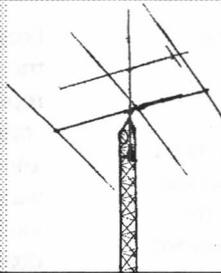


# The AARC Beacon



*Amateur Radio News For  
Charlottesville and  
Albemarle County,  
Virginia*

Volume 2000, No. 9

September 2000

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on September 12 at the NRAO Building at UVA at 7:30 PM. Our President, Bob Pattison, K4DU, will present the slide show on the 2000 Dayton Hamvention that was originally scheduled a couple months ago. See you there!!

## The President Speaks

*Bob, K4DU*

### "Greetings from the President..."

Some of you will do a double take, while others may not fully appreciate the power and the responsibility conveyed in those words. Those of you who served our nation in World War II, the Korean Conflict or Vietnam will recognize that phrase as the opening line of an induction notice from the draft board.

Have you ever thought about running for office? No, I'm not talking about Congress or the state legislature. I am asking if you have considered becoming an officer of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club or a member of the board. The pay is great! What do I mean? Well I'm not talking about pecuniary rewards. (I bet you thought you would never see that word again.) The reward is the satisfaction that comes from assisting in the growth of our great hobby and having the opportunity to "put a little something back" in return for all of the fun that the hobby has given you.

With summer coming to an end it is my constitutional duty to form a Nominating Committee. This group of fine men and women will be charged with the responsibility to select a slate of candidates that will be presented to the membership in the fall election.

As a club we have benefited from the labor of love that several people have put in over the years. I am saddened to report that our Secretary Joe Fritz, KD4RWX will not seek another term. Bill Bearden, KC4TQF has asked to be relieved from his duties as Chair of the Education committee for personal reasons. I have a great deal of respect for both Joe and Bill. In the course of the past few years each has served

the club with honor and distinction. We owe them both a huge debt of gratitude.

There comes a time when each of us is called to step forward and serve. I can honestly say that the years that I have spent as your President have been fun and personally rewarding. I have enjoyed representing the AARC to the community and Amateur Radio events around the Roanoke Division. It is an honor to serve.

In the course of the next few weeks you may be asked to serve or to suggest someone who would do a good job as an officer of the club or a member of the board. I urge you to step forward and respond positively to the request. Help us move the AARC and Amateur Radio on into the 21st century. It will be a great deal of fun and darn well worth it.

*Best regards & 73, Bob, K4DU*

## Peep From The Veep

*Dick, W4BZW*

The summer that wasn't has just about ended and our thoughts turn from outdoor activities to all those ham radio projects on hold since last spring. Those who attended the club picnic however got a real taste of summer both in spirit and in the weather. It was one of the few very warm days this season but all who braved the heat enjoyed some fine food and great company. I do not think we had a single case of someone showing up at McIntire Park rather than Pen Park. So I guess that we hams really do communicate.

It looks as if most of the pressing club business is behind us and we can finally hear the Dayton Hamfest presentation prepared by our President, Bob Pattison, K4DU. Bob took lots of pictures and I am sure that he has an interesting presentation prepared

A video will also be shown that will give us a good view of the new 146.76 repeater site. I understand that Elmer KF4UCI took the camera to the antenna level and obtained a view from the top. I am looking forward to this interesting program and I hope to see all of you there on Tuesday, September 12.

*73s, Dick*

## "That's All, Folks"...

*Harry, W2HD*

Many of you probably remember those words from the old movie cartoons. They meant that the cartoon feature had come to an end. Sooooo, what does that mean to us? Well, we have come to the end of one phase and the beginning of another with our "76" repeater. The hard-working crew

finished raising the antenna higher on the tower and has put the finishing touches on all of the adjustments of the new repeater system. OK, so, what does that mean? Very simply stated, it means that what you hear is what you will get on 146.760. The new site is not as high as Carter's Mountain was, but we don't seem to have any intermod or other interference at this time. Recent checks have shown that dozens and dozens of stations have reported excellent reception with the new location and also the ability to access the repeater with lower power and smaller antennas. Does that include you?

Possibly not and that's the reason for this month's column. If you are not having the results you desire and that may mean that you can no longer use an HT and "rubber duck" and you could before the loss of Carter's, all is not lost. You may have to give up that favorite easy chair, the porch swing or some other very comfortable spot, but you can move about your house looking for a "hot spot!" That's a place where the repeater signal is fairly strong and you can still use your HT/rubber duck. Move your easy chair to this location and you're in business!

