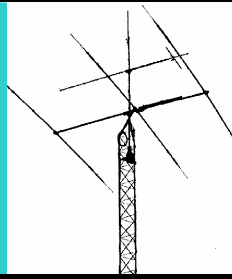


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2010, No. 5



May 2010

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The President's Letter

Dave, K4DND

This issue of the Beacon is a little slow in coming to you. The reason is that so much attention was directed at the Cruise-In, there just wasn't much left over. If you attended the May 1st event in Darden Tow Park, you will appreciate the time and effort that Jim K4JEC, Patsy K4PMC and the rest of the Cruise-In Committee invested in the success of this special event.

And it was a great success, with an amazing level of support and participation by the AARC membership. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this event, from working on the committee, to working the event for the entire day, to stopping by for a visit during the day, to virtually visiting by keeping track of the event "on the air".

I was pleased to meet face-to-face with several people whose voices I easily recognize but whose faces were only in my imagination. It was also a real pleasure to see some friends from long ago, who haven't been on the AARC roster in recent years. Of course there were new friends to meet and chat with, just like AARC club meetings, there is never enough time to talk with everyone, nor enough time to talk with those you do get to visit with. Maybe that is good in that it might bring people back to a subsequent event, whether it is a monthly club meeting or an annual Cruise-In.

On the topic of AARC participation in the Cruise-In, I was wandering around the park chatting with people, notepad in hand with a list of AARC members present. I was talking with a fellow from King George who had ridden his motorcycle to the event. He asked me about the list, thinking it had something to do with the event, and when I told him that the (at that time) 31 people on the list were AARC members present, he was floored. He said that in his club, he would be lucky if he could get 8-10 people to come out and support a club event. Also in that vein, I just received an email from the RATS club, asking for volunteers for an MS-150 bike tour coming up later this month. They are still in need of a 2 net control stations, one SAG vehicle, one Rest Stop station, and a shadow for MS personnel.

That sounds like the AARC of several years ago, when each public service event required pleading, begging and a bit of arm twisting to get just the bare minimum of support

Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **May 11 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA Grounds. The program will be a hat trick, including presentations by Andrea Oliver KG4ZWE, Mike Rein KA4JJD and some yet to be named clowns discussing a few of the ins and outs of Ham Radio Deluxe!**

Be sure to attend!

necessary to cover the event. I believe we have left those days behind us in the AARC. We will see if that is the case, as upcoming PS events include the Tour de Greene, a one day bike event staged in Greene County on Saturday, May 29, and our own MS-150 Bike Tour scheduled for the weekend of June 12-13. Please keep these dates free on your calendar and let Greg N4PGS at: n4pgs@arrl.net know that you can help out.

Back to the topic of the Beacon, the AARC has need of two things. First, it needs a permanent Editor. While Jim K4JEC, and I are able to keep the Beacon coming out mostly on schedule, we have other matters that need our time and attention. It is not a hard job, it just requires a bit of time towards the end of each month, requires some basic skills with Microsoft Word, and high-speed internet capability. If you might consider doing this important AARC job, send an email to Jim Wilson K4BAV at: jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net and let him know that you are interested

Second, the Beacon needs content, and everyone in the AARC can help out with this. You don't need to be a regular contributor, but rather from time to time, put together something that you would like to share with fellow club members, and send it in.

The AARC meeting on May 11 should be a fun time; we have three interesting short presentations. The plan is to let Andrea KG4ZWE talk about her Science Fair project at the start of the meeting so that she won't have to sit through a boring business meeting, and also that Bill AD6JV can get an early out for his early start to Dayton the next morning. Then, Dr. Mike Rein KA4JJD will talk about ticks and tick-borne disease, a topic that should be of interest to everyone except the squeamish, and finally Jim K4JEC, Andy, K4RKQ and I will give a quick drive-by on Ham Radio Deluxe, which, if it accomplishes nothing else, should confuse even the presenters.

May 15 is the date of the second AARC VE session of 2010, so make sure that anyone who might be interested in licensing or upgrading knows about our session. It will be held in Room 230, which is directly behind the auditorium in the NRAO administration building on UVA grounds. If you are an AARC VE, please let Bruce AB3BB at: ab3bb@arrl.net know if you are able to participate. If you are not a VE, but interesting in becoming one, come on by and observe the session.

