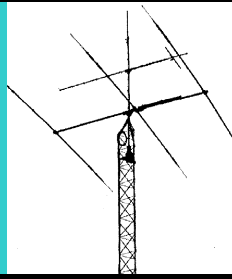


# The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2008, No. 1



January 2008

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting is the **annual winter dinner meeting**; it will be held on **January 13<sup>th</sup>** from 5 to 8PM at the **Elk's Lodge** just north of Rte 250 on Rte 20N. **A buffet dinner will be served.**

**The deadline for reservations is close of business on January 7.** Checks for \$18 should be made out to **AARC and brought to the dinner for delivery to the Treasurer.** It should be very interesting. See you there!!

## Dues are Due!!!

2008 membership dues are now due. Please make payment to the AARC Secretary. **There is no increase since last year.** Club members who are renewing membership please use the short form. **Checks are requested.**

## Club Property Inventory

**All AARC members having club property in their possession are requested to provide an inventory list to the club Secretary.** Please describe item(s) and location. **A complete club property inventory is being made. Your cooperation is requested!!!!**

## The President's Letter

*Dave, K4DND*

Hello and Greetings to all and best wishes for 2008 from ARS K4DND. I hope the rest of the AARC is looking forward to this coming year with optimism equal to mine. With a new slate of AARC officers and some new board members, the AARC should move forward on both interesting activities and challenging tasks in the coming year.

We are going to return to the club organization as dictated in the AARC Bylaws, which calls for each elected Board member

to serve on one of the standing club committees. I am pleased to report that each Board member has enthusiastically agreed to do so. In addition I am grateful to have Josh KG4NGV accept an administrative appointment to the Board to replace an elected member who chose not to serve.

To review, the standing committees are as follows: Technical (supervised by Bill AD6JV), Activities (supervised by Jay K4AZV), Education (supervised by Dennis K4THE), Fundraising (supervised by Linda KI5LLB), and Publications (supervised by Josh KG4NGV). The Board member responsible for each committee will be looking to fill the committee chairperson slot, and in conjunction with the new chairperson, recruit club members to serve on these committees. My hope is that all AARC members are willing to serve on at least one committee, thus making the AARC an organization whose direction is determined by the collective voice of all its members.

I know some of you will be thinking that you don't really have the time to serve on a committee. Well, you do have the time to assist in some small way; you just need to decide which committee is best suited to the contribution that you want to make. So think about these five committees, and decide on which committee or committees you will be most able to contribute. Then contact the respective Board member or members and offer your services.

Early discussions with the other officers of the new Executive Committee focused on the direction of the AARC for the coming year, and the following points came from those talks. **First, we need to increase public awareness** concerning our hobby. We can do this in a number of ways that will be explored by both the Activities and Education Committees. But for a start, we need a Public Information Officer that will be able to promote the AARC and Amateur Radio in all local public forums, as well as interact with PIOs of other organizations. **Second, we need to bring back old members** of the AARC that we haven't seen or heard from in some time. For whatever reasons those people are no longer affiliated with the AARC, they need to be invited back and those invitations need to continue until they do come back. **Third, we must recruit young people into Amateur Radio;** without them there isn't going to be a future for this outstanding radio service. We are going to do this through approaches to the local scouting and Civil Air Patrol youth organizations for starters. **Fourth, we need to emphasize continuing education for AARC members.** We will find those interested in learning new skills, experimenting with new digital modes, starting in contesting or DXing as examples, and for them, provide opportunities for exploring those interests that go far beyond the scope of monthly meeting presentations.

If we are able to accomplish these four goals, in addition to our normal yearly schedule of club activities, we should have a busy and productive year. Meanwhile, frequently check the AARC website for current activities, news items, upcoming events and committee progress. Also, stay tuned for a web accessible membership list.

**Please join us for the January dinner meeting to be held the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8PM at the Elk's Lodge just north of Rte 250 on Rte 20N.** We should have a very fun evening; the price of \$18/person includes one free raffle ticket. I hope to see you all there. If interested, please let Alan know ASAP by emailing him at: [awswinger@earthlink.net](mailto:awswinger@earthlink.net).

