

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
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Send articles for the AARC Bulletin to:
the Editor, Melissa Lang - KD4GRM or Co-editor, Ed Lang - KC4YLX.
DEADLINE for the April issue is March 15, 1994



AARC Bulletin
Newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, W4ATVZ

MARCH 1994



March 1994
AARC Calendar

While we are outside, we ought to think about the outside activities that the Club supports. We support our community by helping with public events happening in the area. This is the time of year when bike races, walkathons, triathlons and so forth begin to blossom as well. Many of these activities support charities and so are a wonderful way for us to support our community.

With the weather so fair, consider volunteering to participate in some of these activities. It will give you a good excuse to be out and about, and also give you a chance to "strut your stuff" and show the community the good support that Ham Radio can provide.

RECYCLING PROGRESS REPORT

Thanks go to Pete, K4UCK, and Brian, KE4HIA, and Joe, KD4RWX, for providing labor, transportation, and wrenched backs when they moved some wire, transformers, circuit boards, etc. to a recycling company. Some more cash now becomes available for club purposes. Also, "Thanks" to Ron, K4RKA, (Chairman of the Recycling Committee) for suggesting the activity.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 7:00pm AAFO Tech/ Board Meeting	2 8:00pm ARES Net	3	4	5	6 Jefferson Cup Bike Race, part 1	7 Jefferson Cup Bike Race, part 2 Pean Sunday
8 7:00pm AAFO Meeting	9 8:00pm ARES Net	10	11	12	13	14 Spring Regatta 1:30pm T-Hunt
15	16 8:00pm ARES Net	17 St. Patrick's	18	19	20	21 Jefferson Cup Bike Race, part 2 Pean Sunday
22	23 8:00pm ARES Net	24	25	26	27	28 7:00pm INFO Net
29	30 8:00pm ARES Net	31				

February						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December	
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5

PACKET RACKET

The WA4TTZ Packet Bulletin Board System has undergone some major changes since the last Bulletin. These changes started with a move from Roy's(W4OTF) house to mine, followed shortly by a change in software from the AA4RE and BPQ node switch to the present FBB version 5.15b. FBB incorporates a gateway function which accomplishes the same task that the BPQ switch software did; it allows a user to connect on one frequency and go out on another. Other features of the FBB software include automatic compression of traffic being transferred from CHO to KQ4OK or other FBB PBBS's. Most of the commands are the same or similar to the old system.

For those of you who do not have a computer or the ability to print out the help files, I have a printed booklet of the commands available. The FBB software contains servers such as the satellite locator and documentation server. I hope the added features and quicker response from the system will enhance your packet use. If you have questions after looking at the online help files, please do not hesitate to send me a message or call me.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Roy Lane, W4OTF, for all of the hours he has invested in the WA4TTZ Packet Bulletin Board prior to allowing me to take over as primary sysop.

Ed - KC4Y1X

1994 AARC Officers, Board Members and Chairpeople

President - Greg Faust, N4PGS

Vice-President - Rick Berman, KO4WQ

Treasurer - Sharon Duvall, KO4OC

Secretary - Melissa Lang, KD4GRM

Committees: Director is listed first, and then Chairperson

Fund-Raising - Bob Pattison, KM4DDJ; Bill Hartin, N4ZZB

Technical - Hein Hvatum, N4FWA; Sam Gentry, N4WJQ

Publications - Harry Danna, W2HD; Ed Lang, KC4Y1X

Education - Mike Duvall, AC4ZQ; Bob Ross, WA2MFI

Activities - Sam Gentry, N4WJQ; Hein Hvatum, N4FWA

Committees Chairpersons for:

Digital - Roy Lane, W4OTF

Recycling - Ron Ritchey, K4RKA

Awards - Joe Fritz, KD4RWX

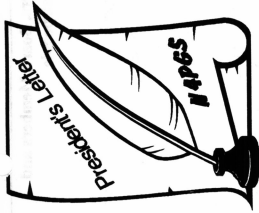
Other positions:

ARRL Liaison - Pat Wilson, NORDQ

ARES/RACES Coordinator - Hein Hvatum, N4FWA

ARRL/VE Coordinator - John Gray, W6UZ.