OK, that solution didn't work for you! What next? Well, how about building a small ground plane or even better... a vertical dipole that could be hung from a window or some other support near a "hot spot?" Do you have a second floor, attic or crawl space? If so, put an antenna in that location and bring some RG-58/U through a closet that goes between floors. A small diameter hole in the closet ceiling won't be noticed and can be covered later with spackle (or "mud" as they say hereabouts!) Still not good enough? Well, you can build a small 3 or 4-element beam and direct it at the repeater. After all, that's really the only radio you're trying to reach... right? The beam might be hidden within the room or put in that upper area. Incidentally, not mentioned, but also a possible solution is a gain antenna... not a ground plane or dipole, but an elongated vertical... you will hear them called 5/8 wave verticals. They will topple most of the miniature HT's but you can solve that problem by securing the HT-5/8 combo in a "hot spot" near your favorite location in the house and then use a hand microphone with a cable made for the distance to your comfy chair!

Of course, there is always that old devil... "POWER!" You can use a small amplifier or even a larger one and put a big signal into your antenna. I prefer to leave power to the very last in any discussion about improvement in signal. All of the other solutions are easier and cheaper and frequently more effective.

Well, fellow club members, there are some items to consider. We can discuss them further at a meeting, on the air or OCB on Wednesday. Good luck.

*73's, Harry, W2HD*

## Elections In October

Joe, KD4RWX

It is that time again! At the September 12th meeting, the President is required by the AARC Bylaws, to name a five (5) person Nominating Committee. This committee will be tasked to put together a slate of Officers and Directors to be voted on at the October meeting. As is always the case, members will be able to nominate additional candidates from the floor at the time of election. Positions to be filled are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five (5) Directors.

The Nominating Committee will need to work quickly (within two Weeks). In order to inform the membership of the proposed slate, the Nominating Committee will need to send to the AARC Secretary the proposed slate in time for him to get it published in the October issue of the AARC Beacon. They are encouraged, but are not required, to contact the current Officers and Directors to determine their interest in being renominated.

Following the elections, the new President-Elect is encouraged to begin consideration of whom he/she desires to fill the committee positions established in the Bylaws. The names are supposed to be presented to the new Board at the January Board meeting. To check out the Bylaws go to: <http://members.aol.com/wa4tfz/aarc/bylaws.html>.

Good luck Nominating Committee!

## Positions Open - Help Wanted

Joe, KD4RWX, AARC Secretary

I will NOT be returning as Secretary. That Office will definitely require a new person to take on the responsibilities as are normally required. Neither will I be serving as Publication Committee Chair or doing those other activities, which I have been doing for nearly seven years. Therefore, the following position and activities will need to be filled by appointment or assigned to someone new.

**Publications Committee Chair** (Presidential appointment with Board approval)

### **A. Directory development and publishing: (2001).**

Design and publish the AARC Directory, beginning with the 2001 Directory. The 2000 Directory will soon be available. A new format must be developed by the person undertaking this responsibility. The Directory is published once each year. My directories were basically designed within the database software I used.

**B. Database maintenance:** Manage the AARC database and maintain information about area Hams and AARC membership. Preparation of mail labels for the AARC requirements will be required. The current database file

information will be passed on to the next individual using a tab-delimited file. No retyping of basic data should be required. This also requires checking the 4-5 days of FCC license reports each week and keeping tabs on other changes in basic information. The Database contains the foundation information for the Directory, the AARC membership and other possible reports.

**C. Mailing labels:** Primary needs are for the newsletters and the directories that are mailed.

**NOTE:** It is strongly recommended that the same person do A, B and C above. All involve the Database.

### **D. Awards:**

**HF Operating Certificates**- The AARC has several Awards for HF contacts. Each has had a special certificate design established. The individual assigned to manage this activity will need to design new certificates. Actually, the design is only the within-the-border portion, since we use stock bordered sheets. This activity is not frequently used and design time should be sufficient. The records of the previous awards issued will be provided.

**Public Service Certificates**- Each year we present these certificates to individuals who have achieved specified levels of Public Service activity. The database information of this activity will be turned over to the next person responsible for this activity. I will be responsible for the 2000 certificates that will be presented at the January, 2001 meeting. New certificates will need to be designed. The current ones are part of a database and automatically update and print the selected certificates.

