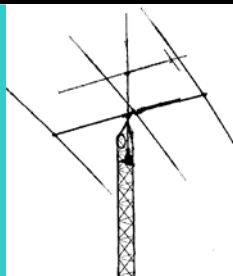


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2006, No. 11



November 2006

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 14 at 7:30 PM** at the **NRAO Building on the UVA campus**. The presentation for the October meeting will be by **Eddie Medeiros on the subject of generators**. See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello and welcome to yet another fine edition of the Beacon. I hope everybody has enjoyed the change of seasons. The fall leaf colors were once again outstanding. This also represents the time for propagation changes as we head into winter. We didn't work any 6 meters last month although we did hear a short auroral opening. There was still a bit of 2 meter tropospheric ducting bringing some strong openings to the northeast and to the south. On HF however, it was a totally different ballgame. There was some fine DX coming in..... countries which I had never heard before on the radio. Here's what we worked: British Virgin Islands, Luxembourg, Alaska, Sardinia, Revilla Gigedo, Greenland, Djibouti, Mayotte, Montenegro, Falkland Islands and last but not least, Annobon Island. A good portion of these contacts were made in the 75 meter DX window as QRN has decreased substantially (which it does every winter). The Greenland contact on 75 meters was made during the same auroral opening that affected 6 meters, where my friend PAOGMW is usually very strong with 10-20 db over 9 signals; on that night his signal was only a 57 to 58 with him complaining of much QRN. The Greenland station however came in fairly strong with a 59 signal. My friend (PAOGMW) from the Netherlands commented that the auroral activity was farther to the north that evening, most likely contributing to the Greenland opening. As you can imagine a great pileup ensued with North American and European stations calling the Greenland station.

Thanks to all who participated in the District 3 SET. While we learned a bit we also ran into a few problems. It is best

to run into problems before an emergency occurs so they can be identified and remedied. I will say that for all practical purposes the test was a great success.

We are looking forward to the open house at NRAO. We will be hanging up an antenna and providing a radio for HF communications.

In advance, Happy Thanksgiving and have fun making contacts.

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear Friends: I guess I have the honor of being AARC Vice President again. I was hoping that someone else would step up to the plate and take a swing at it, but no soap. The main problem is finding speakers for our meetings. So I will be pestering many of the friends to give presentations. If anyone has something they would like to present, please let me know so we can schedule it. Or if you have a subject you would like to discuss I will try to find someone to present it at the meeting.

One thing I want to do this season is to have Field Day at a mountain top location. There are some who won't be too crazy about the idea but the public has not really come to our field days even when we had it at Walnut Creek Park with hundreds of athletes and spectators present at the park for a triathlon. Also, the folks who attend the party are the same friends that enjoy field day each year for the camaraderie, operating, food and just plain fun. I have asked Dr. Ed Murphy of the UVA astronomy department if we could have field day at Fan Mountain observatory. There are bathrooms for the YL's and XYL's and shelter there in case of rain and I think setting up antennas will be a breeze. Dr. Ed said he felt we could have it there and would check it out for me. I plan on cooking beef and chicken this year to be more sensitive to the Jewish friends in the club and to just have something different. I will try to do the cooking at our picnic again as everyone enjoys the food we have and the fellowship too. We will be having the club dinner at the Pantops Ponderosa again as we have always had it there and they have a room large enough for us.

I will try to get Eddie Madeiros of Never Dark to give a presentation on generators at the November meeting.

I must give a presentation on November 1 for the Charlottesville Astronomical Society on building a Dobsonian truss tube telescope. I have made all the wood parts yesterday and will probably have it completely assembled this Saturday. Call me a procrastinator, ha, I'll have it done with seconds to spare, Hi hi.

73 de KI4DJT

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes October 10, 2006

Members Present: Jay, K4AZV, PRES; Bob, K4DU, TREAS; Stephanie, K4BMM; Marty, AG4DN, SECY; John, N4SYH; Bill, AD6JV; Dennis, K4THE. Members Absent: John. KI4DJT, VEEP.

Jay called the meeting to order at 6:40PM

Jay informed the Board that he had made a \$50 gift (certificate) as a thank you for all the no cost services that the Blodinger Attorney's office has provided to the club. The gift was acknowledged by Sharon Blodinger, with her sincere thanks. (Under the club policies the President is authorized to make up to a \$50 expenditure on behalf of the club, on his own authority.) There was total agreement on the Board for Jay's action.

Tim KG4HOT presented a gift of a \$100 check to the Treasurer from the proceeds of a recent estate sale.

Jay then opened the Board meeting with a free exchange of ideas regarding the use and upgrading of the club repeaters. He made a key point that the club has sufficient funds at present to under take this action in a limited away. The pluses and minuses of repeater movement and equipment upgrade were widely discussed. After consideration by the Board, it was decided that the prime objective was to reach as many operators as possible in the general area. Propagation studies should preclude any movement or expenditure of funds. Tim, as chairman of the Tech Committee, made a key point accepted by the Board. The club should make the maximum use of what we have at hand prior to any addition expenditure, movement of repeater sites, etc. Bob was appointed to form a committee to make recommendations for improvement of the system; Tim is to report back to the next Board meeting for review by the Board and membership.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made to close the meeting at 7:30 PM, seconded and approved with no comment.

Submitted by: Marty AG4DN

Regular Meeting October 1, 2006

Jay opened the meeting at 7:39 PM.

The first item of business was the acceptance of a new member to the club. Mike Benonis KI4RIX was approved for membership, with no objections.

Introduction of members present and guests followed.

Jay called for approval of September's Board and General Membership Meeting Minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes or comments.