I look forward to the coming year and hope to work with all of you to make the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club the premier radio club of central Virginia. If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me or any other leadership member.

*73 de K4DND*

## Veep Peeps

*Mike, KI4RIX*

Dear Friends --- Most of you know me already, but I'll introduce myself anyway. My name is Mike Benonis, my callsign is KI4RIX, and I'm your new vice president (though I guess the title of this column kind of gives this away). I'd like to take this space to tell you a bit about myself, and what I'd like to bring to the club in 2008.

First and foremost, I go to the University of Virginia, where I'm an electrical engineering major. My area of interest is RF communication, and more specifically UHF communications -- from 70cm through 10cm. In addition to my EE work, I'm the president of the Amateur Radio Club at UVA, and with what little spare time that leaves me I work at UVA's Department of Drama doing sound for main stage shows.

My goal this year for the AARC is to bring you quality technical presentations on topics you might not know much about. While the schedule is still quite in flux, some examples of presentations I hope to host include amateur satellite work, 33/23/12cm communication, principles of repeater work, and non-amateur station monitoring (transportation, military, commercial, etc). If you have any suggestions for presentations or would like to volunteer to present anything, please feel free to e-mail me at [mjb8h@virginia.edu](mailto:mjb8h@virginia.edu). I look forward to our club dinner on January 13th, and hope to see everyone there. Here's to a great 2008!

Best regards, *Mike Benonis KI4RIX*

## The AARC Education Committee

*Dennis Mennerich, K4THE, k4the [at] arrl [dot] net*

This is one of five committees specified in the By-Laws. I am in the process of trying to find members for this group (the week before Christmas).

I think this committee should be responsible for the formulation of overall education goals and current action items, based on the existing and anticipated needs of the club. I do not believe that the committee members should be responsible for actually conducting training (although they might do so if they wish). Some of the things that we will be considering are:

**Requirements** - Needs of the club members

**Training of entry level new hams** - It seems that the formal 10 week course method does not work too well in these busy times. The self-study approach perhaps combined with a one day course seems to be they way to go these days. Maybe self-study with an Elmer-on-call for questions would be an alternative.

**There are many Internet assets available** for newcomers and older-timers. There are several sites that have exams that can be taken on-line for practice. There are others that have good tutorial and useful reference material. We could assemble links to these and put them on our web site.

**There are many publications available too** - Gordon West and W5YI have good training materials. The ARRL has books and CDs for all three license classes too. We could assemble links to these sites and put them on our web site also.

**Elmer Program** - I think the committee should formalize an Elmer program whereby each new licensee would be linked up with one or more club members who could help them develop their skills and increase their knowledge. We would need to solicit volunteers based on their interests, time available and perhaps location near the new ham.

**Continuing Education** - Technology keeps changing at an accelerated rate and some of the older folks (like me) and could use information to update our understanding or skills (from some of our younger or more experienced members). Determining the needs of the members would be a first step. Perhaps some of the monthly presentations could be directed to these needs.

**Youth** - The Boy Scouts have a radio merit badge and an annual "Hamboree" - the exact name escapes me [***Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) – Ed.***] - where they talk to other scouts worldwide via ham radio. The Civil Air Patrol cadets are also involved with communications for search & rescue, etc. The committee should plan an outreach program to bring these involved youths into ham radio and assist in their education. Programs in our schools might be a long range goal.

And there are probably a bunch of other good topics that will come to your minds too. Please give your ideas and suggestions to me. I look forward to participating with you during the upcoming year and serving on your Board of Directors again.

## Club Business

*Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary*

### AARC Board Minutes December 11, 2007

Members present: Jay, K4AZV (Pres.); John, K14DJT (Veep); Marty, AG4DN (Sec'y); Josh, KG4NGV; Steph, K4BMM; Gordon, WW4GW. Members absent: Bill, AD6JV; Bob, K4DU (Treas.); Kevin, K4BDR.

Jay opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. Due to the nature of the activities planned for the evening, it was decided that all business matters be taken up at the General Membership Meeting following.

Jay called for a motion to close the Board Meeting at 7:32 PM. A motion was made, second and approved with no comment.

*Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary*

### Regular Meeting December 11, 2007

Jay opened the meeting at 7:35 PM. Guests and members were introduced.

