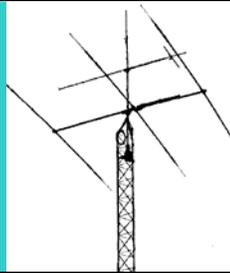


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2007, No. 9



September 2007

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 11 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA campus.** The program will be presented by **Jason, KG4FJC on hybrid technology.** See you there!!

AARC VEC Exams Sept. 15

The AARC VEC Team will hold an amateur radio exam testing session on **Saturday, September 15 at 9:00 AM at the NRAO Building on the UVA campus.** All license classes may be tested. ***** Be sure to bring photo ID plus a copy of current license and any valid CSCE's you hold ***.** The current testing fee is \$14.00.

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello and welcome to another fine edition of the Beacon. By the time you read this Labor Day has come and gone. I hope everyone had a fine and productive summer.

October is the month in which we select a nominating committee for the purpose of shoehorning (hi-hi) a few new officers and board members. It is essential that this process include people with fresh energy, a good ability to lead and delegating responsibility (the last of which has never been my strong point). Some of our officers have been manning their posts for a good number of years as there are no restrictions on the amount of time that one can serve; however that is not the case with the president's position. As I am not allowed to serve a new president must be chosen. I enjoy our club very much and I would be happy to continue to serve the club if requested and as the members see fit. My hope for a new administration would be a for a group that continues to provide a wide range of knowledge and a fairly non-polarized club in order to provide a

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representation of amateur radio which as all encompassing as possible.

The 224.760 repeater is in quite good shape and working well on top of Heard Mountain. The 146.925 repeater is in place on Heard Mountain and at the moment is experiencing audio problems. The state route leading up to Heard Mountain, the condition of which is always poor, seems to have taken its toll on Bubba's test gear. Unable to troubleshoot the 925 machine at the moment is leading to that machine being in the idle mode. Many thanks to Gordon (aka Bubba) WW4GW, Tim KG4HOT and Mike W4XN for your efforts with these machines.

From Tim KG4HOT we hear that VHF has been fairly exciting with some nice openings to the northeast.

Six meters have been quite dead with the exception of early morning on September 1 which yielded some interesting meteor scatter contacts. Mine were to the northeast and I heard some Midwest and western stations coming in as well. On HF we worked: Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Costa Rica, and Market Reef (jump up and down....a new one), Moldova, Montenegro, Brunei (more jumping) and a Venezuelan island DXpedition.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear Friends ... I had a really great time at the picnic and thank all who attended. We had plenty of chow this time and everyone seemed to enjoy the simple fare. I'm sorry that more of the friends don't come to this party. It is a lot of fun to hang out with friends and eat and drink. I guess it must be my Italian Catholic genetics that just loves this stuff that is almost like a family gathering, a holiday, any excuse to eat, party a little and play with friends. Now I will make a small confession. Since I'm usually at the grill, you know how hot a job it can be; I usually have a few green containers of amber fluid that comes from Holland just to wet my whistle. Well, I had no idea how well amber fluid from Holland goes with ham. When hams realize there is amber fluid from Holland around it just goes together perfectly with hams, you know just like ham and Swiss and ham on rye and ham and HRO. Next season I promise to have a few more so as not to disappoint anyone ... sorry Steph.

This past weekend I participated in the Blue Ridge Extreme Bike race and learned a valuable lesson. Much of the stuff in ham radio has to be studied. It's challenging for folks without and electrical background to grasp much of what's really going on in our equipment and in nature and you must study

and try to perform experiments to understand what's happening and not just take it as magic. This past weekend plain old experience was the best teacher. I realized what a valuable tool a cross banding UHF VHF rig is. The bike race was on different sides of mountains so several repeaters had to be used. Cross banding capability was invaluable and this was just a bike race. Imagine its value in an emergency!

Jason KG4FJC will be giving the presentation at the September meeting. He is bringing a hybrid car for us to examine. There was a lot of interest on the technical sessions over it so Jason will enlighten us on hybrid technology.

One last thing: I will be giving classes on opening bottles with BIC lighters, hammer handles and blocks of wood as soon as I had five folks for the class so all the equipment I'll need will be a 6 pack. Take care and ...

73 de John, KI4DJT

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes August 14, 2007

No formal club meeting. This was the annual picnic!!

