Law (my best friend and the world's finest woman) and oldest daughter. I must stay home to feed the 5 horses, 3 goats, 9 dogs, 30 cats, couple dozen chickens, Guinea pigs, gerbils, parakeet, cockatiel, snake, frog, toad, beta fish and finally the gecko. As soon as they left I fashioned a 40 meter dipole and strung it over the house and a 300 ohm TV antenna wire J-pole and just hung it up on the chimney. Then I moved the shack from the barn to the kitchen table. At the other end of the table I'm working on a Norcal 20 -- a nice little QRP transceiver that puts out 7 watts. I'll teach them to leave me without any adult supervision --- Hi, Hi, Hi. And just for fun I'm also building a couple of paddles from an article I found in WorldRadio by Fred Kalt, W2XN. Let's hope for lots of fun, learning and fellowship for all of the friends in 2006. TNX and...

73 de KI4DJT, John

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes November 8, 2005

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

Jay called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. A quorum was present.

Bill presented a number of options on how the next Tech class could be administered. The areas of discussion covered scheduling, length of the course, how the course could be managed, among other policy and administrative issues. After a thorough airing of the issues the Board decision was that the club would present a one-day course designed to get the student through the exam. The test

would be scheduled one week after the class in order to give the student the week to take practice exams on the Internet, study from the textbooks and prepare for the test in any way that was best for the individual. The course will not be ready until February 2006 at the earliest.

John informed the Board that the **Annual Club Dinner would take place at the Ponderosa Steak House at Pantops on Sunday 15 January 2006 at 6:00 PM.**

Jay requested that Hein N4FWA address the Board regarding the revitalization of the club's involvement in Public Service and Emergency Communication. It was obvious that these two areas of amateur interest required new leadership after the individuals who normally coordinated these programs were no longer active in the club. Hein focused primarily on Emergency Communication activities in the Albemarle / Charlottesville area. It was pointed out, from Board members that activities in some of the surrounding counties had not experienced any break down of relationship with local emergency agencies. The need to reestablish connections with the new EC for Albemarle/Charlottesville was high on the list of things to do. Hein noted the various committees and organizations that the club should be participating with through monitoring and liaison. Jay indicated that the club would make every effort to reestablish links to the Albemarle/Charlottesville emergency service agencies.

The Board thanked Hein for his informative presentation and insight into the existing situation. Jay also requested Hein address the general membership on this issue.

With no further business the Board meeting was closed at 7:40 PM.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting November 8, 2005

Jay called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

Bill reported to the membership the plans for the Technician class and exam planned for on 11 February for the class and 18 February for the exam. The necessary logistics of settling up the class and other necessary actions were reviewed. (See Board Minutes).

Hein N4FWA reviewed his presentation before the Board for the membership. The membership gave Hein a round of applause for his presentation and past efforts on behalf of his contribution to the club's public service and emergency communications efforts.

Jay called for the introduction of members and guests.

Jay called for a motion to approve of the AARC Board and General Membership meeting for November 2005 as they

appeared in the December Beacon. A motion was made and seconded, and approved with no changes or comment.

The membership was notified that the annual January AARC Dinner was to be held at the Ponderosa Steak House, Pantops, Sunday 15 January 2006 at 6:00 PM.

Tim, KG4HOT reported on the activities of the Tech Committee. Tim discussed the use of Sugarloaf Mountain for the 220 repeater and possibly some other repeater as well. The membership and Tim were satisfied with the current location of the 2-meter repeater, although there are no assurances that the current owner of the property will continue to grant permission indefinitely. Be that as it may, no movement of the 2-meter repeater is planned in the near future.

At this point Jay called a halt to Tim's report to allow the guest speaker for the evening to make his presentation.

Our guest speaker was John Avalone from the Charlottesville Astronomical Society describing his radio astronomy experiments. John's experiments demonstrated the noise that planets, star clusters and other heavenly bodies emanate. These observations are made with radio telescopes that are not observing the optical signature of these bodies. These capabilities give us the option to view the heavens from a sound point of view. A copy of John's hand out has been attached to these minutes and is available upon request. The handout provides more details of his experiments and equipment.

After a question and answer period Jay thanked John for a very interesting and informative presentation. The membership gave John a hearty round of applause for his efforts.

Jay now turned the meeting back to Tim for completion of his discussion of repeater sites, repeater linkage, etc. Many options for the 440, the 925 and the 220 repeaters were discussed. Various sites were noted as possibilities for sites to improve coverage. Tim noted that he was undertaking a series of propagation experiments on potential sites. He stated that since hurricane Katrina the interest in emergency communications is at an all time high. There is a need for the club to prioritize what it wants to accomplish with its repeaters. In addition, there is a need to make use of repeaters, in addition to the 76 for emergencies. Tom made the key point that in an emergency there cannot be enough repeaters. Harry W2HD made another key point, in that individuals must also improve their equipment and site capability to go hand in hand with repeater improvement.

With no further business, a motion was made to close the meeting at 9:25 PM, second and approved with no comment.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Amateur Radio Vanity Callsign Processing to Resume January 4

From the ARRL Bulletin, Dec. 23, 2005

The FCC has announced that routine processing of Amateur Radio vanity callsign applications will resume Wednesday, January 4, 2006. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) suspended vanity processing in September as an indirect result of its hurricane-related extensions of certain regulatory and filing deadlines. The Commission said licensees or applicants needing relief beyond the initial extension periods should follow the process for submitting waiver requests provided in §1.925 of the Commission's rules.

"The Bureau will consider additional relief related to the hurricanes on a case-by-case basis," the FCC said December 19 in a public notice.

Earlier this year, the FCC announced it would extend filing and regulatory deadlines for licensees in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Florida directly affected by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. During the extension periods, the WTB temporarily suspended certain automated licensing functions. These included dismissing applications that are returned and not amended on a timely basis, changing the status of a callsign from active to expired if a license is not renewed within the two-year grace period for Amateur Radio licensees, and issuing vanity call signs.

In September, the FCC said it had to suspend routine vanity call sign processing because the extensions included the two-year grace period and could conceivably affect the vanity program.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Jan 6-8 **ARRL RTTY Roundup**

Jan 21-23 **ARRL VHF Sweepstakes**

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

Other Contests of Interest

Jan 14-15 **Hunting Lions On the Air**

Jan 28-29 **REF French Contest**

Jan 28-29 **UBA Belgian Contest**

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

73, Bob W4RQ

*Best Wishes
for Your
Success and
Happiness in
2006!!*

*This page
intentionally
Blank*

*Your article
could be
here!!!*

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22906
E-MAIL: MEMBERSHIP@WA4TFZ.ORG
ONLINE: [HTTP://WWW.WA4TFZ.ORG](http://WWW.WA4TFZ.ORG)

RENEWAL FORM 2006

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: () LIFE NO FEE () YOUTH NO FEE
() FULL \$20 () FAMILY \$25

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

NO CHANGES FROM 2005 ()
CHANGES FOR 2006 () NOTE BELOW:

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

AARC Public Service Schedule

None reported

Area Hamfests

None reported

FCC Database Updates

New Calls

None Reported

Upgrades

None Reported

Vanity Calls

None Reported

VE Session Schedule - 2004

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
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>



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information
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 Ruckersville, VA 22968-0530
 (434) 990-2659
W4RQ@yahoo.com

Next Club Meeting : January 15 - 6:00 PM Ponderosa - Pantops

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
December 13	Regular Club Meeting
January ??	Annual Winter Dinner Meeting – Ponderosa Pantops
February 13	Regular Club Meeting
March 13	Regular Club Meeting
April 13	Regular Club Meeting
May 13	Regular Club Meeting
June 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