**Ham of the Year Certificate**- This will need to be newly designed. Past records will be passed on to next person. Examples of all certificates will be passed on to the individual(s) responsible for the new designs. It is unlikely that current designs can be maintained.

**E. AARC Web Site:** For the last few years, I have maintained the AARC Web site. The web site has resided on my AOL account. An individual is needed to develop a new AARC Web site and maintain it. The new Webmaster will need to design a new web site on a new location. There are various possibilities for this. Some are free and some will cost. I will pass on my web pages, if possible. Under any circumstance, I will maintain the current, reduced number of web pages until the new site is established. When the new site is ready, I will maintain a web page that will redirect all current, incoming links to the new site. This will be true for as long as I am on AOL.

The software I have relied on extensively is a database program called FileMaker Pro (FMP). It is now produced by FileMaker, Inc., a subsidiary of Apple Computer. Originally developed for the Macintosh, it is now available for the Wintel machines. I maintained the data about area Hams. This included the membership of the AARC. The same file

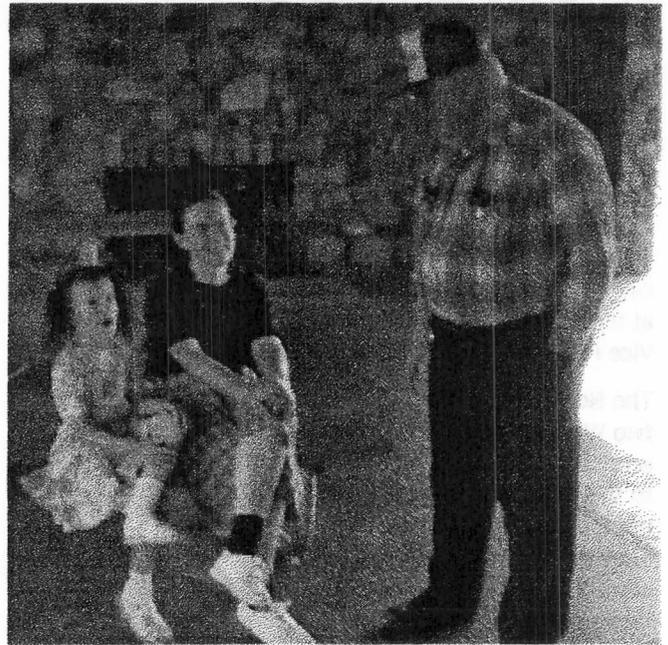
was structured to do about 95% of the Directory. Labels were produced by this file. All certificates were produced by FileMaker Pro. Separate FMP files were setup for managing the Awards certificates and the Public Service Events certificates.

The Web pages were developed and maintained using Claris Home Page 2.0 and 3.0. This Macintosh software also has a Wintel version. I will work closely with the new individual(s) during the transition phase. There is NO requirement to use this software. I am sure other Wintel software will work. In any case, a lot of design work will be involved, just as it was for me.

At this time, as the Publications Committee Chair, I am asking any individual who might be interested in doing any of the above activities and has experience in using the appropriate software, to please contact me. Having an existing AOL account might be a plus. Having an ISP account is a must. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Joe Fritz, KD4RWX, at 804 973-1738 or via Email at [kd4rwx@aol.com](mailto:kd4rwx@aol.com).

## August Picnic

Even the hot muggy WX could not stop our AARC'ers from attending the annual club picnic, which was held this year at Pen Park ...



## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes August 1, 2000

Attending: Pres. Bob-K4DU; Vice Pres. Dick-W4BZW; Sect. Joe-KD4RWX; Tres. Sharon-KO4OC; Dir. Mike-N4HRO; Dir Elmer-KF4UCI; Dir. Mike-AC4ZQ. Bob Pattison-K4DU presiding. Absent: Pete-KC4UCK and Jimmy-K4JMY were either ill or injured.

Sharon reported that there was \$4,136 in the bank. She indicated the equipment insurance was due. A discussion concerning if it should be paid or if we should self-insure ensued. Reflections on the Carters disaster, in which the

insurance played no role were made. A motion was made and passed to self-insure.

Bob directed Sharon to ask the ARRL what the cost would be on the new repeater. Mike-N4HRO asked if listing area repeaters in the newsletter was appropriate. No problem was mentioned. Mike said he would put together a list and submit it to newsletter Editor.