Submitted by: Marty AG4DN, Secretary

Regular Meeting August 14, 2007

No formal club meeting. This was the annual picnic!!

Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary

Public Service Coordinator Job Opening

Bill AD6JV

The time has come to pass on my responsibilities as Public Service Coordinator to another member of AARC. I took this job on two seasons ago, along with Albemarle County Emergency Coordinator, because both jobs were vacant. Now I have increased responsibilities in other areas that make it very difficult for me to do both jobs well, so the time has come for someone else to step up to take on the public service job.

Let me be the first to say that coordinating public service events, by itself, doesn't take that much time. There are two or three major bicycle events each year that make up the bulk of the job responsibility, plus a few others that are easy to cover with just a few hams. What is needed is a year or two of experience participating in these events so you understand the resources required. The benefits we deliver to these events by providing ham radio communications are very real and measurable, and well recognized by the

organizers. And ham radio in general and AARC in particular get tremendous visibility to everybody involved in the event, riders, organizers, and spectators alike. We need that positive exposure as we fight to protect spectrum, defend against BPL and other nasties, and put our antennas in the air.

Another aspect of public service events is that they provide excellent tactical training for emergency communications. No amount of drilling can equal the experience of hams getting out into the field and solving communications problems on the spot. In this respect participation in public service events is a requirement for learning and maintaining emergency communications skills needed to have an effective ARES/RACES group.

So there you have it. Somebody please come forward to take on the public service job for AARC. You will get plenty of cooperation from me as Albemarle County EC, and you might even have fun.

The Allied Radio (Knight Kit) Ocean Hoppers

Carter Elliott, WD4AYS

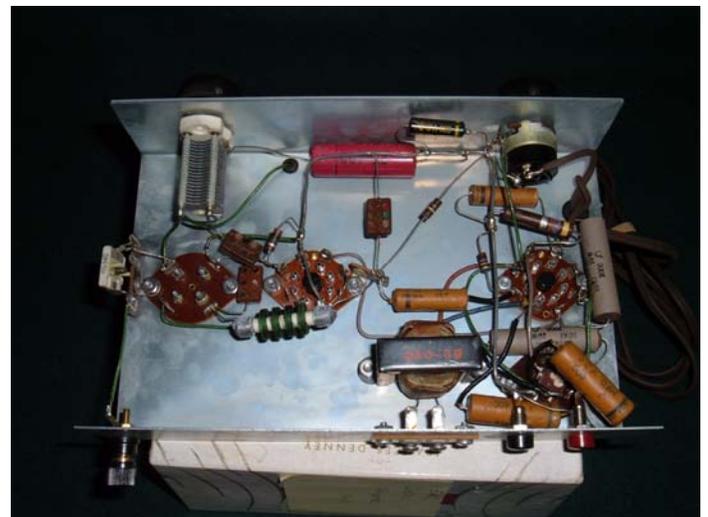
Introduction

Many older hams/SWLs may have had one of the Knight Ocean Hoppers sets as their first radio back in the 50's or 60's. Some of you might even have made contacts with these. They are a lot of fun to play with and can provide several hours of enjoyment, but they are not serious amateur radios. As with all older tube gear, I'd recommend bringing these sets up on a variac, keeping the line voltage to 100-110 volts. There are 2 versions of the Ocean Hopper (OH). Each is covered briefly below.



Early version (rare)

The 1951 era 2 tubes Ocean Hopper is a regenerative receiver covering 9.5 to 550 meters (roughly 530 KHz to 25 MHz) with 6 coils. According to the manual it is easily constructed and pulls in stations from all over the world. The 12J5 tube acts as an oscillator, grid leak detector circuit while the 117 P7 serves double function as power amp/half wave rectifier. The front panel controls are main tuning, band spread, and regeneration (sensitivity). For optimum reception three handed operation is recommended. The three photos below are of the 2 tube OH.