The Minutes of the 13 November 2007 Board and General Membership Meeting were approved as they appeared in the December Beacon with no comment or changes.

An inventory of club equipment housed by club members was submitted to the Secretary. Jay noted that there is a need for a permanent storage facility for all club equipment, rather than the current system. Future action on this subject will be necessary.

Jay thanked the membership and the Board for their services over the past years that he has held the Office of President. He noted with great satisfaction the increases annually in club membership. Also, he said that there is a need for a club radio shack for use of members that for various reasons cannot set up equipment in their own homes. This too is an item for future action.

Dave K4DND asked if tables have been reserved for the club for the Richmond Frostfest on 2 February 2008? Bob K4DU has traditionally performed this function. Jay stated that he would check with Bob and if he has not taken action or cannot take action, he will arrange for three tables for club use.

Al K9MBQ reported that he had 22 confirmed reservations for the club Winter Banquet. He reminded the membership that the cost will be approximately \$18. If there are insufficient members interested he stated we will do as in the past and go to the Ponderosa. He noted that a \$200 deposit to hold the reservation for 13 January was required. The membership voted to approve \$200 to hold the reservation.

The membership was reminded that their E-mail addresses on file should be current. Too many notices to the

membership are being returned for lack of a correct address. Submit changes to Josh.

With no further business Jay called for a motion to close the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment at 7:50 PM.

The membership and guests were invited to partake in the pre holiday in-door picnic provided by John.

Gordon provided a slide satellite show of photos taken of the earth.

Tim KG4HOT presented a slide show of various mountain views taken from our repeater sites. The Virginia mountain views were beautiful.

*Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary*

## DX Info

AI, K9MBQ

This column is intended to inform about and stir interest in DX'ing among members who want to pursue this aspect of our hobby. As a start, this edition will address some myths about DX operation, recap the K9MBQ Nov post-meeting DX Pitch, and note some expected DX activities.

**Myth #1:** Because the sunspot cycle is at its low point, there is no DX to work, and what there is too difficult for the average Ham to work. **Response: Not True!** Although the high HF bands (10, 12, 15M) are pretty quiet, 17M has many openings, 20M is very much open in daylight hrs (sunrise-sunset), and the low bands (30, 40, 75, and 160M) get hot from just before sunset to just after sunrise, with much good grayline DX on 40 and 80M.

**Myth #2:** I can't work DX with a dipole and 100W. **Response: Also, not true!** When a particular band is open to various parts of the world, a good operator with low power and a modest antenna can work DX stations. **A key is to not fight physics – look for DX when the bands are open to a particular area** (e.g. Europe on 17 and 20M after our sunrise). Also, many DX nets are happy to help new DX'ers. Try the 247 DX net (14.247MHZ) in the afternoon on weekdays. Recall that max power allowed on 30M is 200W, so if you have a bent for CW, that band is a good place to operate with a modest station.

Here is a summary from K9MBQ's DX presentation in November (viewgraphs can be obtained from Alan directly upon request at [awswinger@earthlink.net](mailto:awswinger@earthlink.net)).

**Information resources about who, when, where** . . . QST and CQ DX columns; ARRL DX News – posted on the ARRL Web site ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)) and will be sent to ARRL members weekly free upon request; The Daily and Weekly DX – Bernie McLenny, W3UR – QST DX Editor – publishes (\$27/yr) ([Bernie@dailydx.com](mailto:Bernie@dailydx.com)); QRZ DX – weekly e-mail

bulletin, contact Carl Smith ([N4AA@dpub.com](mailto:N4AA@dpub.com)); INDEXA – quarterly e-mail bulletin and [Daily DX info session @2330Z on 14236khz](mailto:Daily DX info session @2330Z on 14236khz) ([www.indexa.org](http://www.indexa.org)).

**When/Where to work DX** . . . First is the Old-Fashioned way – tune around and listen; use a DX cluster to find out who is on and who is working them . . . many options, but suggest the cluster on [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net) (best to subscribe, but free trial); learn about propagation (CQ magazine column) and there are other sources) so you know what you can work when; listen to and/or check-in to DX nets.