Pete-KC4UCK was not present due to injury. Bob asked that we need to proceed on the PR of upcoming classes. Bill-KC4TQF will be notified. He will be the instructor. *[Note: a few weeks after this meeting, Bill sent in his resignation as Education Committee Chair and indicated he would not be able to serve as instructor. He cited health and personal reasons.]*

Elmer indicated that the 146.76 repeater would be activated at the new repeater site very soon. He suggested that efforts to ready the 220 repeater need to be redoubled.

A question was asked concerning the location of some of the Club's TNCs. It was suggested that a check with AD4AD was in order.

Dick asked for guidance on the quantity of drinks to purchase for the picnic. Suggestions were made.

Joe mentioned that a Bylaw amendment will be part of upcoming business. Pointed out the requirement of the President to nominate a five (5) person Nominating Committee at the September meeting and he urged the proposed slate be sent to the Secretary in time for the September newsletter.

Joe indicated that for 2001, he would not return in an elected capacity and that he would not be doing the Publication Committee duties he presently does. Therefore, many and varied responsibilities will be reassign for next year. *[See related article in the September newsletter for details.]*

#### Regular Meeting August 8, 2000

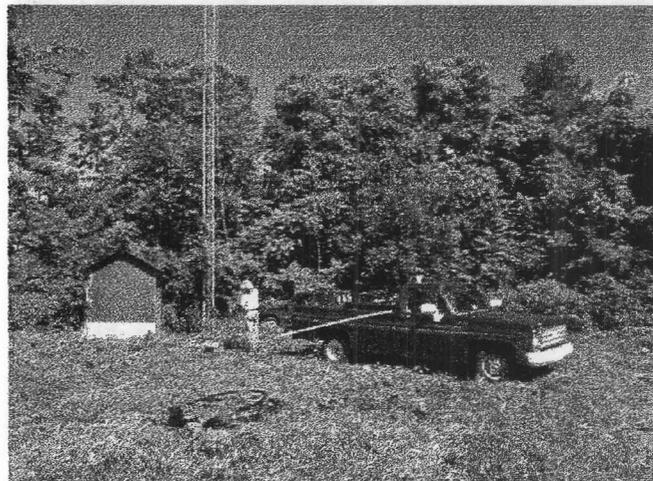
There was no official business conducted at this meeting. A picnic was held at Pen Park. A good time was had by all.

Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz, Secretary

## Grayson, KF4FYI - Silent Key

It is with deep regret that we must report that Grayson Dowell, KF4FYI, became a Silent Key on August 20, 2000. Grayson was very active in the club and was "always ready to help". He will be greatly missed.

## The New AARC 6.76 Repeater Site - In Pictures !!!

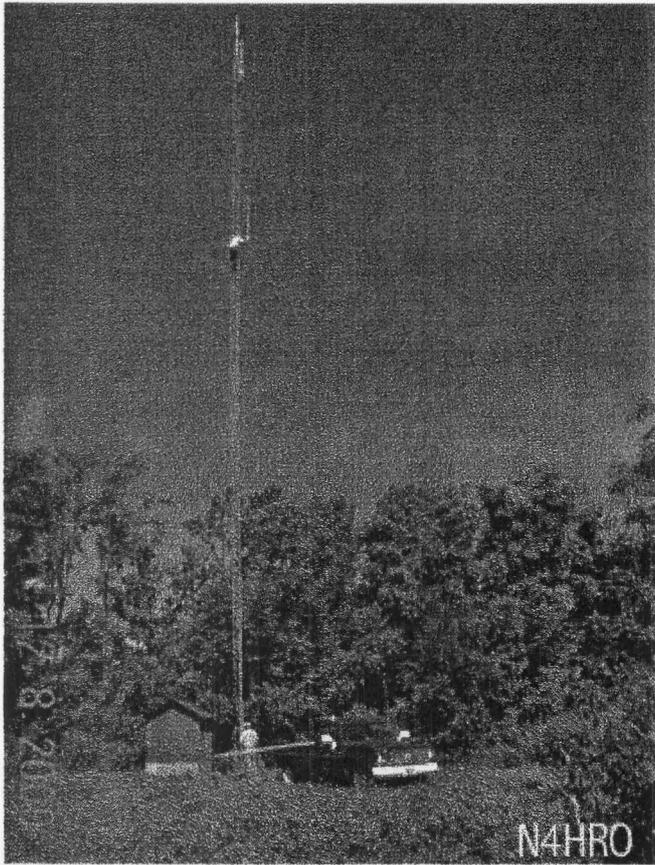


The AARC 146.760 repeater has moved to its new home at Marshall Manor and is continually being improved. Here are a few pictures, courtesy of Mike, N4HRO, to show you what has been happening recently ...