Trustee - Morris Jones, NM4R



In the last couple of articles, I've talked about all the things in ham radio that you can do, any time of the year. Well, I just spent a few hours on one of the most enjoyable (in my estimation!). Joe, KD4RWX, acted the 'fox' and hid in a not-too-obvious part of Alameda County and taunted a few hardy souls into trying to find him on a hidden transmitter hunt. The weather was perfect on that Sunday afternoon, and I know at least five people that had a good time chasing that signal all over the place. After a few hours of hectic antenna spinning and meter watching, and a few miles of driving in circles, we finally found him. While driving around, watching the meters on two radios, a map and a computer display AND trying avoid other cars minding their own business, I thought how nice it would be to have someone in the passenger seat running the instruments while I drove and navigated. What an opportunity to get another ham in the sport! And that can be said of a lot of our activities.

Many of the newer hams look from the sidelines at all the activities going on in the Club and hesitate to get involved, feeling that maybe they don't have the proper radio/equipment or that they're not sure how the "old-timers" behave at an event (ha!). It can be a little intimidating. A fair number of us found out just how easy it really is to work in a bike race, transmitter hunt or Field Day tent, only after another ham convinced us to give it a try. In a sense, it's the spirit of 'Elmer'ing. Being an 'Elmer' doesn't just mean that you show another how to operate an HF rig. It can also mean getting that ham involved in one of the many public service activities or special events that our Club sponsors.

A.A.R.C. AWARDS

The following persons were issued the indicated A.A.R.C. Awards since the last report.

NAME CALL AWARD ISSUED A B C (#) D

Pete KC4UCK - - x (19) x

x=issued

A= BIG TEN worked all call areas

B= Worked All Border States

C= Worked Lotsa States (number worked)

D= All-American

Joe - KD4RWX

Optomist...A person who saves the seed catalog pictures to compare with the flowers and vegetables he has actually grown

PUBLIC SERVICE CERTIFICATES ISSUED

The following Amateur Radio operators have been issued certificates by the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club for participating in ten (10) or more public service events since 1991. Several of the certificates were presented at the February Club meeting. If your name is listed and you have not received your certificate, you should check with Joe Fritz, KD4RWX. Also, cards certifying all levels of participation have been prepared. They will be distributed at club meetings and the Wednesday Luncheon. Normally the certificates will be presented at the winter dinner. This data was compiled and submitted to the Awards Committee by Hein, N4FWA.

CALL NAME No. Events ENDORSEMENTS

N4FWA HEIN 40	20, 30, 40
N4PGS GREG 31	20, 30
KD4CQY JON 29	20
N4WJQ SAM 22	20
KC4TQF BILL 21	20
N4LXP Lenny 20	20
KM4DU BOB 18	
N2LNV STEVE 18	
KO4WQ RICK 18	
W4OTF ROY 17	
KB4YQC BOB 17	
N0RDQ PAT 15	
KB4JNI BUD 15	
W6UZ JOHN 15	
KI4OP JON 14	
KO4EV RICHARD 13	
W2HD HARRY 13	

So, I'd invite any of you 'experienced' hams (you know who you are...) that have been at a rest stop in a bike tour or in a boat in the middle of a lake at a triathlon or whatever, to consider this the next time you get ready to work one of these activities: invite someone along to navigate, co-pilot, run the gear, spin the antenna or whatever - because they are the "old-timers" of the future - and there's more than enough fun to spread around.

NEW AARC AWARDS ANNOUNCED

New AARC Awards are being established for VHF and UHF operations. More details will be set forth in the April Bulletin. However, for now, the following brief descriptions will lay the groundwork for your future applications for certificates. Again, no card confirmation will be required, however the contacts must be in your log. This is the same as the HF awards. Contacts back to 1991 will be recognized. These awards will hopefully encourage more operators to operate on UHF/VHF bands; encourage getting to know fellow club members better; encourage simplex operations; and encourage the concept of just having fun using Amateur Radio.

The new awards are:

WORKED LOTSA VIRGINIA COUNTIES- This will have a "Counties that border Albemarle" component; **WORKED FIFTY A.A.R.C. CLUB MEMBERS-** This will have a simplex endorsement; **WORKED MY NAME-** This will be completed by working stations whose last letter in its call sign is the same as a letter in your name as listed on your FCC license. Each letter must have a different call sign; **WORKED ALL CALL AREAS-** This is not as tough as it might seem. You must work call signs assigned for each call area. The stations will most likely be local stations. For example: N0RDQ, N8HUJ, and KD4IGU (a very rare contact) would provide the Call Areas 4, 8, and 0. This is a fun Award, but it could prove interesting.

Please check the next Bulletin for more details.

Joe - KD4RWX



COLUMNS

We had a very good AARC meeting on Tuesday, February 9. Unfortunately, our guest speaker, Bob Segrest, KD4PWU, had a medical/dental problem and could not make it, but he has been rescheduled for the May meeting with his talk on TCP/IP. The way things worked out, we were so busy with reports from Sam, N4WJQ, on the repeaters, Hein, N4FWA, on the public service events, Ed, KC4YLX, on the new PBBS, Joe, KD4RWX, on awards, and Pat, N0RDQ, on business pertaining to the ARRL that we would have been pushed for time for a guest speaker anyway. It all worked out for the best. There are many new and exciting things in store for the AARC. Our March speaker will be John Gray, W6UZ, with what promises to be a very informative talk on DXing. Pete Taylor, KC4UCK, and Pete Wildman, KD4SOA, have volunteered to take over the planning of Field Day in June and will be looking for volunteers. They will have an outline for the event at the March meeting. It's a lot of FUN so plan to get involved. See you at the March meeting.

Rick - K04WQ

The AARC Monthly Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8 at 7:30 pm in the NRAO Auditorium on the University Grounds. Everyone is welcome.

Greg, N4PGS, reminded everyone that materials for the AARC Bulletin are due by February 15 to make the March issue. Everyone was encouraged to send in information. Greg also reported for the Recycling Committee that no table was set up at the Proffest. He had no other information.

Sam Gentry, N4WJQ, reported on the status of the ongoing work on the repeaters. Also, a big thanks to Roy Lane, W4OTF for his work with the PBBS, which is the oldest continuous operating bulletin board in Virginia.

Pat Wilson, N0RDQ, reported on the last VE Session. National Test Day will be May 14 and the next VE Session in Charlottesville is planned for that day.

Pat also announced that the Virginia Slow Net will be moving to 7:30 instead of 6:30 on frequency 3680.

Pat, N0RDQ, reported on the ARRL activities.

John Gray, W6UZ, reminded everyone to make sure to check the renewal date of their licenses. Some will be coming due soon.

Public Service Awards were presented. Congratulations to all who received them and thank you for your support!!

Joe Fritz, KD4RWX, reported that the next T-hunt will be Sunday, February 20. 147.54 will be the simplex frequency.

Ed Lang, KC4YLX, reported on the move and software change for the PBBS.

Rick, K04WQ, discussed sending a letter to ARRL supporting the ARRL re: instant licensing, the ARRL is against it. The Club decided to send a letter. As ARRL Liaison, Pat, N0RDQ, will do the letter.

Applications for new members were approved.

Greg, N4PGS, reminded the Committees to get their budgets in - the Club will vote on them.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Melissa Lang - KD4GRM, Secretary

Meeting Minutes February 8, 1994

PUBLIC EVENTS 1994

The meeting was brought to order by Greg Faust, N4PGS, at 7:33 p.m.

It was announced that the scheduled speaker was unable to come, so there was a change in presentations.

The minutes were accepted as printed in the AARC Bulletin.

Reports were given from Committees.

Rick Berman, KO4WQ, reported on future programs, tonight's scheduled speaker will be in May. The March meeting will feature John Gray speaking about DX. Rick also asked for volunteers to help with Field Day. Please contact him if you are interested in participating.

The Treasurer, Sharon Duvall, KO4OC, was not present. Greg, N4PGS, gave the Treasurer's Report:

Club Fund - 1573.13
Repeater - 1041.33
Packet - 30.00
Total 2624.06

Greg, N4PGS, shared with us the flyer for the Winterfest, February 27. Also, he read a news release regarding the Foundation for Amateur Radio Scholarships. 49 scholarships are available to any Ham interested in continuing their education. See Greg for details.

Greg, N4PGS, reported on the Board meeting held on February 1. The main topic of discussion was the tax status of the club and whether to get a tax ID number or not.

Hein Hvatum, N4FWA, reported on upcoming events and placement of antennas for emergency use.

Bob Pattison, KM4DU, reported for the Education Committee regarding the class that has just started. Also, he announced the special event to be held at the Discovery Museum on March 19. Anyone interested in participating should contact Bob.

Here is a list of known Public Events for 1994:

BKRI Jefferson Cup Bike Race, part 1. Sunday 06 March 1994, 1330-1600 EST. Location of this event will be in the Boonesville area with start at the Broadus Wood Elementary School near Earlysville. So far 11 hams have shown interest. Need at least two additional hams who are willing to ride in lead cars provided by the race officials. Motorcycle hams needed.

BKR2 Jefferson Cup Bike Race, part 2. Sunday 27 March 1994, 1330-1600 EST. Location of this event will be around Keene with start and finish at the Walnut Creek Park. So far 8 hams have shown interest. Need at least 12 stations. There will be three lead cars, provided by the race people, needing hams. Motorcycle hams needed.

MSW1 Multiple Sclerosis Walk. Sunday 10 April 1994, 1300 (?) EDT. Walk in Charlottesville. Start and finish at the Omni Hotel.

DIM1 March of Dimes. Sunday 24 April 1994, 1400 EDT. Walk in Charlottesville, almost the same route as MSW1. Start and finish at the Omni Hotel.

MSB1, MSB2 Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour. Saturday 11 June and Sunday 12 June 1994. The annual two day bike tour. Same route as last year. Start at the Piedmont Community College (0545 EDT!), overnighn Farmville, and finish at the Stonewall Vineyards in Concord. 12 hams have signed up so far. Need about 35.

BKV1, BKV2, BKV3 Bike Virginia Bike Tour. Monday 27 June 1994, Tuesday 28 June 1994, and Wednesday 28 June 1994. This is a new one for us. The tour actually lasts for more than a week, but spends only three days in the Charlottesville area. The tour moves from place to place and spends one, two, or three days at each. During their three days in Charlottesville they will ride in different parts of Albemarle County each day, probably with 100, 50 and 25 mile loops.

They expect 1500+ riders which makes this event more than twice the size of the MS 150 bike tour.

It might be difficult to find enough hams to support this tour both because it happens on weekdays, and because it lasts for three days. Fortunately they want only 10-12 hams. (There should be enough retired hams around with nothing else (or more useful things) to do?)

It seems to be an extremely well organized group.

BKR3, BKR4 Virginia State Championship Bike Race. Saturday 09 July 1994 and Sunday 10 July 1994. Location not decided yet. This is a state championship event and could be held anywhere in Virginia. The local bike groups organize the race this year, and Albemarle County is the most likely candidate for the location.

MSB3 Multiple Sclerosis Harvest Tour. Saturday 10 September. Same route as last year. Start and finish at the Meriwether Lewis Elementary School.

DRL1 Emergency Drill. Thursday 22 September 1994, 1800 - ? Local (?) emergency drill. Similar to the airport drill last year. HRT1 American Heart Association Walk. Sunday 02 October 1994, 1400 EDT Last year this walk started and finished at the Barracks Road Shopping Center. Probably the same route in 1994.

Additional events that seem to happen annually are a triathlon, a biathlon, a diabetes walk, and one or two emergency exercises.

So be prepared, keep your batteries charged, and stay tuned.

Renew your ARRL membership through the AARC. Its fast, easy and your club will get \$2.00!!



Bragging may not bring happiness, but did you ever see a man, having caught a large fish, go home through the alley?

your way, at least you can feel you have acted positively.

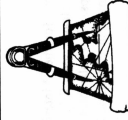
If you don't know who your local directors are, then find out. Don't let them govern in a vacuum and do what they want, make sure they know your desires and if they don't follow your wishes, then vote them out next time around.

We have to do more than serve our communities, we have to be sure we are SERVED, by those we elect to represent us in our organizations.

Pat - NORDQ

The man in the upstairs apartment yelled to the man downstairs...If you don't stop playing that clarinet, I'll go crazy!

Too late now...the other man yelled back....I stopped an hour ago!



T-HUNT DATE

The March T-Hunt will be Sunday, March 20th at 1:30 pm. This is a good way to celebrate the first day of Spring.

Joe - KD4RWX

REMINDER:

The Board and Technical Committees meet the first Tuesday of each month at NRAO and are open to everyone.



"To Join or Not to Join, That is the Question".

Whether Tis Nobler to Join and speak with a RESOUNDING voice or to stand alone and speak with a tiny one, is the real question.

