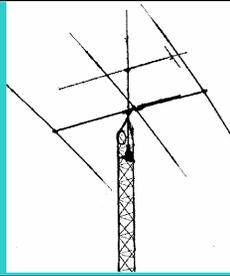


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2011, No. 7



July 2011

Selected as 2011 Dayton Hamvention "Ham Club of the Year"

Inside this Issue

- 1 Meeting Notice
- 1 The President's Letter
- 2 Veep Peeps
- 2 Club Business
- 4 For Sale and Wanted...
- 4 DX Notes
- 4 2011 AARC Field Day
- 7 Beacon Needs an Editor
- 8 AARC Public Service Schedule
- 8 Area Hamfests
- 8 FCC Database Updates
- 8 VE Session Schedule - 2011
- 8 AARC Club Officers
- 8 Contest Calendars

The President's Letter

Jim, K4JEC

With the exception of our regular club meeting on July 12, we have nothing else on our July Club Calendar which probably means a welcome relief of club responsibilities for July. During the June Meeting the board approved placing the names of Bob and Sharon Blodinger in nomination for designation as Honorary Members to be voted upon at the July Meeting.

Field Day 2011 is now history and a good one at that. For those who could not be with us at Earlysville Fire Department, we had a very successful club activity. We had 32 members, guests and public officials sign our guest log. The breakdown is as follows:

- 23 club members signed in
 - Other notable attendees included:
 - Ed Sykes - NBC 29 TV
 - Duane Snow - Albemarle County Supervisor
 - Marge Thomas - Charlottesville, Albemarle and UVA
Emergency Communications Manager
 - Dayton Haugh - Charlottesville, Albemarle, and UVA
Emergency Communications Management Board
 - Chief Steve Sellers - Albemarle County Police Department
 - Mark Gorlinsky - President of Earlysville Fire Department
 - John Sweeney - Earlysville Fire Department
 - Spencer Charles - Visitor
 - Trevor Chandler - Visitor
- Thanks for all your support!

It is not too soon to be planning and working toward our Summer Picnic/Auction. We experimented with a "silent" auction last year and it seemed to be an improvement over the one-item-at-a-time verbal auction of the previous year which took way too long and therefore we had very little audience left at the end. The silent approach allows members to bid against each other on the item's bid sheets and keep things moving along. In the end, the highest

Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday July 12, 7:30PM at NRAO.** Wes K4WLE will talk about microprocessors. That should be of some interest to everyone, based on the fact that no one can do anything these days without encountering embedded microprocessors everywhere. Hope to see you there.

bidder settles up with the owner of the item if listed as an individual or the club treasurer if listed as club property.

Last year we asked that all items placed in the auction be ham related gear and that eliminated household goods and other unrelated pieces that showed up the first year that contributed to the auction running so long. That is a rule that has proven its worth and we will stick with it. So, now is the time to place a large box in your ham shack marked "For The Auction" and start filling it with items surplus to your needs that some one else might be able to put to good use. I am also reminded that with all the different contributions of food last year, the picnic turned out to be a real treat.

In that we were cited for our recognition and support of youth with the Club-of-the-Year Award from the Dayton Hamvention Awards Committee, I would like to designate the July Meeting as our Youth Recognition Night and encourage all of our members to identify a young person to bring to the meeting. In that they are out of school as this time and are more available to attend a night out meeting, it appears to be the right thing to do.

My challenge at this time is to grow our youth membership and involvement. I need each member to think of a youngster you can sponsor and encourage to work toward getting a ham ticket. Remember, school is out and you can bring them to our July meeting to introduce them to our fantastic hobby. Let's fill the room with new young blood.

Veep Peeps

Greg, N4PGS

When is the last time you built anything? Not assembled one of those 'some assembly required' swingsets or patio furniture things, but actually built something from scratch? A doghouse, a birdhouse, a go cart whatever.

We hams pride ourselves on building things, but do many of us do that anymore? When is the last time you built a radio? Designed an antenna? Put together an electronic kit?

A lot of us hams have become technology 'users' instead of builders or designers. It's so easy to get a commercially available radio that few of us build them, much less design them! After all, why should we design radios because all the types of radios that can be designed already are designed. Why build a radio from a kit when it's so much quicker, easier and sometimes even cheaper to buy one pre-made.

I enjoy reading about the quotation from the then head of the US Patent office around the turn of the 19th to 20th century saying that they might as well close down the Office since everything that can be invented had been invented!