The first photo shows the new repeater shack with a little bit of the tower in view.

However, to give an even better view of the height of the tower, Elmer, KF4UCI, obligingly perched himself upon it ...

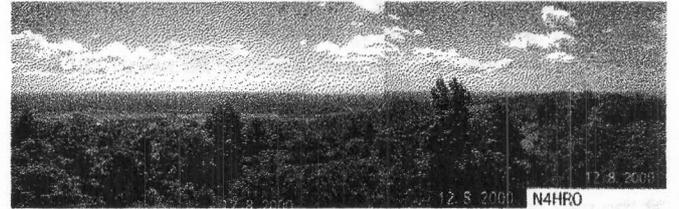
September 2000



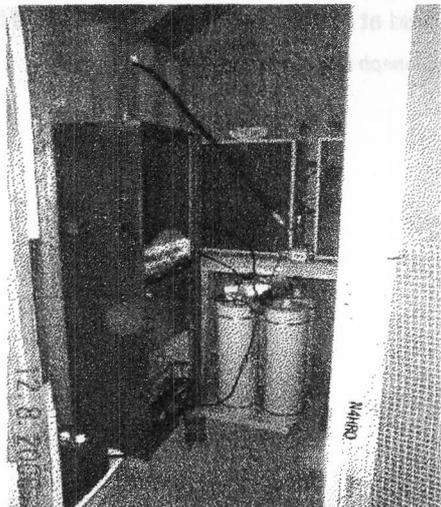
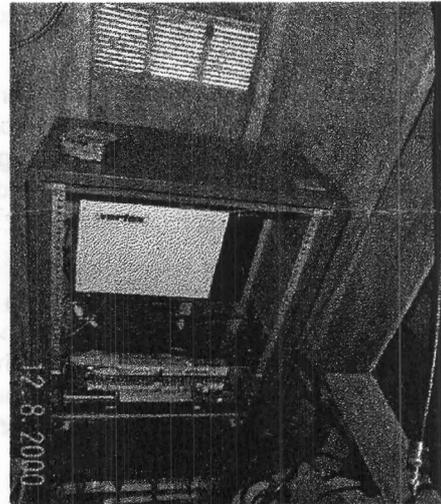
And this is what it looks like from Elmer's point of view ...



And from this lofty vantage point, you are treated to a spectacular panoramic view of the surrounding area --- we should get great coverage from this site!



Meanwhile, back down on terra firma, we have some views of the interior of the shack and the repeater gear itself.



## AARC Classified Ads

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:** Check also the WA4TFZ/AARC web page at [members.aol.com/wa4tfz/aarc](http://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](mailto:k4uvt@yahoo.com) Please let **K4RKA** know when items can be deleted from this file.