**Operating Tips:** Good antenna is the most important item in the station – put up the best one you can make, afford, fit; Listen a lot!! Before you transmit; to work DX, you have to hear the DX station . . . and he has to hear you, so for split freq ops, be sure to call where he is listening; Many DX stations work CW, so go where they are.

**Recent big DX news is that the island of St Barthelemy was added to the DXCC country/entity list** for all QSOs 14 Dec 2007 or later. This caused a big stir before and during the Christmas holidays since OH0XX and OH2BH went to St Barts and operated as FJ/OH2AM on 17, 20 and 40M. This was a great Christmas present for us country hunters. There are many DX stations on the bands regularly who are easy to work and nice people. Give them a call and have some DX fun. GOOD DX!

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Jan 1	<b>ARRL Straight Key Night</b>
Jan 5-6	<b>ARRL RTTY Roundup</b>
Jan 5-6	<b>Kids Day</b>
Jan 19-20	<b>ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes</b>

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the ARRL Contest Calendar webpage.

### Other Contests of Interest

Jan 1	<b>New Year's Snowball Contest</b>
Jan 12-13	<b>Hunting Lions on the Air</b>
Jan 26-27	<b>CQ WW 160 Meter Contest</b>

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

73, Bob W4RQ

## AARC Public Service Schedule

None Reported	
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## Area Hamfests

February 2 Richmond	<p><b>Virginia State Convention (Frostfest 2008)</b>                  Sponsor: Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society                  Location: Richmond Raceway Complex                  600 East Laburnum Avenue  <a href="http://www.frostfest.com">http://www.frostfest.com</a>                  Talk-In: 146.28/88 (PL 74.4)                  Contact: Lee Ann Horton, W4QCO                  Email: <a href="mailto:chair@frostfest.com">chair@frostfest.com</a></p>
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## FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	
Vanity Calls	
None Reported	

## VE Session Schedule - 2008

Date Location (ARRL VEC)	For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the <a href="#">ARRL Exam Session Search</a> web page.
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## For Sale Items

Wanted – Tube Stereo	Wanted: tube stereo equipment, particularly Fisher. Carter, WD4AYS, (434) 979 7383, <a href="mailto:celliot14@earthlink.net">celliot14@earthlink.net</a>
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## AARC Club Officers

President	Dave Damon	K4DND	<a href="mailto:k4dnd@arri.net">k4dnd@arri.net</a> (434) 973-5866
Vice President	Mike Benonis	KI4RIX	<a href="mailto:mjb8h@virginia.edu">mjb8h@virginia.edu</a> (703) 577-3788
Secretary	Alan Swinger	K9MBQ	<a href="mailto:awswinger@earthlink.net">awswinger@earthlink.net</a> (434) 975-6237
Treasurer	Don Eason	N4UVA	<a href="mailto:deason@comcast.net">deason@comcast.net</a> (434) 973-9119
Director	Dennis Mennerich	K4THE	<a href="mailto:k4the@arri.net">k4the@arri.net</a> (434) 973-5407
Director	Linda Beard	KI5LLB	<a href="mailto:lindaskyone@earthlink.net">lindaskyone@earthlink.net</a> (434) 823-2107
Director	Jay Rostow	K4AZV	<a href="mailto:k4azv@turing.org">k4azv@turing.org</a> 434-263-5795
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	<a href="mailto:billp1048@earthlink.net">billp1048@earthlink.net</a> 434 872-0686
Director	Josh Malone	KG4NGV	<a href="mailto:josh.malone@gmail.com">josh.malone@gmail.com</a> (434) 760-1768

## Contest Calendars

<a href="#">ARRL Contest Calendar 2007</a>	ARRL sponsored contests
<a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2007</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.albemarleradio.org/>



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**ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month**

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

**Next Club Meeting : December 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**

<b>INPUT/OUTPUT</b>	<b>Tone Access (If needed)</b>
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**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
January 13	<b>Annual AARC Winter Dinner</b>
February 12	Regular Club Meeting
March 11	Regular Club Meeting
April 8	Regular Club Meeting
December 11	Regular Club Meeting

**AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
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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.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC\\_member\\_application.pdf](http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf)