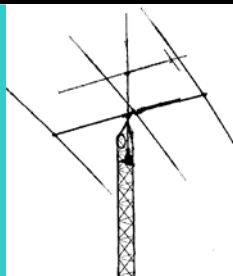


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2009, No. 2



February 2009

Inside this Issue

1	Meeting Notice
1	Dues are Due!!!
1	The President's Letter
2	Veep Peeps
3	Club Business
3	AARC Annual Awards Dinner
4	For Sale and Wanted...
5	ARRL Propagation de K7RA
6	Contest Highlights - Upcoming
7	AARC Public Service Schedule
7	Area Hamfests
7	FCC Database Updates
7	VE Session Schedule - 2008
7	For Sale Items
7	AARC Club Officers
7	Contest Calendars

Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **February 10 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA Grounds.** The program will be presented by Bruce Budinger (AB3BB) on "Electrically Steer-able Antennas".

Dues are Due!!!

2009 membership dues are now due. Please make payment to the AARC Secretary. **There is no increase since last year.** All club members should fill out the standard application form. **Checks are requested.**

The President's Letter

Dave, K4DND

Hello everyone. What fun the AARC Annual Winter Dinner was this year. My thanks to all who helped make this great evening possible, and thanks also to everyone who attended. Make sure you come next year if you didn't do so this time. Ask anyone who attended, it was a super evening. I am still holding many of the certificates awarded for public service participation for 2008. If you have not received your certificate, be sure to attend the February AARC meeting to get it. I would like to get all the certificates for 2008 passed out before the 2009 events get started!

Speaking of public service, the first event for 2009 is coming on March 29. It is the Jefferson Cup Bike Race event, held on the Kluge Loop course south of Charlottesville. Please volunteer to assist in this event. Remember, for the past 2 years the AARC has received a generous donation for our efforts. **If you are able to help with this event, please let me know.** The schedule is races starting at 9:00 AM and everything should be finished by 5:00 PM, with lunch provided. If you are able to commit for a half day, don't hesitate to volunteer.

Every month, in addition to this newsletter article, I have to make sure my net reports are filed for the VSBN (Virginia Side Band Net) and the VDN (Virginia Digital Net). I also count on our local area ECs to get their monthly reports filed, so I can get my DEC report filed. I am pleased to tell you that your ARES leadership is always on time getting their reports sent in. At year end each EC has to file a summary report and those reports have been forwarded up the chain of command. **So many thanks to Manny K4MSR EC for Fluvanna, Gordon WW4GW EC for Buckingham, Bob AA3BM EC for Cumberland, Bill AD6JV former EC for Albemarle, and Vic N3DFS EC for Greene.** I sent your reports in a spreadsheet format to the SEC and on paper to ARRL. I just received the following from Joe K4JJS PIC for the VA Section:

DEC-3 Dave and D3 EC's:

I just posted your annual EC report data to my section master spreadsheet and wanted to thank you for your inputs. I want to point out that District 3 is only the second district to have 100% participation in this tasking. The other district, District 5 (DEC Verlan Hall in the Northern Neck area) beat you by about 16 hours or so but I am definitely not complaining. Thank you for making my tasking easier to accomplish.

So everyone, **take a moment to thank your local jurisdiction EC** for their hard and continuing work on your behalf and please check that your registration information is current. Make a point of checking from time to time with your EC to see if you can help them out. I know they will appreciate it.

Another topic that I would like to bring to your attention is **our local area nets**. Please make every effort to support these activities by checking in regularly. The **Monday Night Information Net (7:00 PM)**, which has been in progress for many years is a great way to keep on top of all the happenings in Amateur Radio via W2PVY's audio replay of Amateur Radio Newline, augmented by W2HD's items from the ARRL Letter. This is an AARC net and needs your support and participation. Then on **Thursday evenings at 8:00 PM, the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net meets also on the WA4TFZ 146.760/444.000 repeater pair** (coupled during net sessions). It is very important that all local amateurs participate regularly in this ARES/RACES net. The NPEN is not an AARC net but has been hosted for many years by the AARC, and is the primary regional emergency net that serves District 3 and the surrounding area. Please make an effort to increase your level of participation in both these important activities.

As I write this I am sitting at the computer waiting to see the first APRS position for the Charlottesville High School Balloon Project. It really has been fun to be able to give a little assistance to Matt Shields the Physics teacher, and his two

highly motivated students, Jared KJ4JEE and Sam KJ4JEF. The balloon will be using Sam's callsign (determined by a coin toss) and using the SSID of -11(used for balloons). I have a position on the internet from CHS earlier this morning, so that was probably a last minute test before the drive down to the launch site at Blacksburg. I wish this team the best luck with their flight, and especially wish them an easy recovery, which should be more likely if the touch down site is anywhere but Buckingham County. I want to thank Matt, Jared and Sam for sparking a renewed interest in APRS in the local area. Kudos guys, and don't forget you will need to give us a short presentation about your project at the February meeting.

See you at Frostfest on the 7th and the AARC meeting on the 10th.

73 de K4DND

Veep Peeps

Jim, K4JEC

The 2009 Annual Awards Dinner is behind us and deemed a great success with 42 members and guests present. The good fun and fellowship enjoyed there was notable and the food was not only adequate to the voracious appetites presented but pleasing to the palate as well.

The program for the dinner contained a list of past officers with many missing due to lack of information. Over the years, the club has been remiss in not preserving our historical records with such basic data as to who were the officers. We would like to fill in that data as much as possible and to that end, **if anyone has any information regarding the list of officers for any given year back beyond 1990, please pass them on to me so the records can be updated.**

As most of you already know, the VP is charged with lining up programs for our meetings. I would certainly appreciate your help in suggesting ideas for programs, as well as, passing on available programs of which you might be aware. I seek to provide programs that will inspire, inform and entertain us to make our meetings as enjoyable and rewarding as possible -- and most important of all, make our members want to and look forward to attending.

The program for the February Meeting will be the rescheduled December program that had to be postponed. Bruce Budinger (AB3BB) will discuss "Electrically Steer-able Antennas."

My personal theme for this year is to create a greater club identification within the communities we seek to serve while working to strengthen the club's membership. There are 18,134 hams currently licensed with Virginia addresses, according to Jack Speer at Buckmaster. We have too few of those residing within our service area as members. Let's reach out to them and make sure they know they are

welcome to share our promise of fellowship, enrichment and public service.

Club Business

Submitted by: Alan Swinger K9MBQ, Secretary

AARC Board Minutes – January 13, 2009

No club business – AARC annual awards dinner.

Alan Swinger – K9MBQ, Secretary

Regular Meeting – January 13, 2009

No club business – AARC annual awards dinner.

Alan Swinger – K9MBQ, Secretary

AARC Annual Awards Dinner

Photos tnx to Jim K4JEC and Dave K4DND

The 2009 AARC Annual Awards Dinner was great fun for all who attended. Many awards were given --- I don't have the space to list them all!!

Here is just a sample of photos to give you a flavor of the proceedings.....



Alan, K9MBQ has a captive audience – probably discussing his latest DX exploits



Bud Beazell KB4JNI, Jim Crosby K4JEC and Patsy Crosby K4PMC



There appear to many an eyeball QSO during cocktail hour



Mike, KA4JJD appears to be having a grand time!!



Now this is one hungry bunch – the food was terrific -- now how many will admit to having more than one slice of that super chocolate cake???



AARC President Dave Damon, K4DND begins the awards portion of the dinner



Harry Dannals, W2HD receives an award for running the Monday Night Info Net for so many years from Dave K4DND



Dave K4DND presents a public service award – also for the Monday Night Info Net -- to Joe, W2PVY

For Sale and Wanted...

Tnx Ron, K4RKA

Please notify K4RKA when an item has been sold or pulled from availability and can be deleted from this list.

Ten-Tec 6M Transverter. Provides 10W out and have used successfully w/ a TS-570. I have all documentation. Simple to use; tunes on the 20M band. Price - \$60. Happy to demo it for you. Contact info: Alan K9MBQ; 434-975-6237, email awswinger@earthlink.net

Scanners for Sale -- 2 Uniden 760 \$50.00 Each. 1 Radio Shack 95 Portable \$100.00. 1 Bearcat 240xt 40 channel \$25.00. 1 UHF-VHF Radio Shack 16 channel \$25.00. 1 Bearcat 240XL 20 channel 20.00. 1 Bearcat 200 16 channel \$15.00. 1 Uniden 100xt 100 channel 50.00. 1 Pro 2051 Radio Shack Desktop 1000 channel \$150.00. Thanks, Jerome, KI4DLA

Rotator cable - 125 ft of 8-conductor rotor cable. Bought new -- discovered I had more than a 100 ft run to the antenna and would need heavier duty cable. Call Bob W4RQ at (434) 990-2659 (home), (434) 980-7143 (office) or via email at w4rq@yahoo.com.

MFJ-4103 Power Supply for FT-817. New, never used in original packaging. Call Bob W4RQ at (434) 990-2659 (home), (434) 980-7143 (office) or via email at w4rq@yahoo.com.