While the ARRL was notified of our session almost 2 weeks ago, it has yet to be listed on the new ARRL website. Apparently, no one can figure out how to get a new listing posted. I was talking with one of the ARRL people in the VE administration section at headquarters, who said that all of the accessory programming that was absolutely essential and used on a daily basis for updating the old web site was gone and there was nothing in its place to administer the new web site. He was less than thrilled with the change over and the way it was done. Just another example of what happens when you go with the lowest bidder. We continue in anticipation that our session will be listed sometime before it is actually held.

Enough of my rambling, and I will look for you all at the May meeting.

Veep Peeps

Jim, K4JEC

It appears that we gave birth to a great new event for our club and ham radio in general. Overall, we came close to a total of 100 persons in attendance with 22 actually exhibiting and competing with their mobile stations. Those who came were really special. One rode a motorcycle all the way from Selma, NC, a 250-mile trip one-way. One towed his ham shack on wheels from Virginia Beach (he scored a perfect 50 points with the judges) and others represented all points across Virginia. The resounding comments included 'It was perfect, don't change a thing for next year' to "I really learned a lot from all the different approaches to establishing a mobile ham station.' It is entirely safe to say we had hundreds of antennas pointing into the sky and several were as tall as skyscrapers. The event absolutely commanded the attention of all the hundreds of other park users on the soccer, baseball and tennis fields and courts. It was a really big day for Darden Towe Park in Albemarle County.

Those who came to the Cruise-In were greeted by a sea of Green Vests sporting big smiles – the safety vests just adopted by ARES as the standard for ham volunteers were very much in evidence as our club members worn them with pride.

The club was so well organized and committed that we were all set up and ready a full hour before the 10 a.m. arrival time for those who came to exhibit their mobile stations. It was surely noticed by those who came who commented on the smooth efficiency of operations. We had 36 members and helpers show up from the club to contribute to the sea of green vests.

To me, the applause we got after the winners were announced said it all!

We set out to stage an event that would bring amateurs together to show off their mobile stations and share their innovative ideas with each other. It was touted to be a leisurely day in the park for a picnic lunch and socializing. The competition added spice and a three-judge panel made the rounds to examine the stations and assign points to each looking for the safest and most innovative mobile stations established in a car, truck, RV, motorcycle, bicycle or trailer. Five categories of consideration were covered on the judge's score sheets that included: 1. Modes and bands supported; 2. Electrical installation; 3. Safety and sturdiness of installation; 4. General interior appearance and 5. General exterior appearance. Each of the five categories could earn as much as 10 points for a perfect score of 50 points. The competition was keen and there were several cases of tied scores among the cars and trucks so duplicate certificates were issued. The judges included our Virginia Section

March 2010

Manager, Carl Clements, W4CAC from Portsmouth; our Virginia Section Traffic Manager, John Johnson, K0IBS from Chesapeake and our Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator, Joe Safranek, K4JJS from Gloucester.

The winners and categories were: **Motorcycle**, K3VW from Selma, NC; **Trailer**, K14RKB, Virginia Beach, VA; **RV**, W4AVO from Palmyra, VA; **Truck**, K4MJO from Southhill, Va; Truck, W4PJW from Churchville, VA; (a two-way tie) **Car**, KC4UCK from Earlysville, VA, W4BXG from White Hall, VA, N1LO from Gloucester (a three-way tie).

I received the following email from our Virginia Section Manager on Monday morning after:

Good Morning Jim,

I had a great time Saturday. I really appreciate the opportunity to participate in your event. My feelings on the event are to leave it the same for next year with the exception of having drinks and food (maybe hamburgers and hot dogs) available (might be a good fundraiser!). I know that we discussed an ARES class or something along those lines, but it appeared to me that folks were having a good time visiting and having a good time!

And about the gift certificate, it was a pleasant surprise to win! However, on the ride home the wheels were turning on just what the certificate can be used for. And I thought about all of the gear that I have accumulated over the last fifteen years. I started using fingers on both hands as I was counting my current stock of dual band gear and I used almost all of my fingers on my left hand when thinking about my hf rigs. Realizing this, I am returning the certificate to you and would like to see you use it for something for the benefit of your club or use it to help a newly licensed youth obtain their first radio and get on the air.

Thanks again, and I have already placed next year's event date in my planner.

73, Carl (Clements) w4cac

Club Business

Patsy, K4PMC

AARC Minutes of April 13, 2010

Board Meeting called to order by President Dave, K4DND, at 7:05.

