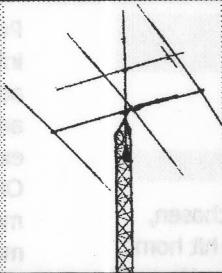


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2001, No. 5

May 2001

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on May 8 at the NRAO Building on the UVA grounds at 7:30 PM. Hein, N4FWA will introduce new POWER CONNECTORS and other subjects. It should be very interesting. See you there!!

The President Speaks

Stan, K2SSB

It's time to think ahead a bit. By the time you read this, you, the members of the Club, will have decided whether or not you want to take part in Field Day as a Club activity. On this score, remember that the principal reason that you have your ham ticket is not for your own enjoyment. Rather, you have is so that you will be prepared to give communications aid in an emergency. That is also the main reason that the Thursday evening net, the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net, meets.

Regardless of whether or not the Club votes to make Field Day a Club activity, you can be sure that some groups will be going out. Field Day is a bit like an infection - it is contagious, and once it sets in it is hard to get rid of the aftereffects. Those of us who operate on the "low bands" at home may have a habit of using high power, just to "knock the other guy dead." The spirit of Field Day is just the opposite. The guys that use low power and a portable antenna get point multipliers. As far as emergency power is concerned, the good ole gasoline powered generator has been standard for some time. But, if you read the rules you'll find that you get an even bigger bonus if you use battery power. That's what most of us did at Montpelier, for example. That's what real emergency preparedness means.

So, look carefully at what you have at home to see what might be useful in the field. Bring along your low power gear and give it a workout. You might be surprised what you can do. And check out the rules in your copy of QST for May. (What?? You're not a member of ARRL?? But that's another issue.) It's not too soon to begin to plan.

73, Stan

Veep Peeps

Vic, N3DFS

Volunteerism

At the April meeting, Greg, N4PGS laid some well-chosen, very powerful words on us. They rang true! They hit home to me! Guilty as charged! I have not done enough. Many, I hope, had the same reaction. I remained silent, in part, because I was ashamed at not having done more.

Winston Churchill, in my humble opinion, the greatest man in the XX Century, once said that public service is the rent we pay for being privileged to live here.

For us, that starts at home and works outward. Whatever we volunteer for, we should do it with gusto! No half-hearted stuff! If you are not going to put your all into it, quit! "Your all", of course, means after the amateurs' career and, more importantly, our families and homes. In a disaster situation, the hams are most concerned with our loved ones, property and immediate neighbors. Beyond that is our obligations to the chosen field: emergency communications. We are unique in that we have chosen the medium of amateur radio communications with which to apply our services.

Simple acts by us can make lasting differences in the lives of real people in our communities. There is nothing as self-fulfilling as helping others, whether it is in times of crisis, during public events or in less stressful situations. It does not give one "bragging rights" but rather makes one feel warm and good inside.

Some faithful hams answered the call and worked the Dave Matthews Band event on April 21st under the RACES umbrella. Kudos to them!

Thank you, Greg, for your words. They represented the true public spirit. They begged to be spoken.

73, Vic

Finally ... Let's Go Outside

Harry, W2HD

My columns of the last few months have concentrated on HF operation from locations where antenna problems are seen to exist. The main thrust of the material has been that you can "always" find a way to operate on the HF bands... perhaps not as big a signal as the fellow with the tower and multi-element beam, but more than adequate to have fun on HF.

Publications have been referenced where you can find information on "hidden" antennas. Catalogs and advertisements for reduced size antennas have been cited and some specific antenna examples were given. An outside example was the flagpole antenna available from a supplier. Other antennas: the mini loop, the Isotron, window/ledge-mounted whips, indoor wire antennas, mobile whips and many, many other antennas which can be basically installed indoors have been mentioned.

When opening the door and going out into the outside world, things change a bit. Antennas are now very clearly (?) visible to others (but, not necessarily so!) Some additional precautions must now be put into the equation, however. You must take note of power lines, telephone lines, cable TV lines or other wires coming on your property. Power lines are of particular importance and anything you do outside of the house should be certain to consider their position relative to any antenna location. While there may not be the chance for anything shorting, other wires or metal objects can make a difference in the radiation pattern of your planned antenna.

My son's (W2GG) "Antenna Farm" was briefly cited earlier, but here is a list of his outdoor antennas as supplied via E-mail: A Hy-Gain DX-88 trap 25-foot vertical, camouflage painted (can't be seen among the trees at a distance of 40-50 feet); Carolina Windom 30-40 feet above ground between some trees; an 80-meter SuperLoop in a triangle configuration fed at the lower apex with coax; 160-meter inverted "L"; and assorted wire beams which are difficult to keep elements aligned due to wire flexibility. Bob has put up special directional antennas in the trees when a new country comes on the air. Results? Well he has multi-multi-band DXCC with more than 300 countries total on record. It can be done!