In the past few months, we amateurs have seen changes and proposals that we never imagined, happening so suddenly. Vanity calls, instant licensing, lifetime operators license, and many other proposals to come.

The focus of this article is whether or not you should join a group such as the "ARRL". You can look at it anyway you want, but the fact is that unless you are gifted with a personal friend at the FCC, you are likely just one voice a myriad of QRM that writes or calls and generally complains the FCC.

Since becoming a ham (only thr. hort years ago), I have been a member of the ARRL and I have not once regretted it. YES, I have gotten upset with some of their positions and yes I have spoken my mind to them (on internet and in person). But the fact remains, that unless we hams gather to speak in a united voice, we will be overrun by those with the loudest voices.

I hate it that numbers mean more than good sense, often in the world of politics, and believe me the FCC is a political animal, by necessity.

If you do not belong to an organization, consider joining one for your own benefit. Whether it's your local club, an area repeater group, the ARRL, whatever.

Then make sure you let your position, on issues of import to the Amateur community, be known. This is your ONLY way of insuring you get to say what you feel. Even if things don't go

Club dues were due by January 1,
1994.

See: Sharon Duvall, KO4OC,
Treasurer



Send in your dues today and help support the AARC. Use the handy renewal form below.

Make checks payable to the AARC.

Name _____ Callsign _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Check one:

Single member per year - \$15.00 —

Family member per year - \$ 20.00 —

Voluntary Donations

Repeater fund \$ _____

Packet fund \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Send to:

Sharon Duvall, KO4OC 1774 Tinkers Cove Rd Charlottesville,
VA 22901



As I write this, there is about four inches of ice on the ground and the temperature is 31 degrees. This has certainly been a winter to remember and it is not over yet! Fortunately, all of our equipment is working well. We had a problem with the 146.925 repeater. It seemed to be off the air, but when N4YEQ and I went up to the site we could hear it from about 200 feet away. Apparently the power amplifier was dead, but the exciter was putting out a little power. Fortunately the old .76 machine used the same transmitter. We swapped the crystal oscillator module and the 146.76 transmitter became a 146.925 transmitter and the repeater was back on the air with more output power than ever. We also replaced the old duplexer with a new unit that was built by N4FWA. This new duplexer is very interesting since it does not have rings. We hope to improve the receiver sensitivity a little in the next few days. If you have not tried .925 recently you should check it out.

The WA4TFZ packet BBS has moved. The move went pretty well, although not without a little trouble. The computer did not survive the move from W4OTF's home to KC4YLX's home. Ed had to change to his computer to get the PBBS up. I am working on the old computer and hope to have it back in service soon. Until that time Ed says that the PBBS can continue to use his computer. I want to thank Ed for his tireless work to get the PBBS up and stable at the new site. I know that he did a lot of late night work when he was chasing a memory problem. I also want to ask everyone to be patient until all the bugs are worked out. Give Ed a little time to get everything set up. Remember, this is a hobby for him too.

You may have heard the message that 146.76 transmits

periodically when the weather is bad. It says "WEATHER EMERGENCY SHORT QSO PLEASE". Generally I don't like to use codes like "QSO" in voice transmissions, but the repeater has a limited vocabulary and that is the only way we could get the message across. I want to thank most users of 146.76 for following this request and keeping the conversations short and the repeater free for emergency traffic. I heard several people keeping track of family members and their progress on the very bad roads. They were able to share the frequency and get their reports through because all of us kept it short. Remember, the idea is not just to leave a small gap between transmissions, but to keep the conversation short and the repeater available. This is not required all the time, just when we have an emergency condition. However, it is not a bad practice to follow during morning and evening drive time.

That is about it for this month. I hope that by next month the weather will allow a trip to the mountain to make a few adjustments to the repeaters and other equipment up there. If you are interested in going up to the repeater site, let me know.

Sam - N4WJQ

A First!

Tractor-to-spaceshuttle-QSO: While baling hay on his farm in Fletcher, Oklahoma, Troy Rehling, N5VIN, contacted astronaut Bill McArthur, KCSACR, aboard STS-58 on October 28, 1993. Troy didn't have anything to write the QSL info on, "so I jumped out of my tractor, took my screwdriver and scratched it on my toolbox so I wouldn't forget!" It's a first, according to the SAREX Working Group.

Courtesy of March 1994 QST