K4PMC-nothing for the board

K4JEC-requested that we approve \$50.00 for QSL cards for the cruise in.

Don, N4UVA, made the motion. Greg, N4PGS, seconded the motion which was passed.

Dave, K4DND, asked that we search for a volunteer to oversee the NW Hospital Region Command Center in the Fontaine Research Center's amateur radio station. Jim, K4CGY, and Bill, N0WP, have volunteered to plan Field Day. Dave advised we would have a VE session on Saturday, May 8. (*This session has been changed to May 15.*)

Jim, K4JEC, reported that he would give his report on the Cruise-In at the regular meeting.

Bill, AD6JV, gave his report on Education. Science Fair was a Great success. 2 awards were presented. One award went to a member of this club, since he did not know this prior to the award, he asserted the award could not have been influenced by this fact.

The regular meeting was called to order by President Dave, K4DND, at 7:32.

Dave welcomed all attending. He then asked that all attending give their name and call signs, etc. A sign-in sheet was circulated and 33 members signed in.

Dave reported that all the completed volunteer events were well supported. He gave a short presentation from one that was made and presented for all the bike race volunteers. Pictures from Google Earth showed the racecourse with three race groups on the course at one time.

Dave then asked for approval of the March minutes as published in the March Beacon. 1st made by Michael, K4JDD. Second made by Joe, W4BXG. The March meeting minutes were then approved as published in the April Beacon.

Don gave his Treasurer's report. Starting balance-end of February. --\$5,401.22

Debits were \$112.99 while deposits were \$359.00.

Ending balance as of 3/31/2010--\$5,647.23

Dave noted that the board had approved \$50 for printing of QSL cards to be awarded at the May Cruise In.

Dave asked for a Volunteer to assume the responsibilities for the NW Hospital Regional Command Center located at the Fontaine Research Center. 13 hospitals belong to this Organization. This organization has 3 radios on site. If interested, he asked that you please contact him.

Dave then thanked Jim, K4CGY, and Bill, N0WP, for volunteering to be co-chairmen of this year's field day, which will again be held at the Earlysville Fire Station.

Dave announced that our membership now stood at 114 and that the next VE session was scheduled for May 8 from 9 to 11 at NARO. (*Now set for May 15.*)

Dave gave a briefing on our repeater history.

Dave mentioned we need someone to volunteer to take the editorship of "The Beacon".

March 2010

Kenneth Kang, KJ4KIH, is doing a great job maintaining our web site.

Greg, N4PGS, gave his public service report. We have 2 events behind us. Both went well. He stated that he was very appreciative of all the volunteer help and he said it was good use of our volunteer radio service.

The Tour de Greene is coming up. This is the third year they have asked for our help. It is a Memorial Day weekend event and more info to come soon.

MS150 will be June 12 & 13. This is our big event.

Bill, AD6JV, gave his Education Committee report. We presented two awards, one of which went to Andrea Oliver, Rick Oliver's daughter. Both are members of our Club. Scott Loudin received the second award.

Jim, K4CJY, gave the Technical Committee report. All repeaters are operating fine. He asked that if any members had any comments or suggestions they should just drop him a line or e-mail. He advised that the Carter's Mountain test site had a lack of coverage in some areas. Improvements are needed and that there is some that could be done to that site such as antenna improvement.

Dave showed Google Earth pictures of the Jefferson Cup Bike race showing 3 race groups on the course at the same time. He then showed some photos of the Carter's Mountain antenna that depicted how bad it really is.

Jim, K4JEC, presented his briefing on the Cruise-In and thanked the committee for all their hard work. Several additional members came forth to offer assistance.

The meeting adjourned.

Patsy Crosby, Secretary

The ARRL Field Organization

From www.arrl.org

The ARRL divides the United States and its territories into 71 administrative [sections](#). Many sections are comprised of a single state, but a few of the larger states, such as Texas or California, are divided into two more sections.

The membership in each section elects a [Section Manager](#) (SM) (see [list of SMs](#)) once every two years. He or she is responsible for managing the Field Organization programs in their section. The SM is not involved in League policy-making, although he or she may have a strong voice in such matters. League-policy making is a function reserved for the Division Director. The SM's main job is to recruit, through several subordinate program managers or coordinators, ARRL volunteers to staff eight crucial program areas: emergency communications, message traffic, volunteer monitoring, RFI problem-solving, support of affiliated clubs,

government liaison, encouragement of technical activities, and dissemination of on-the-air bulletins. Nomination information and forms are available by e-mailing [Leona Adams](#), W1LGA, or calling 860-594-0341.

Here's where you come in!

Sign up for an official ARRL appointment! There's a place for everybody: New ham or veteran, young or old, Technician or Extra, athlete, couch potato, or technical enthusiast. Click on the the appointments you're interested in, and then apply using the easy [on-line application form](#). Your application will be forwarded to your Section Manager for consideration. When approved, you'll be eligible to [order a call sign badge](#) that tells everyone your official status as an ARRL appointment.

- [Official Emergency Station](#)
- [Official Relay Station](#)
- [Technical Specialist](#)
- [Public Information Officer](#)
- [Local Government Liaison](#)
- [Official Observer](#)
- [Assistant Section Manager](#)

Section Level Appointments

Although the buck stops with the Section Manager, the station-level appointees and program functions listed above are normally managed by a "cabinet" appointee called a *Section official*, under delegated authority of the SM. For example, the [Section Traffic Manager](#) (STM) manages the [National Traffic System](#) activity in the section, and appoints [Net Managers](#) (NM) and [Official Relay Stations](#). Similarly, the [Section Emergency Coordinator](#) (SEC) implements the section's [ARES](#) plan and appoints [Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators](#) (ASECs), [Assistant District Emergency Coordinators](#) (ADECs), [District Emergency Coordinators](#) (DECs), [Emergency Coordinators](#) (ECs) and [Official Emergency Stations](#) (OESs). There's also an [Official Observer Coordinator](#) (OOC), [Technical Coordinator](#) (TC), [Affiliated Club Coordinator](#) (ACC), [Public Information Coordinator](#) (PIC) and [State Government Liaison](#) (SGL). After you've gained experience as a station-level appointee, perhaps you'll find yourself in one of these leadership roles.

Field Activities

Real ham radio happens "in the field," where amateurs practice their avocation. Organized field activities redouble the efforts of individual amateurs -- there's strength in numbers. ARRL directly supports the activities of its members in the field via:

- [ARRL Affiliated Clubs](#) -- Clubs are where the bulk of the work -- in public service, promoting Amateur Radio, peer support and just good fellowship -- occurs.

- [Public Service programs](#) -- Public service communication has been a traditional responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service.
- [ARRL Sanctioned Hamfests and Conventions](#) -- Sanctioning brings added benefits to a hamfest or convention -- and to the affiliated club that sponsors the event.

The new ARRL website

From www.arrl.org

As more and more people use the new ARRL Web site, we are finding some minor bugs in the system and fixing them. Here are the latest improvements to the Web site:

- A link to your Section News is located right underneath the "Edit Your Profile" link at the top of the page. Just click on "Section News" and you will be directed to the appropriate page. This link is only available on the home page of the site.
- Users no longer have to log in each time they access the Web site. The site now remembers your log-in information and you will automatically be logged in on each visit.
- The [DXCC standings and Honor Roll](#), [DXCC application](#) and the [DXCC order form](#) are now available online.
- You can now [register hamfests and conventions](#) on the Web site.
- Find an [Amateur Radio licensing class](#) or an [exam session](#) near you. In earlier versions of the Exam Session Locator Service, all exam sessions were listed as "no walk-ins." This has now been fixed.
- An amateur's current license class is now listed in the [Call Sign Search](#). Extraneous numbers in the amateur's FRN have also been removed.

"With a Web site as large as the ARRL's, we are constantly making improvements and changes," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "We have received a lot of feedback from members and are trying to implement many of these ideas. If we haven't gotten back to you directly, please be patient. One of our main goals at the moment is optimizing the club search function. We also understand that the Web site search function is not as functional as we would like. In time, once the Google engines crawl through the site and catalog it, the search function should greatly improve. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through the issues."

For Sale and Wanted...