Let's get back outside your house. A sloper antenna can be easily installed from an upper-floor window to a support. An under-the-eaves wire can be used... the overhang will hide the wire. A #20 or #22 wire (or perhaps even a smaller gauge) can be strung from a window and will be essentially invisible to the eye at any reasonable distance. One thing to remember is that most new, shining copper wire will be subject to oxidation and subsequent discoloration that will further reduce its visibility. Remember, also, that an antenna tuner is just about an indispensable necessity for most of this operation.

To sum up the last several columns, you absolutely CAN operate HF. Fifty to one hundred watts of power will do the trick and sometimes even less. You won't work everything and you will learn to be patient. After all, even the big guys don't always make contact on the first call!

One final comment is in order. Our club has a great deal of talent among its members so please do not hesitate to call on one of us to help with your particular situation. Several of us over the years have gone to members' homes,

observed the potential installation and assisted in the work to be done. If you need such help, don't be bashful... just ask! Good luck and happy HF operating.

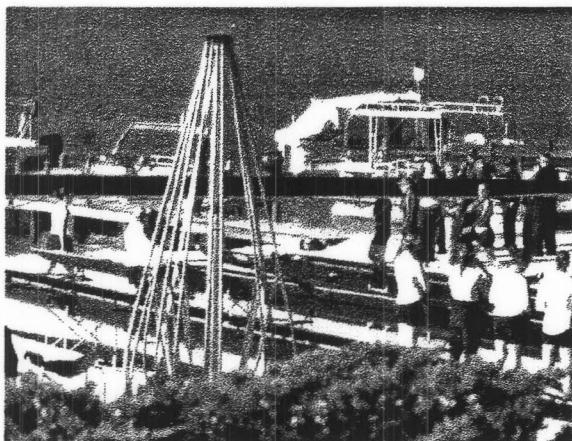
73... /s/ Harry, W2HD

Lake Monticello Boat Race Info

Rick, KO4WQ

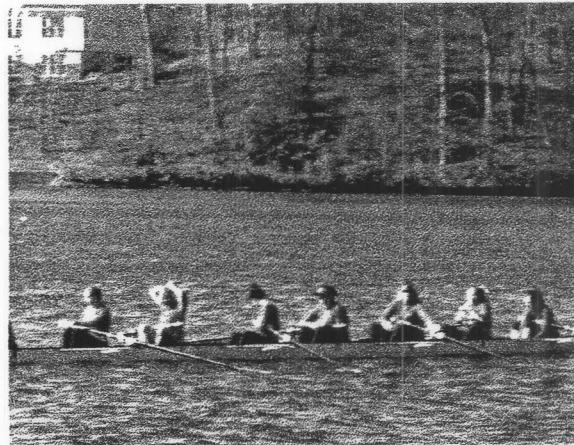


Thought you might be interested in some pix I took at the UVA boat races at Lake Monticello on March 24th.



We had three hams at this event. KG4FOL, Donna, was at the start line. Ernie, W2EIU, held forth at the finish line with myself, KO4WQ coordinating at the communications table. All went well and we even dodged the rain, even though it got quite dark and windy for the afternoon races.

73, Rick



We Hear That...

- Elmer, KF4UCI, has a new Email address at kf4uci@hotmail.com

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes April 3, 2001

Attending: President: Stan, K2SSB; Vice President: Vic, N3DFS; Secretary: Joe, KD4RWX; Treasurer: Ralph, K4CFE; Directors: Mike, N4HRO; Elmer, KF4UCI; Dick, W4BZW; Steve, KF4ZGD; Greg, N4PGS.

Ralph reported bank balance of \$3293.81.

Stan requested Ralph to include more details in Treasurer's report.

Get budgets to Ralph ASAP. Ralph needs agenda item to approve budget.

General discussion related to Red Cross offer for Damage Assessment training. Will bring up at regular meeting.

Greg wants some time at meeting to discuss volunteers.

Regular Meeting April 10, 2001

President, Stan, K2SSB, presiding.

Harry, W2HD led the audience in the singing of Happy Birthday to Joe, W2PVY.

Attendance: 30 members.

Minutes for March were approved by motion.

New Members were approved contingent on payment of dues. Matthew Brill, KR4BG and Joshua Malone (no call).

Ralph presented a Treasurer's Report. It showed a comparison with FY 2000.

May 2001

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club

Comparative Income and Expense Statement

FY 2000 and FYTD March 31, 2001

Revenues:	2000	2001
Dues	\$1655.00	\$1602.00
Donations	572.50	55.00
Fundraising	124.00	
Total Revenues	\$2351.50	\$1657.00
Expenses:		
Publications	\$1217.51	\$238.91
Activities	59.44	54.00
Meetings	231.08	44.40
Office	101.00	
Fees	25.00	
Repairs	242.90	
Electricity	152.35	
Total Expenses	\$2029.28	\$337.31
Excess Revenues	\$322.22	\$1319.69

Report was approved.