Jay reviewed the discussion regarding use and up grade of repeaters that took place at the Board meeting (see Board Minutes). He informed the membership that a report will be made at the November General Meeting outlining options, use, movement, etc. for the existing repeaters.

Bill reviewed the preparation for the Albemarle / Charlottesville ARES drill in Saturday 14 October. The intention is to activate all Albemarle /Charlottesville sites as well as surrounding jurisdictions to check simplex and repeater effectiveness. In addition to exercising the 2 meter band, the 440 band will also be tested for range and effectiveness.

Gordon (Bubba Ham) WW4GW announced that there will be a VEC testing session on the 2nd Saturday in December.

Josh KG4NGV announced that on November 5th from 10 AM to 5 PM there will be an open house at NRAO (our current meeting place). The AARC has been invited to participate. A table will be set aside for the club to present amateur radio to the general public. This event is well publicized and the NRAO usually draws a good size crowd of visitors interested in seeing their displays. The event is an excellent vehicle for the club to meet and interest the public in amateur radio. Josh will need a number of volunteers to assist. If interest, contact Josh.

The next item on the agenda was the election of officers and Board members for 2007.

Dennis presented the nominating committees slate of recommendations. All 2006 officers have agreed to serve another term. The committee came up with seven nominations for the five Board vacancies. However, during the discussions from the floor, two nominees withdrew their names, leaving five nominees for the five vacancies. Nominations were called for from the membership. None were forthcoming. Joe W2PVY presented a resolution that all nominees be approved by unanimous acclamation. This was acted upon and approved by the membership.

The Officers and Board for 2007 who will take office on January 1, 2007 are as follows:

- **President Jay K4AZV**
- **Vice President John KI4DJT**
- **Secretary Marty AG4DN**
- **Treasurer Bob K4DU**

Board Members:

- **Bill AD6JV**
- **Gordon (Bubba Ham) WW4GW**
- **Josh KG4NGV**
- **Kevin K4BDR**
- **Stephanie K4BMM**

This closed the election process.

Steve K4FRV requested when the club roster would be published. Josh responded that it is available on the web; however there is some reluctance among members to have their data published in hard copy. Josh noted that the roster is available in "PDF" format. This issue will be revisited.

Tim raised the need to start planning for Field Day 2007 and requested volunteers and ideas from the membership for the event stations or any other pertinent ideas. This issue will be revisited.

There being no further discussion or issues raised, Jay called for a motion to close the meeting. The motion was made, seconded and approved with no discussion at 8:40 PM.

Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, SECY

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Nov 4-6 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW

Nov 11-13 ARRL EME Contest

Nov 18-20 ARRL November Sweepstakes - SSB

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar 2006](#) webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

Nov 25-26 CQ WW 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

ARES News - October 14 SET Wrap-up

Bill, AD6JV

The October 14 drill was a big success, thanks of the efforts of all who participated. The main purpose of the drill was to activate all the sites in Albemarle County that have pre-installed antennas, plus one or more sites in the other District 3 counties where possible, and to assure that at least one ARES member got experience getting these sites on the air.

All of the sites except Zehmer Hall (no access) and Ridge Street Fire House (antenna is down) were activated, mostly by hams that had not operated from those sites earlier. We reaffirmed the Simplex coverage of the antennas and added Simplex data for two new locations: COB South and the Health Department. In addition, N3DFS manned a spot near the soon to be installed antenna at the Greene County Red Cross office. The only site that appeared to have a problem was Western Albemarle Rescue Squad. Signals to and from that location were considerably down from the last time it was tested.

We also did a check of the 444.250 repeater currently located on Martha Jefferson. The first impression is that it worked well for stations in Charlottesville, but the coverage of outlying areas was reduced compared with the 146.925 machine. Further systematic testing of this repeater will be needed.

To wrap the drill up we practiced some procedural techniques to take traffic off the main repeater, and handled some health and welfare messages.

Lots of preparation was required to get this exercise to go off smoothly. Many of the operators made site visits to lay the groundwork for Saturday. Many club members and other hams came out on Saturday to lend a hand, and others followed along from home.

My thanks to all the participants!



**Happy
Thanksgiving!!**

AARC Web Site Updated

Josh, KG4NGV

An updated version of the AARC web site, which has been in the works for quite some time, has finally been launched. The new AARC web site design should allow easier updates and is already reflecting the latest information the club has to offer on events, resources and items of interest to club members and other hams. The new site features an events calendar, a swapfest listing, info for new hams and a clean updated look. Soon to be added is a photo gallery for pictures from public service events, meetings and field days!

Finally, the web site has a new web address at www.albemarleadio.org. This new name proves easier for newcomers to remember. For those of you concerned about the old address, wa4tfz.org, rest assured it will return once some technical details are sorted out.

A big thanks to Cayman, KG4OVD for all his help with the site and the servers, and to all the other club members who have supported this redesign project.

New Antenna at Monticello High School

Bill, AD6JV

Monticello High School is one of the designated shelters that would be used by evacuees from the coast should the area be threatened by a hurricane. In October we worked with the Albemarle County school facilities people to find an operating location for a ham station and a nearby spot on the roof to install an antenna. Thanks to lots of cooperation from the facilities guys and expert feed line installation by K4AZV the antenna is up and operating. There's another antenna awaiting installation at the East Rivanna Fire House. That one should go up in the next week or two.

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	
---------------	--

Vanity Calls

None Reported	
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VE Session Schedule - 2006

Date Location	For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the ARRL Exam Session Search web page.
(ARRL VEC)	

For Sale Items

Triband Yagi, rotator and coax switch	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 K4JMY@aol.com .
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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	John	N4SYH	
Director	Tim	KG4HOT	
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.wa4tfz.org/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 : Nov. 14 - 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
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
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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.wa4tfz.org/images/AARCrenewalform2006.pdf>