Later version

A second version of the Ocean Hopper was made by Allied beginning around 1957 and was in production for a decade or so. It is a 3 tube set and covers 155 KHz to 35 MHz with 6 coils. Like its older brother 3 hands are recommended for best tuning. Both sets can detect AM and CW- SSB is a bit of

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a stretch. The tube line-up is: 12AT6 detector, 35W4 rectifier, and 50C5 audio amp

The next 2 photos are of this later OH.



unsettled to active again on September 6. Over the same period, the US Air Force predicts planetary A index of 15, 25, 12, 12, 8, 5 and 15 for August 31-September 6. From the same prediction, it looks like September 8-17 may see a return of zero sunspot days. Sunspot numbers for August 23 through 29 were 12, 12, 14, 13, 12, 14 and 13 with a mean of 12.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.8, 71.6, 71.5, 70.1, 69.2, 70.1 and 69! .6 with a mean of 70.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 2, 8, 10, 12, 11 and 4 with a mean of 7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 1, 6, 10, 10, 9 and 4 with a mean of 5.9. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Sep 8-13	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
Sep 15-16	ARRL 10 GHZ Cumulative Contest

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar 2006](http://www.arrl.org/contests) webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

Sep 8-9	Worked All Europe DX Contest SSB
Sep 15-16	QCWA Fall QSO Party

The [SM3CER Contest Service - Contest Calendars](http://www.sm3cer.com) has info and rules for these contests and just about every contest that exists.

73, Bob W4RQ



Solar Update de K7RA

Tad "I'm Melting in the Sun, and This Is What They Call the Life" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot numbers pulled up from zero this week, but barely. Average daily sunspot numbers rose more than nine points to 12.9. Geomagnetic conditions were quiet. Conditions have been quiet for so long that we may not appreciate this, as many of us wish for more solar activity and sunspots. Geophysical Institute Prague predicted earlier that August 31 would be quiet or unsettled, September 1 unsettled to active, unsettled conditions September 2-3, quiet September 4-5 and

AARC Public Service Schedule	
None Reported	

Area Hamfests	
September 15-16 Virginia Beach	Roanoke Division Convention Tidewater Radio Conventions Location: Virginia Wesleyan College 1584 Wesleyan Drive http://www.vahamfest.com Talk-In: 146.97 Contact: Lynn Lilla, W9DJQ 848 Stacey Place Virginia Beach, VA 23464 Phone: 757-479-1597 Fax: 757-673-7426 Email: hamfest@exis.net

FCC Database Updates	
New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	
Vanity Calls	
None Reported	

VE Session Schedule - 2007	
September 15 Charlottesville (ARRL VEC)	Sponsor: ALBEMARLE ARC Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: HERBERT G WINN (434) 581-3744 Email: WW4GW@ARRL.NET VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY 520 EDMONT ROAD UVA CAMPUS WWW.ALBEMARLERADIO.ORG/VE/ CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22906
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	
Wanted - Tube Stereo	Wanted: tube stereo equipment, particularly Fisher. Carter, WD4AYS, (434) 979 7383, celliott14@earthlink.net

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@embarqmail.com 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Bob Pattison	K4DU	rep4@aol.com 434-960-3344
Director	Josh	KG4NGV	jmalone@ubergeeks.com 434-760-1678 (cell)
Director	Gordon Winn	WW4GW	ww4gw@arrl.net 434-581-3744
Director	Stephanie Rostow	K4BMM	steph@turing.org 434-263-5795
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net 434 872-0686
Director	Kevin Ward	K4BDR	k4bdr@aol.com 434-531-7959

Contest Calendars	
ARRL Contest Calendar 2007	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2007	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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ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information
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W4RQ@yahoo.com

Next Club Meeting : September 11 - 7:30 PM NRAO Bldg - UVA Campus

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
Northern Piedmont Emergency Net / Swap Net / Technical Session: Each Thursday at 8:00 PM
All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater

AREA REPEATERS

WA4TFZ

INPUT/OUTPUT	Tone Access (If needed)
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

Other Area Repeaters

- 145.410 (-) 100 Hz Tone (if enabled) -- **AF4CY (Madison)**
- 442.075 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone - **KF4UCI**
- 145.17 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone - **W4FCO (Fluvanna)**
- 146.79 (-) 110.9 Hz Tone - **WW4GW (Buckingham)**
- 145.450 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **K4DND (Martha Jefferson Hospital)**

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
August 14	Annual Club Picnic and Hamfest
September 11	Regular Club Meeting
October 9	Regular Club Meeting
November 13	Regular Club Meeting
December 11	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
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Bill, AD6JV is the primary contact for Public Service events and Emergency Communications. Contact Bill for info on particular events.

Membership application available in PDF format at <http://www.wa4tfz.org/images/AARCrenewalform2006.pdf>