Elmer, KF4UCI indicated he was moving his repeater from Marshall Manor site.

Greg, N4PGS announced the MS Walk for April 22nd and the big two-day MS-150, June 9-10. He also announced that the event coordinator of the boat activity at Lake Monticello expressed **THANKS** for the AARC participation.

Greg, asking the question, "Do we want to continue Public Service Events?" introduced the plea that there is a serious need for more volunteers for the Amateur Radio activities we assist with each year. Greg also said we need a coordinator for Field Day coming up in June. Please contact Greg if you are interested.

Dave, K4DND requested that persons with Emergency Vests bring them to him for use at the Dave Matthews Band concert.

A vigorous discussion took place regarding the possible training of Amateur Radio operators for Damage Assessment by the Red Cross. Some spoke against it and others spoke in support of it. Skywarn was introduced into the discussion.

Concern was expressed about our inviting speakers and we do not follow up on training opportunities. Mention was made that most all communicating activities help prepare amateurs for emergency preparedness: such as Mobile Watch, Skywarn, and assessment.

The President cut the discussion short and canceled the program due to a storm in the area and some in attendance have a significant distance to travel.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz, Acting Secretary

Challenge for Committees

Joe, KD4RWX

Wouldn't it be nice if all committee chairpersons would periodically write a brief message, for inclusion in the newsletter, so as to inform the members of the AARC about what is going on in their committee? It does not take long to write a short report. Send them to your newsletter editor at k4uvt@yahoo.com.

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 <http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/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 to the Editor at k4uv@ yahoo.com Please let K4RKA know when items can be deleted from this file. Updated 4/01/01

3/24/01 WANTED: 12V DC Power Supply	John, WA4IUN, would like to purchase a 12 VDC, 10 Amp power supply. Call John at 804 296-9016.
4/5/01 FOR SALE: Beam and Towers	Bob, K4DU, has for sale the following: Sommers multiband beam, 20-6 meters, 6 bands, 11 elements. 58ft Rohn 25G guyed tower with rotator plate & thrust bearing. Cushcraft A-4 4 element, 3 band 20-10 meter trap beam. Cushcraft ATV-3 3 band 20-10 meter trap vertical. Contact K4DU@ARRL.NET to arrange a time to see the items.
3/22/01 FOR SALE: AEA TNC	Rick, KO4WQ, offers an AEA PK232MBX TNC, complete with original carton, manual, cables plus an MFJ microphone switch for use with the TNC. All in good working order. Reply to rberman@rlc.net or call 804 823-1128
3/1/01 FOR SALE: Icom 228H 2M Mobile	Bob, K4UVT, has an Icom 228H 2M Mobile rig with mobile mounting bracket and DTMF microphone. Also still have the manual! This rig still works FB – it just doesn't fit anywhere in the new automobile! Call 804 990-2659.
01 WANTED: le Rain Gutter	Ernie, W2EIU, is looking for a mobile rain gutter clip to hold an HF antenna down while passing under low objects.

Area Hamfests

None Reported	3/24/01	3/25/01	3/26/01

VE Session Schedule - 2001

May 3 Winchester (ARRL VEC) Shenandoah Valley ARC	Brian L. Mawhinney (540) 665-0761 bmawhinney@woodmark.com 7:00M (Walk-ins allowed) SVARC Clubhouse 2126 Grace St. Winchester, VA 22601
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Birthdays This Month

May 16	KE4AQD	Bob

FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	

May 2001

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6833
Charlottesville, VA 22906
<http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/aarc/index.htm>



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

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KA4JJG G 2001

Michael F. Rein

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 Charlottesville VA 22901

CURRENT MEMBER: 2001

***** Next Club Meeting *****

May 8 - 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

AREA REPEATERS

WA4TFZ

INPUT/OUTPUT

146.160/146.760
 146.325/146.925
 223.160/224.760
 449.250/444.250
 145.030
 145.030

Tone Access (If needed)

88.5 Hz
 88.5 Hz (if enabled)
 No Tone
 151.4 Hz (if enabled)
 MACHO Node
 CHO Packet Bulletin Board

Other Area Repeaters

145.410 (-) 100 Hz Tone (if enabled) -- AF4CY (Madison)
 442.075 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone -- KF4UCI

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
May 8	Regular Club Meeting
June 12	Regular Club Meeting
July 10	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
April 21	Dave Matthews Band Concert
April 22	MS Walk
June 9 - 10	MS 150
Early September	Simulated Emergency Training Exercise
Early November	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.