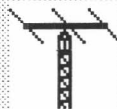


AARC Beacon



**Amateur Radio News
For AARC Members**

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club ~ Charlottesville / Albemarle County, Virginia

Volume 2000, Issue 6

June 2000

Inside this Issue

- 1 Meeting Notice
- 1 The President Speaks
- 2 Peep From The Veep
- 2 As I was Gonna Say...
- 2 New Name for the Bulletin!
- 3 Recent Upgrades!
- 3 More VE Testing News...
- 3 The American Red Cross and Amateur Radio
- 4 Club Business
- 4 Repeater Work Continues!
- 6 AARC and ARES/RACES
- 7 AARC Classified Ads
- 7 Hamfests of Some Note
- 7 FCC Database Updates
- 7 VE Session Schedule - 2000
- 7 Birthdays This Month

Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on June 13 at 7:30 PM, at the NRAO building at UVA. Our President, Bob, K4DU, will give us a talk and slide show on the recent 2000 Dayton HamVention.

The President Speaks

Bob, K4DU

It's summer and thoughts turn to two major events on the calendar, the MS150 and Field Day. Yes, we all most certainly have things that need to be done around the house and the shack, but these events are ones that are not to be missed.

Both events are fun, but underneath that fun, both of them are designed to test our preparedness, skills, and hone our abilities. The MS150 tests our ability to deploy a group of operators rapidly over an extended terrain. Field Day tests our ability to assemble a station in a short period of time and operate without the benefit of commercial power sources.

You may think that all these exercises are great fun, but "I will never be called to use these skills". Not so! Just a few years ago, within days of Field Day, ARES called out members of the AARC. They found themselves setting up a station in Madison County in the aftermath of torrential rains and devastating floods the wiped out all of the bridges over the Rapidan River. I recall that Field Day thinking how lucky we were that all of those showers passed north of our Field Day site.

Over the years hams in Albemarle have assisted local officials in several real life emergencies. These have included searches for people who were missing, opening shelters in the aftermath of hurricanes, working with EOC personnel to provide communications in Sugar Hollow and the evacuation of patients from a nursing facility in the aftermath of a fire. These are just the events that I recalled while writing this article; I know there were more.

We all hope that it never happens, but I will tell you this; I am proud to be a member of the amateur radio community in Central Virginia. I am confident of the skills that this group possesses and confident that should the call ever come that you will respond and serve our community well. There is a spirit of community here, may we be blessed with it forever.

73, Bob K4DU

Peep From The Veep

Dick, W4BZW

After getting through a change of QTH and taking advantage of some prolonged periods of rain and drizzle, I have tried most of the specialized communications modes that have been presented at recent club meetings. I would like to report that all perform as advertised and new software is available every day on the Internet, so take the plunge and give them a try.

The word that I get from those who attended the Dayton Hamfest was that it was the best ever. I am sure that it has grown many fold since my first and last appearance in 1960. Bob Pattison, K4DU, will present a slide show at the next meeting of the AARC on June 13 that will give all of us a peep at the activities at Dayton and the adventures of those from the area that made the trip. I know that it will be very interesting and I hope to see you there.

73s, Dick W4BZW

As I was Gonna Say...

Harry, W2HD

After returning from the big Dayton/ARRL show in Dayton, Ohio, I was full of Ham Radio ideas for this month's club news. It would have been a good idea to sit at the keyboard right away and begin typing. However, Dayton has a way of preempting that kind of activity and forcing a person into playing with the "toys" purchased at the show even if they were not the newest, most glamorous and most expensive items available. They were "just" accessory items, but they kept the keyboard quiet for a few days and therein lies the reason for "I was gonna say!"

The new June issue of "QST" had arrived while Dayton was alive with activity and the old bug bit... Just gotta take a look at the issue! After all, they had a recent equipment write-up on a new rig which had been purchased by one of our trio and there is always the editorial written by my good friend, K1ZZ, who chatted with me at the ARRL booth. His subject for "It Seems to Us" was entitled, "New License – Now What?" Golly, guys and gals, that's been the theme of my last several contributions and here was the ending written by someone else! What to do? I could always write the material and claim it was my "original" idea stolen by an old friend! Who would believe that? There are those who would say that Harry never had an original idea in his life! There are those who would question the originality of my thousands of previous words appearing in our beloved AARC Newsletter! No... better to 'fess up and do the best possible on highlighting Dave's ideas with my amplifying experience. Here goes...