Updated 5/26/00

<b>8/17/00 FOR SALE: MOSLEY TA-33 Jr. TRIBANDER</b>	Rick, KO4WQ, has a Mosley TA33-JR 10/15/20m tri-band beam. 804 823-1128.
<b>8/24/00 FOR SALE: MFJ CW FILTER TEN-TEC KEYS</b>	Ron, K4RKA, offers a MFJ CW filter CWF-2 for \$5, works ok, and a Ten Tec KR20-A keyer with paddles. Needs work. \$10. 804 973-3640.
<b>8/24/00 FOR SALE: KENWOOD 2M MOBILE</b>	2m Kenwood 25w mobile transceiver model TR-7930, including manual, mounting brackets and antennas. Bruce Martin, N4MKW, 296-1184 or <a href="mailto:bmartin@alum.mit.edu">bmartin@alum.mit.edu</a>
<b>8/24/00 FOR SALE: SWAN 350 5-BAND TRANSCEIVER</b>	Ron, K4RKA, offers a Swan 350 5-band HF Xcvr, tube type w/power supply and manual, works ok, for \$50. Call 804 973-3640.
<b>8/17/00 WANTED: RECTIFIER TUBES</b>	Tom, W4RAE, is looking for 2 number 80 rectifier tubes. 804 978-2003.
<b>8/24/00 WANTED: ALINCO DUAL BAND MOBILE or HT</b>	John, KR4ZWG, is looking for an Alinco DJ580 HT or DR600 mobile, both dual band rigs. Call him in Blackstone at 804 292-7959.
<b>8/10/00 FOR SALE: D104 DESK MIKE</b>	Richard, K8EV, has a chrome D104 desk mike w/ preamp. 804 973-3723.
<b>8/10/00 FOR SALE: CUSHCRAFT R7 VERTICAL</b>	Ernie, W2EIU, has a Cushcraft R7 vertical antenna covering 10-40 meters. Has been used on 80 meters with an antenna tuner & does not require ground radials. 804 985-4180
<b>8/24/00 FOR SALE: VINTAGE RECEIVERS</b>	John, WA4IUN, offers some jewels for old-timers - two receivers, an Atwater Kent model 35 (missing one tube) and a Zenith Transoceanic. 804 296-9016 or email at <a href="mailto:wa4ifx@juno.com">wa4ifx@juno.com</a> .
<b>7/24/00 FOR SALE: Paddle MFJ Tuner 2M HT Scanner Transceiver</b>	Brown Brothers paddle, MFJ Versatuner 2 Model 941D with 3 coax w/ 1 balanced line input, including built-in swr bridge. Kenwood TR2600 2m HT - 10 memories, no tone board but Comspec has one that fits. Radio shack Pro34 scanner - covers 2m and 440MHz & up to 800 MHz, 10 banks w/ 20 memories each. Oak Hills Research Sprint 2-80 meter direct conversion Xcvr w/ built-in Curtis keyer. Joe, W2PVY at 804 589-1495.
<b>7/27/00 FOR SALE: DENTRON HF AMP</b>	Dentron Clipperton QRO 1 KW amp. Covers 10-160 meters. Uses 4 572B tubes. Call Bob, K4UVT, at 804 990 2659 or Email at <a href="mailto:k4uvt@yahoo.com">k4uvt@yahoo.com</a> .

## Area Hamfests

**September 23 & 24**  
**Virginia Beach, VA**  
**Tidewater Radio**  
**Conventions**  
**\*\*ARRL Roanoke**  
**Division Convention\*\***

<http://www.vahamfest.com>  
 Contact: Art Thiemens, AA4AT  
 2836 Greenwood Road, Chesapeake, VA  
 23321-4254.  
 Phone: 757-484-2857  
 Email: [aa4at@arrl.net](mailto:aa4at@arrl.net)

## FCC Database Updates

### New Calls

None Received

### Upgrades

None Received

## VE Session Schedule - 2000

**September 9**  
**Dayton (Harrisonburg)**  
  
**(ARRL VEC)**  
**VARA & MARA**

Gerald E. Nauman (540)434-0859  
 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**SIGN-IN 9:00 AM**  
 Location: Woodmen Of The World Bldg  
 U.S. 42 South of Harrisonburg  
 KN4FM@ARRL.NET (FREQ 145.130)

**September 9**  
**Madison**

John T. Berry (540) 543-2580  
 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
 Location:  
 War Memorial Bldg, Upstairs Auditorium  
 Main Street  
 Madison, VA 22727

**(ARRL/VEC)**  
**Madison County VE**  
**Team**

**September 24**  
**Lynchburg**

Charles L. Beard (804) 832-7651  
 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
 Location:  
 Central Virginia Comm. College  
 Room 2504 - Amherst Bldg  
 3506 Wards Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24502

**(ARRL/VEC)**  
**AB4M**

## Birthdays This Month

Sept. 2	N4HRO	Mike
Sept. 4	AD4CG	Buddy
Sept. 4	N4HRV	Bob
Sept. 7	K4QKH	Bow
Sept. 10	K8EV	Richard
Sept. 12	AA4KP	Carol
Sept. 13	KF4UCI	Elmer
Sept. 17	WD4HMW	Jim
Sept. 21	KE4ZNO	Fred
Sept. 23	AA4CN	Bruce
Sept. 26	KD4IDU	Meg
Sept. 28	W4KSH	Bill

September 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. 9  
September 2000

ISSUE DEADLINE - 23<sup>rd</sup> 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  
KA4JJD G 2000 CURRENT MEMBER

**Michael F. Rein**  
109 Sturbridge Rd.  
Charlottesville VA 22901

**\*\*\* Next Club Meeting \*\*\* 2290 September 12 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
September 12	Regular Club Meeting
October 10	Regular Club Meeting
November 14	Regular Club Meeting
December 12	Regular Club Meeting

**AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE**

DATE	EVENT
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.