Coleman Series 54 Generator; 4KW 120V/240V. Briggs & Stratton 8HP engine model 190432. Very clean and mounted on cart. Purchased about 1985 and used very little. Has new carburetor, plug, air filter, fuel lines, fuel filter & fuel cutoff valve. However I can't get it started. Has compression, fuel and I believe good spark. Maybe new carburetor just needs adjustment. I'm tired of pulling the rope! And anyway it won't run my heat pump. \$199.00 Jim K4CGY 434-296-3044

Radio and Electronic Test Equipment - FOR SALE

All equipment is in good working condition, but not guaranteed John Green, KX4P. **SAMPLE LIST:**

- 1 ALD-22 Aerovox, Decade Inductor, 0 to 0.1 Hy - No manual -- \$10
- 1 ALD-32 Aerovox, Decade Inductor, 0 to 1.0 Hy - No manual \$10
- 1 ALD-42 Aerovox, Decade Inductor, 0 to 10 Hy - No manual \$10
- 1 10W-1000 Amplifier Research, Wideband Amplifier, 1 to 1000 MHz, 10 Watt - Yes manual - \$150
- 1 1309 AT&T Home Telephone Answering Machine Yes manual \$2

MANY MORE ITEMS - TO SEE COMPLETE LIST PLEASE GO TO

<http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/swapfest.shtml>

WANTED: I'm looking for a **2m mobile radio, preferably small** (comparable in size to modern mobile rigs). **Can be commercial VHF as long as it can tune down to 144.39 MHz.** Contact Mike Benonis KI4RIX at mjb8h@virginia.edu or (703) 577-3788.

ARRL Propagation de K7RA

ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP005, January 30, 2005

In last week's Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP004, we did not have the solar flux values resolved down to a tenth of a point like we always do. Really, resolving the solar flux down to that resolution is probably not very useful, but for those who use the WA4TTK solar plotting program to suck up the data and who are compulsive enough, here are the values for January 15-21, so you can correct your data: 71.1, 70.8, 71.9, 71.1, 70.8, 70.4, 69.4, with the mean value at 70.8.

On Tuesday, January 27 we saw another one of those "almost-a-sunspot" emerge in the Sun's low latitude, so it was probably an old Cycle 23 spot. The next day it was gone.

Geomagnetic conditions continue to be very quiet, although a bit unsettled on January 26. The forecast is for more of the same. Planetary A index should stay around five, and solar flux around 70.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts unsettled conditions for January 30, quiet to unsettled January 31, and quiet February 1-5.

This week we received one report about last weekend's CQ WW 160 Meter CW contest. Rod Swiderski, NU2M of Watermill, New York, reported that band conditions were outstanding. He writes, "I worked 13 countries, 47 states, my first Alaskan station KL7RA (on 160) and 320 contacts. All with a mere 100 watts and a 160 dipole at 35 feet. I find it simply amazing how that band only appears 'open' during a contest."

Floyd Chowning, K5LA of El Paso, Texas wrote about excellent conditions on 6 meters on Sunday, January 25. He had just put up a new 5-element antenna, and said, "This morning I was running JT6M contacts with K7JIZ (DN40) and W6OUU (DN22) around 1541 UTC and signals were strong and steady. It must be sporadic-E skip. From then on the band opened up to California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, Florida and Iowa. Also, I heard a KP4 in Puerto Rico this morning but missed his call. This afternoon I worked several stations in Mexico in EK09, DK89 and DL90 beginning around 2040 UTC. I also worked T17/N5NEK (EK70), TI8II (EJ01) and YN2N (EK71). I worked all the stations on USB. What a day for DX on 6 Meters. I also heard HP1AC on CW but did not work him. I heard stations as close as Albuquerque, Phoenix, and Odessa, Texas, less than 300 hundred miles. I had my radio on 144.2 MHz but nothing broke my squelch."

Floyd mentioned JT6M, which is a tool for running meteor scatter communications. For more about JT6M, see <http://www.jt6m.org/>.

This week I received a copy of a remarkable old letter, sent by Jim Mast, W8HOM, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was written on the last day of 1975 by Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, the

ham who originated the ARRL Propagation Bulletin and wrote it until 1991. This letter was addressed to Jim back when his call was K9UNM. The letter talks about 10 meter propagation via meteor scatter and the recent 1975 ARRL 10 Meter contest. It mentions W4IWZ, the call sign that belonged to Francis Harper, of Nokesville, Virginia. The letter was typed on an old manual typewriter. Here is what the letter said.