First of all, please read Dave's well-chosen words. What, you don't receive "QST" and you're not going to join ARRL? C'mon now folks... there is no other organization doing the job for us in national and international circles. There is no other publication that covers the many facets of Amateur Radio like "QST" does. We'll have to get you signed up at the next club meeting.

Anyway, now that you have begged, borrowed or stolen the June issue and read the really excellent editorial, here are my few, minor additions:

Step one: We've covered getting on the air and a brief discussion of equipment that will do the job. I've offered some gear for getting on the air until the budget will permit you to purchase the latest and greatest.

Step two: This subject is an old one for yours truly and was covered in a recent article where assistance was offered to put a "sky hook" somewhere on your property so that you can get on the air.

Step three: Keeping a log is something I have not mentioned, but those who have been in my shack know about the umpteen dozen log books, entries in ink, which cover all my activities on the air. VHF/UHF contacts are logged only once with a computer listing of all the stations so you can go back and say, "Hi, Joe" as if you hadn't worked anyone else in recent months. Dave is right... I can review my Ham history with the logs, too.

Step four: No need to mention public service in CHO-ville, It's a religion here.

Step five: Goals have been the subject of many of our meetings.

Step six: Here in CHO-ville we do this on the party line... our repeaters!

I'll try to be original next month.

73.. /s/ Harry, W2HD

New Name for the Bulletin

Bob, K4UVT

After much deliberation, the AARC Publications Committee has decided on the winning entry in the contest for a new name for the club bulletin. We are pleased to announce that the bulletin is now officially named **"The AARC Beacon"** from this issue forward. The winning entry was submitted by Jim Crosby, WD4HWW. Congratulations, Jim! As our winner, Jim will receive a copy of the 2000 ARRL Handbook, compliments of the AARC. Also, many thanks to all those members who submitted an entry – you certainly made it difficult for us to choose from many good possibilities!

What is a BEACON? It is a transmitted signal/message that is periodically sent out. It is a signal/information to let Hams know that they can likely reach that destination - to know what is happening. It is a guiding "light" which comes into your shack/home.

Recent Upgrades!

Tnx to Joe, KD4RWX and Harry, W2HD

With the recent VE sessions on April 8 and April 15, there have been quite a few upgrades in the club membership! As you know, ARRL and the FCC were flooded with upgrades from the recent restructuring that took place on April 15. They are still catching up, so this list may not yet be complete! The list below shows licenses that have been issued and can be verified on the FCC website and/or the QRZ and Buckmaster databases.

Congratulations to the following members on their upgrades:

To General:

KA3NXN, W4BLL, KG4DIB, K4EBL, WD4EIA, WA4EMH, WB4FZV, WD4HMY, K4JMY, KB4JNI, WA4MHP, KE4NNT, WD4PKS, WB4RBW, KC4UCK and KF4UTD

To Extra:

KI4AE, K4DND, KN4FM, K4IRL, WA4IUN, K4LTX, WA4MHP, KD4MML, KS4NW, K4QKH, W4RAE, KD4TOR, N4WJQ, KJ4XZ, KF4ZGD and KA0JG

KF4FRO, KE4OIC and KE4KJB were also present at the April 15 session, but as of press time, their paperwork had not yet been processed by the FCC.

A whole lot of credit must go to Harry, W2HD, who organized the April 15 paper-only VE session, as well as to the entire AARC VE Team. In doing so, he and the team saved many people from having to drive all the way to Winchester or another site in order to submit the paperwork for their upgrades. A FB job es mni tnx, Harry & team!!

More VE Testing News...

Pat, K4OW

Richmond -- The test session held at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College served 46 applicants. We certified 2 Technicians, 22 Generals and 19 Extras. Only two candidates failed to upgrade their licenses. The testing and processing took only 2 hours 10 minutes.

I talked with the VE Liaison in Charlottesville, Harry, W2HD, and they upgraded 52 applicants, but did no testing.