Ron, K4RKA

Most recent listings

FOR SALE: Icom IC2720H Dual Band, remotable, dual receive, 2m-440 mobile transceiver. Though 6 years old this unit has never been used except to load memories with all 2m and 440 frequencies and a three day check out by me. Includes the transceiver, Icom CS-2720 cloning software and connecting cable. \$425.00 Jim Owen K4CGY k4cgy@yahoo.com 434-296-3044

FOR SALE: MFJ-280 compact speaker, used in good condition \$10.00 Jim Owen K4CGY k4cgy@yahoo.com 434-296-3044

For older listings please see the AARC website at:

www.albemarleradio.org

To list items for sale, trade or wanted, please send an email to:

k4rka@juno.com

ARRL Propagation de K7RA

04/30/2010

Our Sun has again become very quiet. We saw 13 days with no sunspots, April 15-27, then new sunspot group 1063 appeared April 28, and on April 29 it was gone again. Although the sunspot number for April 29 is 0, early on April 30 I can still see group 1063 in a magnetogram, so perhaps it rises again. We watch the [STEREO mission](#), looking for bright hints of activity, but lately they just seem to be magnetically complex areas that don't turn into sunspots. With no sunspot expected for today, the last day of April, this should be the second monthly decline in a row for monthly sunspot averages. Monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers for February, March and April are 30.5, 25.2 and 10.8. Sunspot numbers for April 22-28 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 12, with a mean of 1.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 76.1, 75, 74.2, 75.4, 76, 74.8 and 76.1, with a mean of 75.4. The estimated planetary A indices were 6, 13, 8, 3, 2, 4 and 4, with a mean of 5.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 7, 8, 2, 0, 3 and 2, with a mean of 3.7. USAF/NOAA predicts solar flux of 76 for April 30-May 6, rising to 80 on May 7-8, 78 May 9 and 75 after that. They also predict higher geomagnetic activity for May 4, with planetary A index from April 30-May 7 at 5, 5, 5, 8, 18, 10, 5 and 5. Geophysical Institute Prague says April 30-May 2 should be quiet, quiet to unsettled May 3, unsettled May 4-5 and quiet May 6.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

April 18	ARRL Rookie Roundup
June 26-27	ARRL Field Day

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

Other Contests of Interest

May 9	Nevada QSO Party
May 30	CQ WW WPX Contest

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

AARC Public Service Schedule

May 29	Tour de Greene
June 12-13	MS-150 Bike Tour

Area Hamfests

Date June 13, 2010	Manassas Hamfest
Location Manassas	www.w4ovh.net/hamfest.htm

FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
none	
Upgrades	
none	
Vanity Calls	
none	

VE Session Schedule - 2010

Date	May 15, 2010 9-11:30AM
Location	NRAO Building 520 Edgemont Rd Charlottesville, VA
(ARRL VEC)	Walk-ins Welcome

AARC Club Officers

President	Dave Damon	K4DND	k4dnd@arri.net (434) 973-5866
Vice President	Jim Crosby	K4JEC	jecrosby@comcast.net (434) 987-2006
Secretary	Patsy Crosby	K4PMC	patsycrosby@comcast.net (434) 989-2362
Treasurer	Don Eason Jr.	N4UVA	deason@comcast.net (434) 973-9119
Director	Jim Wilson	K4BAV	jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net (434) 245-7041
Director	Linda Beard	KI5LLB	lindaskyone@embarqmail.com (434) 823-2107
Director	Greg Faust	N4PGS	n4pgs@arri.net (434) 978-1962
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net (434) 872-0686
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	k4du@arri.net (434) 985-4828
Director	Jim Owen	K4CGY	k4cgy@yahoo.com 434-296-3044

Contest Calendars

ARRL Contest Calendar 2010	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2010	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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<http://www.albemarleradio.org/>



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month

Contact Information
Dave Damon K4DND
4521 Burnley Station Rd
Barboursville, VA 22923
434-973-5866
k4dnd@arri.net

Next Club Meeting : May 11 - 7:30 PM NRAO Bldg - UVA Grounds

CLUB MEETINGS and NETS

REGULAR Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM
BOD Meetings: Prior to regular meeting at 7:00 PM
Meetings are held at the NRAO building on Edgemont Road.
LUNCH BUNCH: 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**
146.895 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
224.760 (-) No Tone **WA4TFZ**
444.000(+) 151.4 Hz 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**
443.000 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4UVA**
145.17 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4FCO** (Fluvanna)
146.79 (-) 110.9 Hz Tone **WW4GW** (Buckingham)
145.450 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **K4DND** (MJ Hospital)
IRLP Node # 4703
224.600 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **KG4HOT**

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