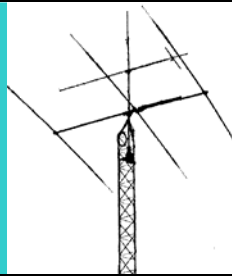


# The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2006, No. 9



September 2006

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 12 at 7:30 PM** at **the NRAO Building on the UVA campus**. The program will be presented by **Ed Robb of the Sheriff’s Department on their communications needs for search and rescue**. See you there!!

## VEC Exam Session - Sept. 16

The ARC VEC Team will hold a license exam session on **Saturday, September 16 at 9:00 AM** at **the Astronomy Building on the UVA campus**. All license classes, as well as the code test, will be offered. **Please be sure to bring a photo ID of yourself, a copy of your license and any applicable CSCE’s from previous sessions**.

## The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hi folks. I'm glad you made it to another fine edition of the Beacon. This one is going to be short and sweet. Six meters took a dive as expected. We worked some U.S. stations including a double hop to the west coast this month but that is about all. HF was quite a bit more active than six meters. Here's what we worked: Flores Island (in the Azores), Jamaica, Algeria, Denmark, Mexico, Japan, Russia, the Netherlands, Belgium, Taiwan, a couple of Australian stations on 75 meters in the morning and last but not least ----- 9M2CW, Chin in Malaysia via Echolink (by the way we got a nice email from him).

Now, here's something to think about. We are all members of the Albermarle Amateur Radio Club. We all have individual gifts and attributes. As a club member it seems that your position is to use your gifts and attributes to better the club as a whole. The act of creating committee after committee seems in my experience, to create nothing but confusion or a babysitting job where I ask at every meeting

what has been accomplished by a committee. Well, I must say that committees haven't gotten much accomplished.

So my response to this is the desire to work more with individual people to capitalize more on individual attributes. If we have one person responsible for handling particular aspects of things it seems to me that this is a much more direct way of getting things accomplished than to have one person head a committee where duties fall by the wayside. The end message being, I as president cannot ultimately be responsible for the actions or inactions of a committee. I do feel that I can be much more responsible and responsive to the individual. My invitation to you, my dear friend and club member ---- examine your attributes and qualities. See where they can fit in and be beneficial to our club. If you see a deficiency or an area in need of improvement where your individual attributes can assist the situation, please contact me. It is very important that the individual members of the club own and maintain the club. Our radio club has been around since the mid 60's. There are life members in our club who have devoted much time and energy. We owe it to these club members as well as current and future club members to maintain a strong club with a strong presence in the amateur radio world. This requires much effort from individuals to continue the fine work which has been done so far. So take a look in a mirror, decide what you're good at and let your public service start first in keeping our club a strong entity in the central Virginia area. Thank in advance for you assistance and support.

73, Jay K4AZV

## Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear friends: September already and only three months left until we will have a new set of officers for the club. I was considering running again but I'm looking for a farm and it will probably be in South Carolina or Georgia .Since I may move before the next year is up I will not run for office in 2007. My family has had enough of cold winters so we're looking for 100 or so acres somewhere warmer and cheap with grass and no sand for our herd of horses. We used to have a dairy with about 50 or so cows. I guess farming just gets in your blood and we have missed it. This is a little hard to explain as it is so much work and not too much return financially but it really gives on a sense of direction and makes me feel very close to the Earth sort of like a good ground for the soul.

I went to the Berryville hamfest with K4DND and AD6JV and had a nice time walking around and trying to find good junk. There was a lot of stuff you would find in a flea market but not any ham stuff I was interested in. I was looking for Radio Works and The Wire Man as I wanted a 160 Carolina Windom, some antenna wire for experiments and some

Kevlar line for hanging antennas but they were not there. On the way home Dave mentioned that he had a 160 Windom that used to be Joe's W2PVY. Some time ago Joe was having trouble with his antenna. Dave went and took down Joe's antenna and put up his own and sent the old one back to Radio Works. Radio Works replaced the matching unit and sent it back to Dave where it has been for some time. Dave offered the antenna to me and I graciously accepted it; what a great Elmer! Before the week was out I assembled the Windom and had it hung up between trees about 40 feet. I only had to cut down three pines, not too bad. I really love the antenna and understand why everyone who has one raves about its performance. I finally have been able to get on 75 meters and it tunes up nicely on every band. Thanks again Dave and Joe.

**Ed Robb from the Sheriff's Department wants to address the club and explain their needs for communication for search and rescue. He has agreed to make a presentation at our September meeting and we can find out what we need to do to get ready and help when they need us.**

I would like to thank everyone who came to the picnic. The food and fellowship was grand and I really had a great time with the friends.

73 de KI4DJT

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes August 8, 2006

No minutes – club picnic!!

### Regular Meeting August 8, 2006

No minutes – club picnic!!

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Sep None scheduled

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

### Other Contests of Interest

Sep 9-10 Worked All Europe Contest - SSB

Sep 16-17 QCWA QSO Party

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

73, Bob W4RQ

## Martha Jefferson Repeater

Photos courtesy of Ron, K4RKA



Hein Hvatum, N4FWA, is shown here at the Martha Jefferson Hospital 146.925 MHz repeater site. It is hoped that the 444.25 repeater will soon be added to the picture!

## 1969 - Memories of Hurricane Camille

Ron Richey, K4RKA

The recent remembrances in the newspaper of this 1969 disaster reminded me of the Charlottesville ham community's participation. The day after a heavy rain in our area, I had gone out motorcycle riding with a friend after work. At one point near a stream we noticed a lot of trash way up in the trees but couldn't figure out how it got there. We couldn't believe the stream could have possibly gotten that high - but it had! When I got home, my wife Nancy, (now WB4RBW) told me that the Lynchburg people had been calling me for the last several hours. When I made contact, we discovered that Nelson County had been devastated by the remnants of hurricane Camille which had dumped over 30 inches of rain on the county in a very short period of time the previous night. The power company had asked a Lynchburg ham to fly in a helicopter to inspect one of their distribution stations

since all communications had been lost and there were several bridges out, preventing them from getting into Nelson County by road. The destruction was worse than anyone expected and the news only got worse over the next several days as the full impact of the storm was gradually discovered. Whole mountainsides had turned to mud which slid into the valleys, wiping out entire communities and leaving many other people homeless.

Due to a problem in Lynchburg, the rescue helicopters had to fly to Charlottesville to refuel and they needed amateur radio communications with the airport. All other communications including radio repeaters had been disrupted. The Lynchburg Tobacco Row repeater was fed with power from the west and had survived the storm and power outages which affected all the public service and police repeaters. As the full impact of the disaster unfolded, my ham station was manned by 4 or 5 other volunteers over the next several days. Sperry Marine actually gave a couple of us time off to provide the communications assistance. We also coordinated the distribution of many pounds of food donated by the Morton plant in Crozet, letting them know where to send their trucks where people had strung lines across the river to carry supplies across to those who needed food and other materials. We kept up about an 18 hours a day schedule for 3-4 days and tapered off after that as other services were able to get back on-line. Several other hams from this area, mostly associated with search and rescue units or the hospitals, went into the area as access opened up.

It was a stroke of luck that the amateur repeater survived, but even had it not, we could have provided simplex communications with certain stations in the Lynchburg area. In any case, the amateur community proved itself available and capable of providing the initial emergency communications necessary to support the many agencies that were able to provide relief to the disaster area.

In a more personal aside, my next door neighbor was a district manager for the A&P stores and he had been coming back from Roanoke on Route 29 the evening of the storm. Just after he crossed the last bridge into Albemarle County, he noticed the headlights of a tractor trailer behind him go suddenly up in the air. He turned around to see what had happened and found the truck jackknifed in a vertical position over what had been the bridge. The driver got out OK and as they stood there, the whole truck and the remains of the bridge were washed away downstream. Talk about a close call!!!

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Sep None scheduled

## September 2006

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

### Other Contests of Interest

**Sep 9-10**      **Worked All Europe Contest - SSB**

**Sep 16-17**      **QCWA QSO Party**

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

*73, Bob W4RQ*

## Solar Update de K7RA

*From ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP036*

The second magnetically reversed sunspot appeared this week, and this time it remained longer. **This is the second sunspot from the new solar cycle 24.** Eventually there will be more of the new reversed sunspots than the old ones from cycle 23, and that would be one way to mark the beginning of the next sunspot cycle.

August has passed, so let's look at some monthly averages of sunspot numbers and solar flux.

The average daily sunspot numbers for the months August 2005 through August 2006 were 65.6, 39.2, 13, 32.2, 62.6, 26.7, 5.3, 21.3, 55.2, 39.6, 24.4, 22.6 and 22.8. Average daily solar flux for the same months was 92.4, 91.9, 76.6, 86.3, 90.8, 83.4, 76.5, 75.5, 88.9, 80.9, 76.5, 75.8 and 79.

We can use these averages to spot trends, but the sunspot numbers jump around quite a bit. To get a smoother view of the sunspot numbers, you can do a moving average, for instance, over 3 months. This would mean averaging any month's average daily sunspot numbers with the month before and the month after data. To the data above, we can add sunspot numbers for the months April through July 2005. That allows us to look at a 3-month moving average centered on May 2005 through July 2006. We cannot yet figure a 3-month moving average centered on August 2006, because we don't know what the sunspot numbers for September will be.

So the 3-month moving average from May 2005 through July 2006 is 55.6, 64.6, 64.7, 57.8, 39.3, 28.1, 35.9, 40.5, 31.5, 17.8, 27.3, 38.7, 39.7, 28.9 and 23.3

That is pretty smooth, but we see numbers decline, then rise, and then decline again. An even smoother set of numbers would be 7-month moving averages from July 2005 through May 2006. Those numbers are 50.5, 49.1, 48.7, 44, 34.9, 28.6, 30.9, 34.7, 33.6, 27.9 and 27.3. Although the numbers rise for January and February 2006, the decline of the cycle is more obvious.

Despite the decline in the sunspot cycle, we will see improved HF propagation over long distances in September. The Autumnal Equinox later this month is a time when sunlight is equally distributed over the northern and southern hemispheres. Expect rising sunspot numbers and solar flux over the next few days, with mostly quiet geomagnetic conditions. The predicted planetary A index for September 1-7 is predicted to be 10, 10, 20, 12, 10, 5 and 5.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k9la-prop.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

Sunspot numbers for August 24 through 30 were 22, 23, 21, 26, 48, 30 and 19 with a mean of 27. 10.7 cm flux was 78.2, 77.2, 75.7, 78.6, 76.4, 73, and 74.2, with a mean of 76.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 2, 3, 18, 11, 9 and 6 with a mean of 7.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 0, 2, 12, 9, 9 and 5, with a mean of 5.9.

## Amateur Radio Awareness Day on September 16

*Excerpts from the ARRL Letter, Sept. 1, 2006*

September is US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Preparedness Month, and Saturday, September 16, is Amateur Radio Awareness Day. For the third straight year, the ARRL and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) groups across the US will join a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations taking part in Preparedness Month activities. ARES is a partner with DHS through the Citizen Corps program. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says local ARES groups and clubs will be making presentations to civic organizations, at schools and at regional fairs to showcase Amateur Radio.

To highlight Amateur Radio Awareness Day, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) will promote the DHS's "30 Tips for Emergency Preparedness" <[http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/edit\\_0711.xml](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/edit_0711.xml)> to attract news media coverage. Some tips on promoting National Preparedness Month are on the ARRL public relations Web pages <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/contact/2006/08/SEPTEMBER>>.

ARRL Public Service Team Manager Steve Ewald, WV1X, notes that the underlying theme of National Preparedness Month is to encourage everyone to be aware of and prepare for emergencies all year long.

## AARC Public Service Schedule

None Reported	
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## Area Hamfests

None reported	
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## FCC Database Updates

### New Calls

None Reported	
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### Upgrades

None Reported	
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### Vanity Calls

None Reported	
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## VE Session Schedule - 2006

<b>Date</b> <b>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.
<b>September 16</b> <b>Charlottesville</b>  (ARRL VEC)	<b>Sponsor:</b> ALBEMARLE ARC <b>Time:</b> 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) <b>Contact:</b> HERBERT G WINN (434)581-3744 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:WW4GW@ARRL.NET">WW4GW@ARRL.NET</a> <b>VEC:</b> <a href="#">ARRL/VEC</a> <b>Location:</b> University OF VA 530 MCCORMICK RD Astronomy Bldg - Room 201 Corner of MCCORMICK & ALDERMAN Charlottesville, VA 22904

## For Sale Items

<b>Triband Yagi, rotator and coax switch</b>	Cushcraft A3S 10/15/20 Meters Triband Yagi, with coax, etc. Asking \$175. Yaesu antenna rotator with control unit. Model G-450 XL, with box, coax, etc. Asking \$200.00. Delta-4 Lightning surge protector. 4-position RF Coax switch.. Asking \$32. All items include original manual. Contact Jimmy at (Home) 434 973-5589 or (Cell) 434 981-8451 or via Email <a href="mailto:K4JMY@aol.com">K4JMY@aol.com</a> .
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## AARC Club Officers

President	Jay Rostow	K4AZV	<a href="mailto:k4azv@turing.org">k4azv@turing.org</a> 434-263-5795
Vice President	John Turchi	KI4DJT	<a href="mailto:m51John@juno.com">m51John@juno.com</a> 540-543-2037
Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	<a href="mailto:ag4dn@earthlink.net">ag4dn@earthlink.net</a> 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Bob Pattison	K4DU	<a href="mailto:rep4@aol.com">rep4@aol.com</a> 434-960-3344
Director	John	N4SYH	
Director	Tim	KG4HOT	
Director	Stephanie Rostow	K4BMM	434-263-5795
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	<a href="mailto:billp1048@earthlink.net">billp1048@earthlink.net</a> 434 872-0686
Director	Dennis Mennerich	K4THE	<a href="mailto:k4the@arrl.net">k4the@arrl.net</a> 434 973-5407

## Contest Calendars

<a href="#">ARRL Contest Calendar 2004</a>	ARRL sponsored contests
<a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2004</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.wa4tfz.org/index.htm>



**THE AARC BEACON**  
**Vol 2006 No. 9**  
**September 2006**



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**ISSUE DEADLINE - 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month**

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

**Next Club Meeting : Sept. 12 - 7:30 PM NRAO Building - 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 NRAO building on Edgemont 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
September 12	Regular Club Meeting
October 10	Regular Club Meeting
November 14	Regular Club Meeting
December 12	Regular Club Meeting
January ??	Annual Club Winter Dinner
February 13	Regular Club Meeting
March 13	Regular Club Meeting
April 10	Regular Club Meeting
May 8	Regular Club Meeting

**AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE**

DATE	EVENT

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.wa4tfz.org/images/AARCrenewalform2006.pdf>