Thanks to all who participated locally, W4ZJ, W4HZ, W4NM, W4ML, W4IB, K4GAU and WK4Y as well as all the applicants.

The next test session at J. Sargeant Reynolds will be held on June 10, 2000 and once again is a pre-register only test session. Email should be sent to k4ow@arrl.net. I am hoping to be able to place a registration form on my web page also that will register applicants for testing.

If you talk with any Technicians who have code privileges, but Technician Plus does **NOT** show on their license, they must bring proof before we will upgrade them to General on a CSCE. We will give them a CSCE for passing Element 3, but not show them upgrading, without proof. Please remind your friends and fellow hams that the burden of proof for any elements for which they have credit is on their shoulders. We can only provide the testing and processing service and cannot provide the proof for them in most cases.

73, Patrick Wilson, K4OW

The American Red Cross and Amateur Radio

Vic, N3DFS, with much help from Dick, K4EBL

The American Red Cross (ARC) had a great need for reliable and redundant communications when it becomes involved in a disaster or other emergency situation. As it has almost no communications means of its own, it must rely on cellular telephones and amateur radio communications.

The reliance on ham radio is one of long standing. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the ARC with the aim of facilitating communications support to ARC when the chips are down and other modes of communications fail.

While the ARC's needs are generally the same as any other organization supported by ARES/RACES, there are a few unique factors. We are one of the very few public-service organizations that respond to almost all the natural disasters. The ARC has licensed communications, but to a very limited degree. The 47.420 MHz system is in place in our Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV); it is of no use unless matched with others so equipped. "It takes at least two to communicate!" Locally, we have only one. Amateur radio transceivers and antennas can be mounted in/on the ERV to interface with ARES/RACES communications.

When the ARC opens a shelter, communications to, from and within the complex are essential. Amateur radio is essential here, and includes access to the National Traffic System (NTS). Other means, such as Family Radio Service, are well suited for use within the shelter, and does not interfere with the priorities of amateur radio.

No amateur radio frequencies have been agreed upon for Red Cross use across the nation. The supporting hams use common emergency frequencies for ARC and any other organization involved in a disaster or emergency situation. Locally, we have agreed upon the VHF frequency 147.540 MHz as the primary simplex frequency (we merely added a "one" prefix to the frequency assigned to the ERV), but have yet to agree upon a UHF frequency. Local amateur repeaters will be used, as available, both locally and in any area where ARC deploys.

A good dual-band amateur antenna has been installed on the roof of the ARC Central Virginia Chapter building on Rose Hill Drive in Charlottesville. The roof of that building is below the level of many of the surrounding structures. Five watts from an HT, however, will enable users to "hit" local repeaters. There is also a generator in the building for emergency power.

In terms of emergency communications practices, there are no procedures in place for the ARC; the ones commonly used by ARES/RACES are well suited for ARC purposes. "It ain't broke, and we ain't gonna fix it!"

As the ARC has important, even critical, roles to play in disaster situations, it behooves Amateurs all across the Nation to support those needs.

Note: Vic is a member of the Disaster Assistance Team and is the Communications Coordinator for the Central Virginia Chapter, ARC.

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes May 2, 2000

Attending: Pres. Bob-K4DU; Vice Pres. Dick-W4BZW; Sect. Joe-KD4RWX; Dir. Pete-KC4UCK; Dir. Mike-N4HRO; Dir Elmer-KF4UCI

Mike presented the amount in bank from Sharon: \$4416.84. Mention was made that the Antenna Analyzers needed repair. They are having display problems. The Board approved \$100 to fix HF analyzer. The Board approved \$100 to fix UHF/VHF analyzer.

Pete indicated that he expects future classes to be held. Planning will be necessary in terms of restructuring impact on needs.

Joe indicated that he planned to put out a mid year directory. This will catch up with the changes due to restructuring.

Bob will appoint a Field Day Chair or Chairs. Discussion indicated a preference to add a Tailgate Swap session for Saturday night.

A discussion concerning the need to reemphasize the limitations to purchases without approval.

Joe indicated that the Budgets had not yet been set (which allows an ease to purchase). He will have his budget at the June Board meeting.

Motion made to adjourn. Approved.

Regular Meeting May 9, 2000

Dave Damon, K4DND, presented a program on APRS. It was highlighted by the ways in which APRS can be used. Good job, Dave.

New members approved: Jamie Bernate, KA3NXN, Megan Bernate, KD4IDU, and Ronan Lynch, EI6GL.

Tom Rae, W4RAE, had a catalog for viewing.

The April Minutes were approved.

Mike, AC4ZQ, presented the Treasurer's Report: \$4416.84

Greg, N4PGS, mentioned some upcoming events.

June 10-11: MS-150 two-day bike tour to the North Carolina border.

July 7: Bike Virginia will come through Charlottesville. About 2000 bikers.

July 16: Jefferson Cup bike race

Harry, W2HD, mentioned the upcoming Greenbank trip, next Saturday. He mentioned a previously reported (AARC List) special speaker at the Lynchburg ARC's meeting. Also, Harry indicated that the April 8th exam session licenses have been issued. The April 15th paperwork is still being processed.

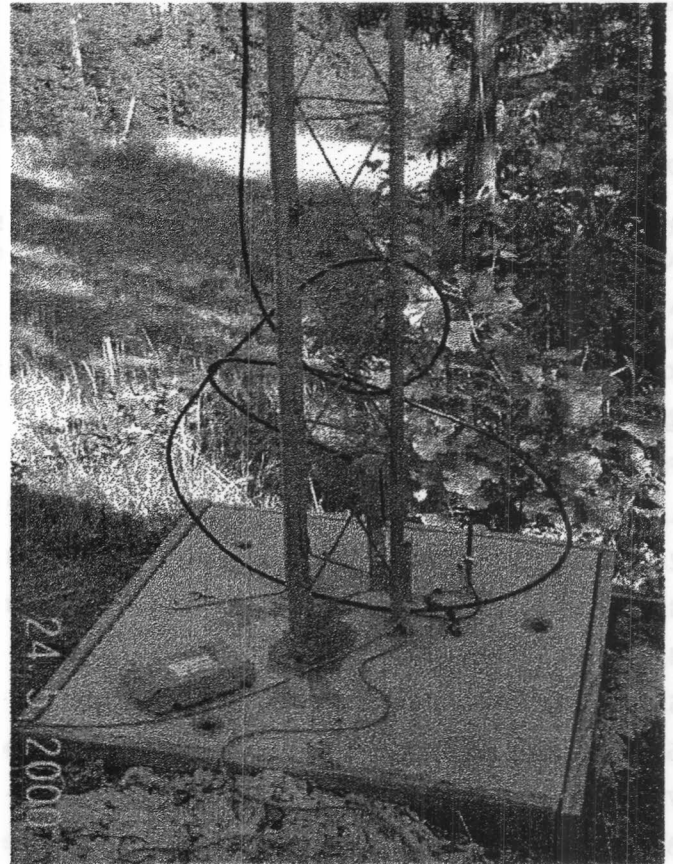
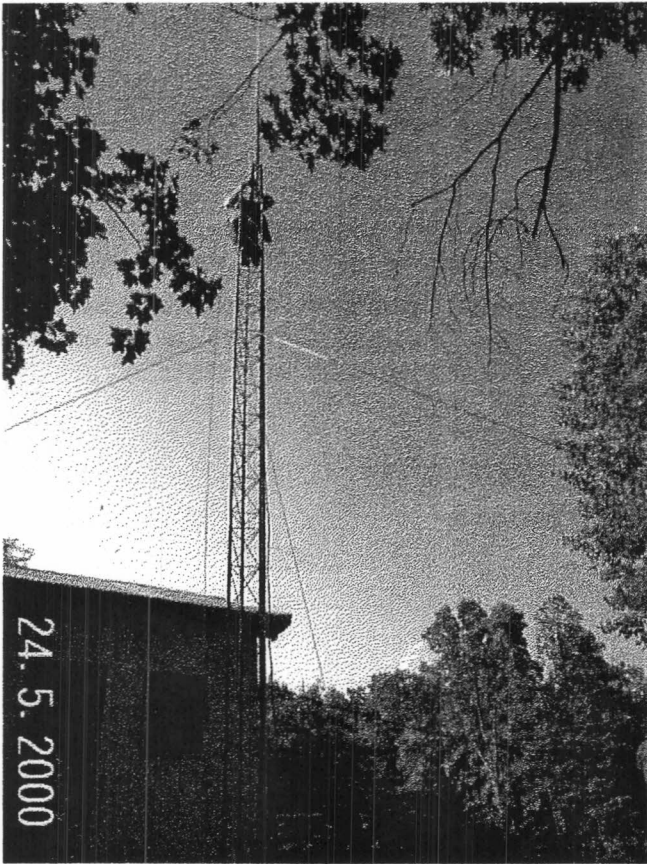
Meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz, Secretary

Repeater Work Continues!

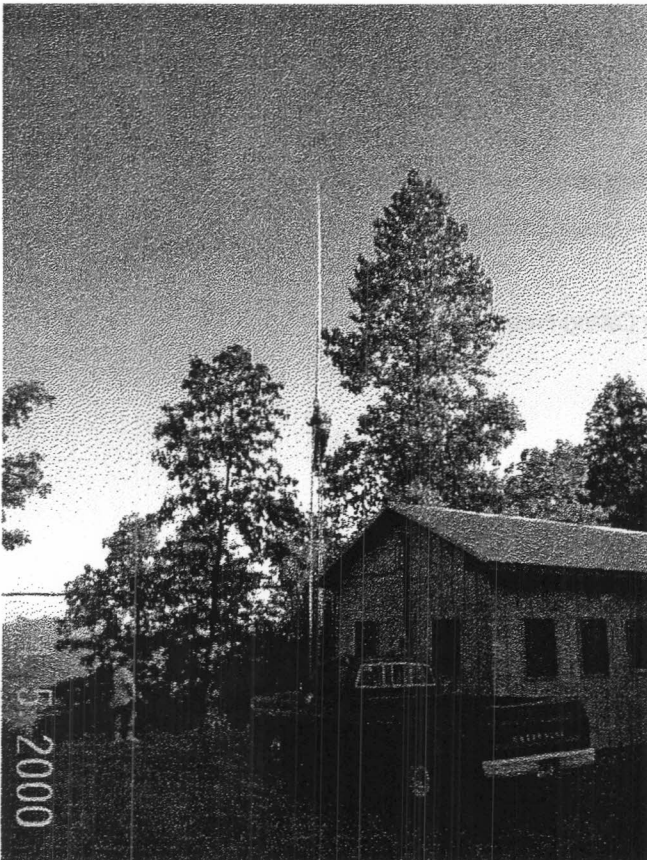
If you haven't noticed, the signal quality on the AARC repeaters is much improved of late. A lot of that has to do with upgrades to the repeater tower system. Here's some photos of Elmer & Mike in action to make that great new quality happen!

First, here is Elmer on the tower ---



And the tower does indeed clear the trees!!

Above are mods to the tower base..... and below, Elmer and Mike are putting on the finishing touches...



AARC and ARES/RACES

Dave, K4DND

It's been a while since you've seen this heading in the AARC Newsletter. I'm not going to make any promises, but maybe I'll get something put together from time to time for those who don't make regular net participation a priority (that would be a hint).

A couple of weeks ago on the net, we were looking at some of the frequencies that you need to have programmed in your hand-held and mobile radios in order to provide effective support for ARES/RACES. You may have additional frequencies that you need to add to this list. Your personal list need only be limited by the number of memories that your radio has available.

2M Frequency List

Frequency	S/D	Offset	Tone	Other
1. 146.52	Simplex	NA	NA	National Simplex Calling Frequency
2. 147.54	Simplex	NA	NA	AARC Simplex
3. 146.55	Simplex	NA	NA	AARC Simplex
4. 146.76	Repeater	-	88.5	WA4TFZ – Piney Mountain
5. 146.925	Repeater	-	88.5	WA4TFZ – Martha Jefferson Hospital
6. 147.075	Repeater	+	91.5	Waynesboro Repeater Assoc. – Bear Den
7. 146.895	Repeater	-	131.8	N4RAG – Buck's Elbow – linked to 147.225
8. 147.12	Repeater	+	NA	Culpepper – Clark Mountain
9. 147.27	Repeater	+	NA	Goochland
10. 147.33	Repeater	+	NA	Lexington
11. 147.30	Repeater	+	146.2	Bluemont – Skywarn
12. 145.41	Repeater	-	100	Madison – linked to 6M repeater
13. 146.88	Repeater	-	NA	Richmond
14. 144.39	Simplex	NA	NA	KF4UCI – APRS digipeater – Brown's Mountain
15. 145.73	Simplex	NA	NA	N4PGS – albebb – albend ARES/RACES packet

440 Frequency List

1. 446.00	Simplex	NA	NA	National Simplex Calling Frequency
2. 446.05	Simplex	NA	100	AARC X-band
3. 446.10	Simplex	NA	100	AARC X-band
4. 446.15	Simplex	NA	100	AARC X-band
5. 444.250	Repeater	+	151.4	WA4TFZ – Buck's Elbow
8. 444.400	Repeater	+	103.5	Madison link system to West Va
9. 442.075	Repeater	+	151.4	KF4UCI – Piney Mountain

Why put the National Simplex Calling Frequencies in memory slots instead of the call channels? Two reasons, this reserves the call channel for your favorite frequency for each band, in addition to the advantage of being able to include the calling frequencies when you are scanning memories.

AARC Classified Ads

This list contains FOR SALE or WANT listings for the last 30 days or so. All items must be related to amateur radio and must be surplus to the owners operation (i.e. no dealers or for profit). Price may be listed if desired. **Note:** Current month/week sale listings may be found on the **WA4TFZ bulletin board on 145.03 MHz**, the oldest continuous bulletin board in the state of Virginia. You can also find this list plus more on the internet at the WA4TFZ/AARC club page maintained by KD4RWX at members.aol.com/wa4tfz/aarc. Please note that all small letters must be used for this address.

New ADS may be placed directly to the Editor: 804 990-2659 or via E-mail at k4uvt@yahoo.com. **Please let K4RKA know when items can be deleted from this file. Updated 5/26/00**

5/4/00 COMPUTER RIBBON CALES	Ron, K4RKA, has a number of computer internal ribbon cables for floppy, IDE, MFMM/RL, & SCSI hard drives plus power cords.
5/11/00 FOR SALE: YAESU AZ/EL Rotor	Brad, N7IVV, has for sale a Yaesu G5400B azimuth/elevation rotator (for satellite work). Call 985-1528.
3/9/00 FOR SALE: BOX FANS	Available through Ron, K4RKA. 115 VAC 7 watt box fans, 120mm (4 3/4 inch) square. \$2 each. New old stock, and they run very quiet.
3/27/00 WANTED: ROTATOR	Bob, K4UVT, is looking for Ham-IV or Ham-V type rotator. Planning to put up 40' tower with a good-size Yagi on it this spring. Call Bob at (804) 990-2659 or email at k4uvt@yahoo.com
4/10/00 FOR SALE: YAESU FT-757GX TRANSCEIVER	Yaesu FT-757GXII HF Transceiver, 10 - 160 meters. Good condition. Includes hand mike and manual. Contact Pete KC4UCK at 973-2941.
4/13/00 WANTED: MFJ 1270 TNC (or newer)	Wanted by Greg, N4PGS
4/20/00 WANTED: 2M Mobile Rig	A friend of K4RKA is interested in a 2m mobile, prefer ICOM. It doesn't have to be a late model as long as it has 8-10 memories and CTCSS option. 10w ok. Contact Ron if you have something you would like to sell.
4/27/00 FOR SALE: Tower and Antennas	Jamie, KA3NXN, jbername@gte.net has a 48-foot Rohn tower, dismantled & ready to go for \$75.00. Cubix 6/2 meter cubical quad, and some Free Jpole antennas for 150, 220, 450 MHz. Moving to townhouse. 804 979-7750 (home) or (804) 978-2557 (Office).
4/27/00 FOR SALE: Ten-Tec Scout	Dave, K4DND, has for sale a Ten-Tec Scout w/tuner, keyer, hand mike, with 10/20/40/80 modules 973-5866

Hamfests of Some Note

None this month

FCC Database Updates

New Calls!

KG4HOB	Thomas R. Ruscher, Charlottesville
KG4HOC	Thomas H. Ruscher, Charlottesville
KG4HOD	Edward A. Leathers, Scottsville
KG4HOE	Audra Burchfield, Fairfax Station
KG4HOT	Timothy J. Miller, Schuyler

Upgrades

*** See Main Text ***

VE Session Schedule - 2000

June 3 Fredericksburg (W5YI/VEC) VDEN ARC	Edward A. Forman (540) 439-0568 EFORMAN@EROLS.COM 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) PRE-REGISTRATION REQUESTED Location: Salem Church Library-Mtg Rm B 2607 Salem Church Rd Fredericksburg, VA 22407
June 10 Richmond (ARRL/VEC) Richmond ARC/RAVE	Pat Wilson (804) 932-9424 9:00 AM (Advance Registration Required - No walk-ins; please call) Location: J. Sargeant Reynolds Comm. College 1651 E. Parham Rd, Bldg B, Room 201 Richmond, VA 23228
June 10 Madison (ARRL/VEC) Madison County VE Team	John T. Berry (540) 543-2580 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Location: War Memorial Bldg, Upstairs Auditorium Main Street Madison, VA 22727

Birthdays This Month

June 3	N1BTE	Ellen
June 3	KD4CTZ	David
June 3	N4PGS	Greg
June 10	KD4WFX	Tony
June 11	KE4UKW	Kaye
June 12	WA4ZZB	William
June 12	W4SM	Stacey
June 16	K4EBL	Richard
June 17	WD9EIA	Eileen
June 17	WB9HGZ	Paul
June 20	KD4ATH	June
June 23	K4VY	Richard
June 23	KG4FYF	Howard
June 27	W4BZW	Richard
June 30	WA4DWT	Vincent

June 2000

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6833
Charlottesville, VA 22906
<http://members.aol.com/wa4tfz/aarc/default2.html>



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THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2000 No. 6
June 2000

ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information

Daniel R. (Bob) Dorsey, Jr. K4UVT
PO Box 977
Charlottesville, VA 22902-0977
(804) 990-2659

K4uvt@yahoo.com or bdorsey@cstone.net

TO CORRECT LABEL INFORMATION CALL PHONE 973-1738: Your License expires... Oct 31, 2004 DYA
KA4JJD G 2000

CURRENT MEMBER

Michael F. Rein
109 Sturbridge Rd.
Charlottesville VA 22901

*** Next Club Meeting ***

June 13 - 7:30 PM

NRAO Bldg - UVA

CLUB MEETINGS and NETS

REGULAR Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

BOARD & TECHNICAL Meetings: First Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

Meetings are held at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) building on Edgemont Road (UVA)

LUNCHEON: Wednesdays - Area hams gather at the **Old Country Buffet** (OCB) next to TOYS R US on Rte 29 North from 11 AM - 1 PM

Monday Night Information Net - Each Monday at 7:00 PM

YL Net: First Monday of each month at 8:30 PM

Northern Piedmont Emergency Net / Swap Net / Technical Session:
Each Thursday at 8:00 PM

All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater

WA4TFZ REPEATERS

INPUT/OUTPUT

Tone Access (If needed)

146.160/146.760 88.5 Hz

(If tone is enabled, you can turn the tone off and back on temporarily by:

Temporary Tone OFF	DTMF 325*
Remove Temporary Tone OFF	DTMF 326*
Time	DTMF 10*
Tone Status of Repeater	DTMF 700*

146.325/146.925	88.5 Hz (if enabled)
223.160/224.760	No Tone
449.250/444.250	151.4 Hz (If enabled)
145.030	MACHO Node
145.030	CHO Packet Bulletin Board

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
June 13	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
June 11-12	MS-150 Bike Event
July 7	Bike Virginia
July 16	James Madison Bike Stage Race
November 5	Montpelier Horse Races

Please sign up at meetings when the SIGN UP CLIPBOARD is passed around. You can also send an email to Greg (N4PGS) indicating your interest in working particular events.