Not all is lost, though. It's very enjoyable to hear about our Club members show us their inventions, whether they are new uses for microprocessors in radios or new antenna designs. The next few months you can look forward to some very interesting Club programs by our own hams who will be showing you their own inventions.

Get a kit. Read a project article in the ARRL handbook and put together a radio. Design and assemble an antenna. Show everyone the art is not lost!

Greg N4PGS

Club Business

Patsy, K4PMC

Board Meeting

Call to Order – Meeting called to order by President Jim, K4JEC at 7:02 p.m. The following members were present: K4JEC, N4PGS, K4PMC, K4DND, N4UVA, AD6JV, KI5LLB, K4BAV and K4CGY.

Secretary's Board Report

Patsy, K4PMC, reported the minutes of the May Board Meeting were published in the Beacon. K4PMC asked for corrections or amendments, Minutes stand as printed.

Treasurer's Report- K4UVA stated that he was prepared to give the figures at the general membership meeting.

Vice President's Report – Greg – No report.

President's Report –

Reported that the liability insurance has been moved to the ARRL sponsored group insurance plan. He turned over a copy of our Certificate of Insurance to our secretary for inclusion in the minute's book record of this meeting. The annual fee for the club corporation charter has been received and he approved the treasurer paying that fee of \$25.

The club post office box rental fee is now due and he approved the payment of that fee of \$60 more or less. We have opened a club account at the BB&T and he authorized the payment of the check and deposit ticket printing fees of less than \$50.

K4JEC stated that it is time to consider setting the date for our Cruise-In for the year 2012. Jim is looking for input from club members.

President Jim stated, "Precipitated by the fact that we plan to use our club call W4DO for Field Day this year and being awarded the "Club-of-the-Year by the Dayton Hamvention, it occurs to me that the club call WA4TFZ is only a random assigned call by the FCC, we should equally honor the club

July 2011

call W4DO because it is the former call of our deceased president of 1985, Hunter Faulkner. I have obtained prices on getting a new club banner. A friend of Jim Owen and mine from the Antique Car Club has submitted a design and price for a 6 X 3 foot banner for \$126. I recommend the purchase to you.

A motion was made that the purchase be approved upon the approval of the Public Relations Committee of the design and wording. The motion was made by Linda-KI5LLB and seconded by Jim-K4CGY. The motion carried.

The president requested board approval of up to \$200 for food the Field Day. We anticipate the expense to be in the neighborhood of \$150 however I would like a little wiggle room. Don-N4UVA moved and Dave-K4DND seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

He also requested approval of a \$200 donation to the Earlysville Fire Department in appreciation of their support of field day activities at their facilities. Bill-AD6JV moved and KI5LLB seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Crosby submitted a letter to the board recommending R. H. Blodinger and his wife, Sharon, who are both hams and who are the registered agents for the club to the corporation commission and who have served in that capacity at no charge for many years. They also prepared and submitted our application to the IRS for our Letter of Determination as a 501 (c)(3) charging us only for staff and out-of-pocket costs instead of the \$3000 to \$5,000 such paperwork normally costs. The motion that the nomination be placed before the general membership for a vote at the July meeting was made and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim – He reported that the .895 machine was acting up and the .925 machine was being troubleshot. The 440 machine is operating fine.

Fundraising Committee- Michael (absent) – Michael-KA4JJD was absent so had a sub take the raffle.

Estate Committee – Linda reported that she has a bunch of old radios from the Red Cross that they wanted to get rid of. It was recommended that she get someone on her committee to evaluate them and report back.

Old Business -- Nothing

New Business -- Nothing

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

General Membership Meeting

Call to Order -- The meeting was called to order by President, K4JEC at 7:35 p.m. The president acknowledged that today is Flag Day and after reciting some interesting

facts about the flag, he asked that to honor the day all who were willing to stand with him and offer the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

All were invited to state their name and call. There were 31 members present. Sign-in sheet attached to file copy in minutes book.

Secretary's Report - Reported by K4PMC

General Meeting Minutes for May were printed in The Beacon. No amendments were offered so they stand as printed.

We now have 121 members on our master roster.

Treasurer's Report – Reported by N4UVA

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Opening Balance | -\$ 6,837.99 |
| Deposits | - 166.26 |
| Expenses | - 435.17 |
| Closing Balance | -\$ 6,569.08 |

President's Report – Reported by Jim, K4JEC

I want to thank all those members who joined Dave-K4DND at the MS 150 and the Tour de Vine Bike Ride. Those members who sacrificed their Day or days to support the club are certainly to be commended. I will leave a report of the details to Dave who can give us a full accounting during his Public Service Report

Jim-K4CGY and Bill-N0WP have agreed once again to co-chair the AARC Field Day project, which this year falls on Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26. We will return to Earlysville Fire Department's back lot where we have been hosted for the past several years. We had excellent member participation last year and our score went up an appreciable amount. Your club leadership works hard to make this a great club event and every member is urged to drop by for as much time as you can spare to work the bands, do some logging, or assist with other logistics such as helping consume some of the great food made available throughout. This is a great time for good fellowship and you won't want to miss out. Jim will offer the details during his report and discussions.

Jim announced that Don-N4UVA and Jim-K4CGY officially represented the club at the Dayton Hamvention and brought home the Club-of-the-Year Award. He asked that they come forward and present the award to the club for a picture to be submitted to the local media.

Vice President's Report – Greg, N4PGS reported that we will have a presentation at the July Meeting on Integrated Circuits or microprocessors.

Break - President announced that the 2011 Handbook and Member Directory was available up front and ask everyone to take a fifteen -minute stretch break and visit with each other.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim, K4CGY. –. Jim said the .925 is dead, .895 intermittent on audio but the 440 is okay. K4CGY reported that the technical committee has a plan of action.

K4CGY made a motion that the club make a \$50. donation to the QRZ Website. N4UVA made the second. Greg, N4PGS, amended the motion to \$100, KI5LLB seconded the motion-. This passed unanimously. K4CGY noted that if everyone did what he or she did last year, we should have a good field day.

Fund Raising Committee – Michael, KE4JJD –The raffle included several items and the first winner had first choice and so forth until all items had been won.

Public Service Committee –Dave, K4DND – Dave reported that everything went off well and that everyone was well prepared. He thanked all who participated including Bill who took care of the Tour de Greene. Dave mentioned the balloon launch at Charlottesville High School and the club's role in that project. Jim-K4CGY worked with the students in designing a ground plane antenna for the APRS transmitter which worked too well in that the signal brought up too many digipeaters however in the end they were able to track their payload to its landing near Woodford, VA and recovered it.

Education Committee – Bill, AD6JV – Bill reported that he was planning an Extra Class course for September and wanted to hear from anyone interested.

Old Business- Nothing

New Business – Harry-W2HD placed a motion on the floor to reimburse N4UVA and K4CGY \$453.82 for their trip expenses to go to Dayton Hamvention to represent the club and accept the award. The discussion led to an amended motion being offered by Dave-K4DND that changed the amount to \$250 (\$125 per person). The motion to amend failed and the original motion passed by a majority vote.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

For Sale and Wanted...

Ron, K4RKA

For Most recent listings – See www.albemarleradio.org

DX Notes

Alan, K9MBQ

Now that summer is here, HF DX'ing band opportunities change from the Fall-thru-Spring propagation. Generally, the low bands (160 & 80M) get very noisy (QRN), so DX'ing becomes difficult. 40M is usually good for DX before sunrise and after sunset; same for 30M with overlap into the daylight part of the set and rise. 20M is open to many parts of the world after sunrise and in the late afternoon and early evening; 17M also very good at these times but shuts down earlier than 20M. 15M and up are spotty at best, with mostly N-S openings. Check QST and CQ magazines for detailed propagation forecasts.

Here are some upcoming DX opportunities of interest:

- Rotuma Is (3D2R) – will be active in late Sep-early Oct; there will be 19 operators! QSL to YT1AD. Web site is <http://www.yt1ad.info/3d2r/index.html>
- Mozambique (C92DG) – Dave, ZR6DG, and Helge, ZS6HB, will be active from the Timbavati Game Reserve in Tofo July 14-28 on the HF Bands. QSL via ZS6DG.
- Djibouti (J28UC) – John, F4FUC, will be active beginning in July and will stay through 2013. He will be on 40-10M with 100 W, a vertical and a dipole. QSL to home call.
- St. Lucia (J68HS) – Howard, WB4WXE, will concentrate on 6M June 25-July 15. When 6 is quiet, he will be on 160, 40, 17 and 12M. QSL to home call.

This will be my last set of DX notes for the summer. I will start up again in the Fall (~Sep). Good DX!
73, Alan K9MBQ

2011 AARC Field Day

Dave, K4DND

The AARC is fortunate to have two skilled, experienced and dedicated leaders who have taken responsibility for this important club activity for the past several years. Thanks much to Jim K4CGY and Bill N0WP for another great Field Day. I asked both to give me some comments for this issue of the Beacon to go along with pictures courtesy of Jim K4BAV and Dayton AA4DH. They both did so, and rather than mess up their accounts by trying to meld them together, here are both their accounts. Again thanks to K4BAV and AA\$DH for the photos reproduced here.

Jim, K4CGY

Several of us arrived on site on Friday about 11AM to start setting up the shelters and laying out the items needed for erection of the antennas. The 20 and 6 meter beams were assembled on the ground and ready for the start of erection at 2PM. At the appointed time (2PM) the portable tower was erected and the 20m beam installed. The lines were shot over the trees for the 75m and 40m antennas. Feed lines were connected and laid into the shelter housing the SSB & CW HF stations. The digital antenna was installed between trees and run into the digital shelter.



Jim K4CGY, Mike KJ4MFN, Wes K4WLE and Dave K4DND get the 20M beam on the rotator

By 5PM Friday most of the antenna work had been completed. Saturday morning, about 10AM, equipment installation was started. Generators were put in place and the shelter, mast and antenna for the 6m station was completed. Digital network was set up and after some problems looked to be working correctly. After a refreshing lunch it was time to get ready for the operating portion of field day.



20M beam at its operating height of about 25 ft



6M beam looks great against the sky



Mike K9RVR and son David man the VHF station

The first 20 minutes or so went without a hitch and then the digital network decided to die. Trouble shooting proved that we had a problem that couldn't seem to be solved quickly so we went to single station logging. There was heavy activity on all bands and the different operators had a great time working all they could hear. Before the contest I had quickly installed a 10 and 15 meter dipole between two light standards just in case we needed to work other bands if the bands were open.



N3FJP logging software

July 2011

Twenty meters SSB proved to be so good with the 20m beam that I didn't check 15m until about 9PM and found it wide open. I worked a good number of stations and at 10PM decided to just check 10m to see if anything was there. I found that 10m also was wide open with lots of stations. At this point I worked 10 & 15m until they closed down and then went back to 20m SSB. The 40m SSB station worked until about 8PM and then went to 75M SSB.

The team of CW operators worked both 75 & 40 as well as 20m, while 10 & 15 meters were being used on SSB. It was found by Dennis WR4I that he could work more stations using his Elecraft KX1 running 2 watts than by using the TS-570 running 100 watts due to the fact that the TS-570 didn't have a CW filter. In fact Dennis created several pile-ups running his QRP rig.



WR4I's Elecraft K1, a 4-Band QRP CW Transceiver

The biggest error I made was by not checking 10 & 15 meters early in the contest (4PM time frame), had I done this, likely we could have put an additional 100 or so contacts into the log. It would have also helped if we had a few additional operators for both CW and SSB especially in the evening and night.

All in all I had a great time as I'm sure others did. The food was great, the bands in good if not great condition and the weather couldn't have been much better. My thanks go out to all those that helped in setting up, operating and wrapping up. My hope is that we can do it again next year and have as much pleasure as we did this one.

73 Jim K4CGY

Bill, NOWP

Field Day 2011. Perfect weather, good propagation, good friends, fellowship, opportunities to enhance your operating skills, good food, radios, fresh blackberries while putting up wire antennas, teamwork, these are just a few of the memories I have from Field Day 2011.



Earlysville Fire Station, Home to AARC FD



New AARC banner

The AARC operated Field Day 2011 at the Earlysville Fire Department again this year. Field day is arguably the ARRL's most popular operating event of the year, and definitely my favorite. Field day has something for every interest. Whether it's exercising your ideas for a new antenna type, trying out a new mode, honing your skills in CW, or digital, or just helping out by assisting others in erecting shelters, antennas, or any number of the myriad tasks necessary to erect 3 HF stations and a VHF station in a limited amount of time.

Jim Owens and I were official "co-chairmen" of Field Day this year, but this was truly a club effort, and every member, and person who participated contributed to the success. I have enjoyed Field Day every year since I've been an AARC member, but this year it seems as if a lot of factors came together to make it especially memorable.

The weather was really great. Dry, and not too hot. The propagation conditions seemed quite good. In fact, in reviewing the logs, we contacted every state except South Dakota, Wyoming, and Alaska. We also contacted every Canadian province except Newfoundland, Northern Territories, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The scoring breakdown is as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| CW QSOs: | 138 |
| Digital QSOs: | 88 |

July 2011

Phone QSOs: 705

Factoring in the various multipliers, bonus points, etc. I will be claiming our score to be 3304 this year. I feel we have the required documentation due to the hard work of everyone who worked to gain publicity before and during Field day. This includes lots of things like arranging for radio publicity, asking for things like the moving sign on the Sun Trust bank near Fashion Square mall, taking pictures at Field day, inviting government officials and getting TV coverage.



(L-R) Mike K8RVR, Linda K15LLB, Pat K4PMC, and Jim K4JEC entertain Marge Thomas, Emergency Manager for Charlottesville, Albemarle and UVA

We did have some problems with our networked logging this year, but we quickly changed gears and ran all 4 logging stations free standing from each other. I believe we were able to recover all of the contacts from the first few minutes of operation that we weren't sure about. We then combined those with all of the individual station logs so that we have a complete and accurate submission.



**Background L-R Hugh KJ4ZIL, Rose-Marie KB4RM, Joe W2PVY and Vail
Foreground L-R Jim K4JEC, Don N4UVA, Dennis WR4I, Alan K9MBQ**

In my 20+ years in Ham Radio, I've had leadership positions in 3 clubs field day operations. In number of members, AARC is the smallest of those 3, but in percentage of

members participating, and really pitching in and contributing, AARC is the biggest, and best.

I'd like to individually thank every member who participated, but I'm sure I'd overlook someone, so I'll just say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed in any way. You are a fantastic group and one that I'm tremendously proud to be a member of.

73 de NOWP
Bill

And finally....



K8RVR was heard to remark "Holy !!!!. Is that some kind of clown car?"

Beacon Needs an Editor

Dave, K4DND

When I took over as temporary editor of the Beacon in March 2010, I commented in that issue that it was the first Beacon in 10 years that had not been produced by Bob Dorsey W4RQ. Ten years is a long time to do the same job, but Bob did it well, did it always on time, and did it without a single complaint.

I also commented at the time that I was willing to take on the job of Editor on a temporary basis, to give the Public Relations Committee time to 1.) Decide if keeping a monthly newsletter was worth doing and 2.) If it is worth continuing, to find someone interested in performing this important club service.

Now I find myself 17 months down the road, and coming to the realization that I am not able to carry on this interim effort any longer.

July 2011

So again, I ask the PR Committee to find a replacement editor as soon as possible. I am happy to spend time with a new editor to help get things going. I am using a template that Bob W4RQ created, and can show the new editor how to get up and running with little trouble. All it takes is a high speed internet connection, and a basic knowledge of Microsoft Office.

Anyone interested, please contact Jim Wilson K4BAV at jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net and thanks.

AARC Public Service Schedule

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Saturday March 26 | Bel Monte Endurance Run |
| Sunday March 27 | Jefferson Cup Bike Races |
| Saturday May 1 | Lake Monticello Triathlon |
| Sunday May 8 | Rescheduled Jefferson Cup BR |
| Saturday June 4 | Tour de Greene |
| Saturday June 11 | MS-150 Bike Tour Day 1 |
| Sunday June 12 | MS-150 Bike Tour Day 2 |
| Saturday August 27 | Devils Backbone Mountain Cross |
| Saturday Sept 24 | Great Eastern Endurance Run |

Area Hamfests

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Vienna Winterfest | Sunday February 27 |
| Manassas Hamfest | Sunday June 11 |
| Berryville Hamfest | Sunday August 6 |
| Va Beach Hamfest | Saturday September 17 |

FCC Database Updates

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| New Calls | |
| | |
| Upgrades | |
| | |
| Vanity Calls | |
| | |

VE Session Schedule - 2011

| | |
|--|--|
| Date: Saturday Sept 10 Location: NRAO Rm 230 (ARRL VEC) | Remember the new Technician Question Pool is effective as of July 1, 2010, and the General Question pool changes effective July 1, 2011. DON'T study the old questions!! |
|--|--|

AARC Club Officers

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------|--|
| President | Jim Crosby | K4JEC | jecrosby@comcast.net (434) 987-2006 |
| Vice President | Greg Faust | N4PGS | n4pgs@arrl.net (434) 978-1962 |
| 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 | Dave Damon | K4DND | k4dnd@arrl.net (434) 973-5866 |
| Director | Bill Phillips | AD6JV | billp1048@earthlink.net (434) 872-0686 |
| Director | Mike Rein | KA4JJD | mfr6t@virginia.edu (434) 9774281 |
| Director | Jim Owen | K4CGY | k4cgy@yahoo.com 434-296-3044 |

Contest Calendars

| | |
|--|---|
| ARRL Contests | ARRL sponsored contests |
| SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2011 | 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/>



THE AARC BEACON
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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 : July 12 - 7:30 PM NRAO Auditorium

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