"Dear Jim:

We certainly have heard of 10-meter meteor propagation. The date of the contest was chosen with the Geminids shower in mind. This best of the winter showers has been a factor in the contest results for all three runnings of the affair in "modern" times.

I think the 1975 contest may have hit the shower at the most opportune time, as the effects seemed very apparent almost continually during the whole weekend. The Geminids show more night-time activity than any other shower, but there seemed to be a considerable amount of meteor burst propagation right through the whole period this year. There is always a tendency to have E propagation in mid-December, and this was also a factor in the date selection. I hope that the propoganda some people have generated for a change of season does not prevail. To my mind, this is an excellent choice.

For some reason I didn't get to work W4IWZ in this contest. He and I used to be in touch almost daily, when I was at home every day, in 1973 and early 1974. I guess we've worked by means of about every form of propagation there is, at one time or another, and have seen the effects of several meteor showers. At slightly over 300 miles, he is at a very interesting distance from me. We have found that we always have a basic tropo-scatter signal, and can recognize each other on CW at almost any time. He has at least a 10-dB advantage in power, but somehow he manages to hear me every time I call him. Needless to say, I read him better than he reads me, with my 40 watts output, maximum, we have had many good QSOs, by back-scatter and short sporadic-E skip. His signal is mildly affected by tropospheric bending, too, though I'm sure we'd get more of that on higher frequencies. We see every kind of ionospheric effect on this path, at one time or another, and have had many backscatter QSOs, from many different directions.

Meteor ionization, being an E-region phenomenon, is very common on 28 MHz. The only reason why I can account for the unawareness of it on the part of many 10-meter buffs is that most of them tend to disregard weak signals, or they expect the band to be dead for 3 or 4 years out of every 10. You can hear meteor bursts any morning, 365 mornings per year, on 10. Keep morning skeds for a while, with people at distances where the direct signal is weak, and you'll hear them much better than on 144 or even 50 MHz. During major showers they even give the impression that that band is 'open'-- which it always is, anyway. Ask Harper - he'll tell you that!

vy 73 --- Ed Tilton, W1HDO

I thought this letter was so interesting and timely, considering recent discussions about meteor scatter propagation on HF, that it should run here in its entirety. Thanks, Jim, for hanging on to it for 33 years, and sharing it with us.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL

Technical Information Service web page 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/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://www.arrl.org/qst/propcharts/>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of this bulletin are at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#email>.

Sunspot numbers for January 22 through 28 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 69, 70, 68.8, 69.8, 69.9, 69.7, and 69.5 with a mean of 69.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 1, 1, 1, 1, 10, 4 and 2 with a mean of 2.9. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 1, 1, 1, 9, 2 and 1 with a mean of 2.1.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Feb 9-13	ARRL School Club Roundup
Feb 21-22	ARRL DX Contest - CW

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

Other Contests of Interest

Feb 1-28	Several State QSO Parties
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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	

Area Hamfests	
Date	
Location	

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

VE Session Schedule - 2008	
Date	For exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the ARRL Exam Session Search web page.
Location	
(ARRL VEC)	

For Sale Items	
For Sale	

AARC Club Officers			
President	Dave Damon	K4DND	k4dnd@arrl.net (434) 973-5866
Vice President	Jim Crosby	K4JEC	jecrosby@comcast.net (434) 987-2006
Secretary	Alan Swinger	K9MBQ	awswinger@earthlink.net (434) 975-6237
Treasurer	Don Eason	N4UVA	deason@comcast.net (434) 973-9119
Director	Dennis Mennerich	K4THE	k4the@arrl.net (434) 973-5407
Director	Linda Beard	KI5LLB	lindaskyone@earthlink.net (434) 823-2107
Director	Greg Faust	N4PGS	n4pgs@arrl.net (434) 978-1962
Director	Vacant		
Director	Patsy Crosby	K4PMC	pmcrosby@comcast.net (434) 987-2006

Contest Calendars	
ARRL Contest Calendar 2008	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2008	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.albemarleradio.org/>



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month

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

Next Club Meeting : February 10 - 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: Each Thursday at 8:00 PM
All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater

AREA REPEATERS

146.760 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
146.925 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
224.760 (-) No Tone **WA4TFZ**
444.250 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
Other Area Repeaters
444.775 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **KF4UCI**
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)
224.600 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **KG4HOT**

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
February 10	Regular Club Meeting
March 10	Regular Club Meeting
April 14	Regular Club Meeting
May 12	Regular Club Meeting
June 9	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
March 29	Jefferson Cup Bike Race

Membership application available in PDF format at http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf