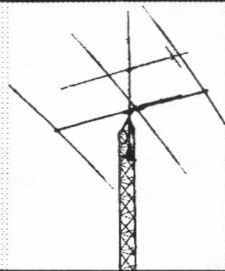


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2001, No. 6

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June 2001

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on June 12 at the NRAO Building on the UVA grounds at 7:30 PM. The featured speaker for this meeting will be Hein, N4FWA, who will provide information on new power connectors and a few bits on power supplies. It should be very interesting. See you there!!

## The President Speaks

*Stan, K2SSB*

It is rare that your President is given in one-month two red-hot issues on which to comment. This is one of those exceptional times.

The first issue is "damage assessment." You will recall that a substantial portion of the April meeting was devoted to a thorough, thought-provoking discussion of the subject. Everyone's opinions were well formulated and well expressed. Your President thanks all who took part. The discussion was so long that the featured presentation for the month had to be postponed. (Some have said that the discussion was much too extensive. Your President realized after the fact that he should have placed a time limit on each speaker, as is done routinely in the United States House of Representatives.)

The issue is whether members of the Club, as individuals, could contribute in a valuable way in a natural or man made disaster if they acquired skills that would enable them to help to evaluate the extent of such a disaster and to relay that evaluation to the appropriate authorities. One vocal opponent of our members' receiving such training expressed the view that our sole function as radio amateurs should be to provide communication links and to use those links to relay information. Permit me carry this line of reasoning to its logical conclusion, in another context.

Many of us radio amateurs have received training as part of the Skywarn program of the National Weather Service (NWS), a branch of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). We received

certification as weather spotters, and we were encouraged to immediately report instances of potentially disastrous weather conditions to the NWS. Included among these potentially disastrous conditions are the presence of clouds that may precede the formation of tornadoes. If we strictly followed the opponent's argument, we would be compelled to contact a local member of the NWS (if such existed), and let that member do the evaluating and reporting. Can this procedure possibly result in the issuing of the earliest possible warning by NWS? Is this what we want and what is in the best interest of the public?

The second issue is that of the Bylaws of the Club.

The Club is an incorporated organization. As such, it has two documents that govern its affairs. Both of these are legal documents and as such should be in good legal form. When I assumed office as your President at the start of 2001, I asked that a copy of these documents be provided to me.

The first document is entitled "Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc." This document is required by the Commonwealth of Virginia to be filed with the Commonwealth. It is what created the Club as a corporation. It states that the procedure for dissolving of the Corporation is the same as that for amending the Charter. Your President asked other members of the bylaws revision committee (see later) where the Charter is. The members told him that there was none. The Restated Articles of Incorporation (as they are written in the copy that was given to me) contain no procedure for amending themselves, yet that same copy of the Restated Articles contains an amendment. Isn't this curious?

The second document that governs the Club is entitled "By Laws of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club." *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* states (p. 551) unequivocally that bylaws are a legal document, and explains in considerable detail how the language of bylaws should read.

I examined the current "By Laws" in detail. I discovered that the language was so loose and the syntax so bad in some cases that the bylaws were fatally flawed. I brought this to the attention of the Board at its February meeting and presented a proposed revision. The Board directed me to convene a special committee whose charge is to review the existing Bylaws and to recommend their revision or replacement. The committee consists of me and four other Full Members of the Club.

The Bylaws committee has met some six or seven times. There is a fatal rift of opinion between your President and the remaining members. Your President has insisted that the instructions set forth in *Robert's* be strictly adhered to, has drafted his proposed revision accordingly, and has presented a revised draft at each meeting. The remaining members have insisted that the document that sets forth the Bylaws is not a legal document, and therefore that the Bylaws

document should be written in such simple and loose language that the average member could readily understand it. Alternative drafts prepared according to these guidelines have also been presented at each meeting of the committee.

Your President devoted seven years of his professional career at Kodak to drafting and reviewing patent applications. He is also registered as an Agent to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Based on this experience, he finds the alternative drafts so loose and full of legal holes that they are essentially meaningless and are no better than the existing bylaws. In spite of his protestations and his pointing out the requirements set forth in *Robert's*, the committee has insisted that the alternative series of loosely worded drafts are the only ones that are to be given serious consideration.

At one point in the 1960s, your President asked a patent attorney associate at Kodak for some guidance on a simple legal matter, whether a collection agent had any legal authority to enforce collection of a supposed debt. His response: "No, but this opinion is worth exactly what you are willing to pay for it." As your President sees it, the same applies here. The legal documents upon which the Club is founded are worth no more than the quality of the care that has gone into their preparation by a competent lawyer who specializes in corporation law.

From your President's point of view, the committee has reached an impasse. As members who have a high stake in the future of the Club, you have a choice of the way in which you want your Club to be governed. What kind of bylaws do you want? One of the choices is a quick and dirty "fix" that consists of spoon fed Pablum sitting on a "foundation" of quicksand (which really isn't a fix at all). The other choice is a quality product created by a legal professional. Which approach will make the Club healthier?

Please let me know your reactions and opinions. My telephone number is in the Directory.

73, Stan

## Veep Peeps

Vic, N3DFS

73, Vic

## Memories, Memories ...

Harry, W2HD

Sitting here before my word processor program with my fingers getting ready to put words on the monitor and into this month's "Beacon" contribution, my mind wandered in

memory of Field Day. Yes, memories of Field Days past... brought about probably by the fact that the AARC would not have a Field Day 2001. What an awful thought after some rather meager participation in 2000 where health problems took over during the planning and early execution stages of what was going to be an effort to put WA4TFZ on the air again. Many had hoped for a return to our earlier years with dozens of participants, the club picnic on Saturday evening and the general comradeship that develops during a real club effort. Gee, those hot dogs, salads and desserts tasted good!!! Memories even made them taste better!

Well, fellows and girls, there isn't going to be an old-fashioned AARC Field Day this year. No one volunteered to coordinate the stations, antennas and all of the other details that enter into the planning of the activities. Too big a job? Not really, nothing that two or three... maybe four... members couldn't work out. However, we didn't even have one or two volunteers so Field Day remains a memory for many of us.

Is that any reason why the Club can't have a Field Day entry with WA4TFZ listed in the results pages in a future issue of QST? Not really... if a small group... two or more... is planning any kind of operation in the field. They could sign WA4TFZ with the club's OK and a copy of our license on display at their site. That would be just about what we had in action in 2000. We didn't break any records, but the club call was listed among the hundreds of participants for last year. Any takers for this operation?

And, if you can't participate even to this extent, how about operating from your car, a table in the back yard, inside a screened deck? You can use your regular A.C. power, your regular antenna system, or switch to battery operation. I'm considering putting a new QRP, all-band rig into operation operating from a D.C. power source from the comfort of my air-conditioned shack. No, that's hardly "roughing it" but the body works better with those "creature comforts!"

While enjoying my laughing approach to Field Day, each contact made with a real, live station in the field will help their score and that can be my contribution to FD 2001. Yes, I don't mind telling you that I'll miss helping set up the antennas and stations and the looks of satisfaction from someone making his/her first HF contact. And yes, the odor of those hot dogs will linger and the memory of our Saturday picnic get-together will return. I'll be able to recall our satellite station, Novice/Tech station and all the other truly memorable parts of Field Days past.

Maybe the year 2000 will give you the opportunity to join in those memories. In the meantime, take a small part in Field Day this year. We can have Field Day... really, we can! BCNU and 73...

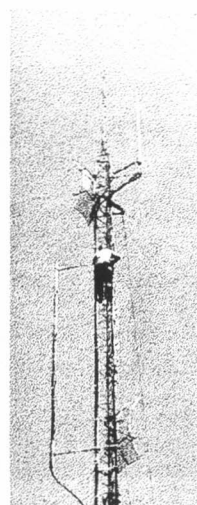
BCNU and 73... /s/ Harry, W2HD

## New NWS Warning Transmitter Imminent

*Vic, N3DFS - Photos / Captions Tnx N3DFS*

Saturday, April 28, an outdoor Hein - N4FWA, Jimmy - K4JMY, - KF4UCI and his Sergeant Richard communications Albemarle County breakfast in the the group then behind Elmer for a until he climbed

**Elmer, KF4UCI standoffs on the**



was a fine day for project. At 8 AM, Dave - K4DND, Vic - N3DFS, Elmer son Jonathan, and Martin, the officer of the Police, had city. The rest of trailed along short distance --- the tower.

**adjusting the new antenna**

Fan Mountain, south of Charlottesville, already hosts a tower with several antennas on it. Their job was to add one for a National Weather Service transmitter for the greater Charlottesville area. They traveled in convoy over a rough, narrow and winding road that passed the University of Virginia's observatory part way up.

**Jimmy, K4JMY and Hein, N4FWA hold a rope**



Elmer climbed the tower. First he had to take down a lightning-damaged antenna from the very top of the tower and then haul another one up to replace it. The breeze worked itself up into a wind that, thankfully, subsided.

Then he had to oversee the putting together of the NWS antenna, haul it up, bolt it in place, haul up the 7/8" hard line, connect it and then secure it to the tower. The gain of



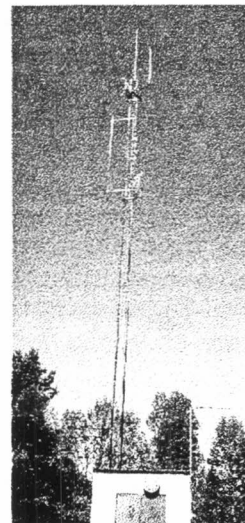
the antenna is 9 dB to the front, toward Albemarle County, and 3 dB to the back, toward Nelson County. Next came the testing: with 150 watts in, the signal was heard S9 all over the area of coverage and even as far as Blackstone. The 1,000 watts expected from the permanent transmitter should do wonders, but they may settle for 750.



**Dave, K4DND steps in to see what it is attached to**

The transmitter has arrived. They are awaiting improvement in the feed telephone line. Hopefully the station will be on the air by late May. The transmitter will operate on 162.450 MHz and will be tuned for its own area of coverage. The data will be provided by the NWS center at Sterling, but will be specially tailored for this area.

**The work crew (Left to Right) – Vic, N3DFS; Dave, K4DND; Sgt. Richard Martin; Hein, N4FWA; Elmer, KF4UCI; Elmer's son Jonathan and Jimmy, K4JMY.**



**The completed installation**

**\*\*\*\*\* NOTE \*\*\*\*\***

**The weather antenna was installed by ARES/RACES members, not AARC members, as stated on the web site. The reason for this is because the club did not seem interested in the Skywarn class, so we did the work as ARES/RACES members. --- Elmer, KF4UCI**

## We Hear That...

- Josh Malone, who joined the club at the April meeting, has received his new callsign - KG4NGV. He went home and listened to the local repeaters for a bit and found his first contact pretty quickly! He thanks the club very much for its help in getting him on the air. Congratulations and welcome, Josh!
- Robert H. Nelson has a new address. You may reach him at PO Box 8304, Charlottesville, VA 22906-8304.

## Club Business

**AARC Board Minutes May 1, 2001**  
*To be presented in next issue*

**Regular Meeting May 8, 2001**  
Cancelled – NRAO meeting hall not available  
*Submitted by Joseph D. Fritz, Acting Secretary*

## MS 150 Bike Tour - Public Service Activity Info

*Greg, N4PGS*

Folks --- It's time once again for the Multiple Sclerosis 150 Bike Tour, one of the premiere events of Public Service for our Club. The Tour is scheduled for the weekend of June 9-10 and although it's a two-day event, typically our involvement is for the first day only, Saturday June 9th.

Unfortunately we didn't have a chance to talk about this event at our May Club meeting, so I'll try to spread the word about it through various communications channels and give everyone an opportunity to sign up.

For the Tour, we'll need:

- a ham at each Rest Stop (seven)
- two to three hams in cars to drive MS officials (roamers)
- three to five hams in cars or trucks to support the riders (SAGs)

for a total of twelve to fifteen hams for the first day. Of course, everyone is invited to participate the second day, but our neighbor hams in Lynchburg usually take on that duty.

The beginning of the Tour starts at Monticello School at about 6:30 AM. All the roamers and SAGs start there and move with the group. The Rest Stop hams can go right to their locations.

Several of you have already signed up - Thanks! There is still plenty of room for more, though, so please contact me or Hein if you are interested. Give us your name, call and preferred location and we'll do our best to put you in a spot you'll like.

**Notes:** For each Rest Stop - there are seven rest stops counting the Finish. We like to have at least one ham at each rest stop able to talk to the rest of the net through one or more repeaters, so a mobile rig is usually needed. Working a Rest Stop is a nice, quiet job and usually a fairly short one. Rest Stops can shut down after the last rider has passed through, so the close in Stops, 1,2,3 and 4, usually are done by early afternoon. The locations of each Rest Stop are as follows:

**Rest Stop #1** at New Bethel United Methodist Church - On 620 near Woodridge. Take 53 from 20 then turn south on 795. From 795 turn south (left) on 620.

37 54.08N 78 26.15W

**Rest Stop #2** at residence of Virginia Tapscott - On 726 just north of Howardsville. Take 20 to Scottsville and then west on 726.

37 46.72N 78 33.18W

**Rest Stop #3** at Glenmore United Methodist Church - On 602 at 655 just north of Glenmore. Take 20 south from Scottsville to 655. West on 655 to Glenmore.

37 40.31N 78 35.39W

**Rest Stop #4** at Fork Union Baptist Church (LUNCH) - On US60 just east of Buckingham near 638 junction. Take 29 south to Lovingsston, 56 east to US 60 and then US 60 east to 638. Turn south (right) on 638 to the church.

37 32.82N 78 33.55W

**Rest Stop #5** at residence of Kathryn Morris - Take 15 south to 636 (Sheppards). Turn west (right) on 636 to the Morris Farm.

37 24.08N 78 32.85W

**Rest Stop #6** at Sharon Baptist Church - Take 15 south to 636 (Sheppards). Turn east (left) on 636 and proceed to the intersection of 636 & 600.

37 22.09N 78 24.11W

**Rest Stop #7 (FINISH)** at Longwood College - In Farmville

37 17.92N 78 23.71W

## A New Repeater ...

*Ed, KF4UTD*

I was tuning around on 440 and came across a new repeater on 443.25, tone access of 107.2. I didn't hear much on it, but it was full scale and reachable on a handheld with the standard attenuator and a mere 2.5 watts.

After a while I heard some signals from Dominica, an island in the West Indies. I thought, man, that is some ducting!! But not so --- what I was hearing was an example of the IRLP net, which is a form of repeater linking which uses the Internet. After some time I've heard calls from VK land, England, Canada, many areas of the Southwest, etc.

The IRLP information page is at <http://www.irlp.net>. If you follow the active nodes link, the repeater heard here is part of the Washington D.C. node. If you click on that node, you get a detail page that shows all the repeaters that are linked to that node. 443.25 is listed as licensed to WA3KOK, which is the owner of the D.C. node. Location is Fork Mountain, the same as the 444.4 repeater, and with the same incredible coverage.

While I've been listening, I've been a bit cautious about calling. I'm not sure if one is supposed to kick in cash in order to participate, and I haven't been able to bring up any local users to ask questions. The IRLP system needs a broadband level Internet connection (meaning cable modem or DSL) at the main node repeater location, and also an

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account on the IRLP server. That, and the cost for the controller card/modem and software mean that someone is paying a fair amount at the central node for the system. I forgot to mention, you also need to deploy a robust Intel "box" at the main node too.

If any one has any info on the repeater arrangements, please post it here. Otherwise, if you have the 440 band, give it a listen. It's fun, runs from a handheld or mobile, and is not short of exotic DX, if it can be called that. This is bit-level propagation, with all sorts of hiccups and buffer overruns. So, it's not real propagation, but maybe they'll figure out a way to simulate the ionosphere with the Internet. Anyway, it's kind of fun listening to Bernadine, on Dominica (J73), rag chewing during her drive to church. Give it a try.

## 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 [k4uvf@yahoo.com](mailto:k4uvf@yahoo.com) Please **let K4RKA know when items can be deleted from this file.** Updated 4/01/01

|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5/29/01 FOR SALE:<br/>2M Antenna &amp; Dipole</b> | Diamond 2M antenna Model F-22A, 7/8 wave \$45.<br>Carolina Windom Dipole Antenna \$25.<br>Call Bill Steo, N2MUL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>4/5/01 FOR SALE:<br/>Beam and Towers</b>          | Bob, K4DU, has for sale the following:<br>Sommers multiband beam, 20-6 meters, 6 bands, 11 elements.<br>58ft Rohn 25G guyed tower with rotator plate & thrust bearing.<br>Cushcraft A-4 4 element, 3 band 20-10 meter trap beam.<br>Cushcraft ATV-3 3 band 20-10 meter trap vertical.<br>Contact K4DU@ARRL.NET to arrange a time to see the items. |
| <b>3/22/01 FOR SALE:<br/>AEA TNC</b>                 | 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                                                                                                                                |
| <b>3/1/01 FOR SALE:<br/>Icom 228H 2M Mobile</b>      | 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.                                                                                                                          |
| <b>4/26/01 WANTED:<br/>Mobile Rain Gutter Clip</b>   | 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

## VE Session Schedule - 2001

|                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>June 9<br/>Richmond</b><br><br>(ARRL VEC)<br>Richmond ARC/RAVE           | Patrick Wilson (804) 932-9424<br><a href="mailto:w4pw@arrl.net">w4pw@arrl.net</a><br>9:00 AM (NO Walk-ins allowed)<br>J. Sargeant Reynolds Comm College<br>1651 E. Parham Rd. Bldg. B<br>Richmond, VA 23228 |
| <b>June 10<br/>Winchester</b><br><br>(ARRL VEC)<br>Shenandoah Valley<br>ARC | Brian L. Mawhinney (540) 665-0761<br><a href="mailto:bmawhinney@woodmark.com">bmawhinney@woodmark.com</a><br>1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)<br>SVARC Clubhouse<br>2921 Grace Street<br>Winchester, VA 22601     |
| <b>June 17<br/>Lynchburg</b><br><br>(ARRL VEC)<br>AB4M                      | Charles L. Beard (804) 832-7651<br>1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)<br>Central Virginia Comm College<br>Room 2504 - Amherst Bldg<br>3506 Wards Road<br>Lynchburg, VA 24502                                        |

## Birthdays This Month

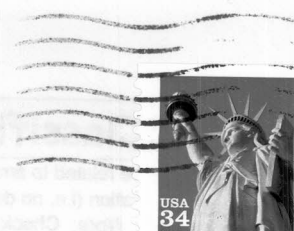
|        |        |         |
|--------|--------|---------|
| Jun 3  | N4PGS  | Greg    |
| Jun 11 | KE4UKW | Kaye    |
| Jun 12 | WA4ZZB | Bill    |
| Jun 12 | W4SM   | Chuck   |
| Jun 16 | K4EBL  | Richard |
| Jun 17 | WD9EIA | Eileen  |
| Jun 17 | WB9HGZ | Paul    |
| Jun 20 | KD4ATH | June    |
| Jun 23 | K4VY   | Dick    |
| Jun 23 | KG4FYF | Howard  |
| Jun 27 | W4BZW  | Dick    |
| Jun 30 | WA4WDT | Vincent |

## FCC Database Updates

| New Calls     |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| KG4NGV        | Josh Malone |
| Upgrades      |             |
| None Reported |             |



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



**THE AARC BEACON**  
**Vol 2001 No. 6**  
**June 2001**

**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**

KA4JJD G 2001

**CURRENT MEMBER: 2001**

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

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

**June 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**

**AREA REPEATERS**

**WA4TFZ**

**INPUT/OUTPUT**

**Tone Access (If needed)**

146.160/146.760

88.5 Hz

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

**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                |
|--------------|----------------------|
| June 12      | Regular Club Meeting |
| July 10      | Regular Club Meeting |
| August 14    | AARC Club Picnic     |
| September 11 | Regular Club Meeting |
| October 9    | Regular Club Meeting |
| November 13  | Regular Club Meeting |

**AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE**

| DATE            | EVENT                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| June 9 - 10     | MS 150                                |
| July 7          | Bike Virginia                         |
| July 16         | James Madison Bike Stage Race         |
| Early September | Simulated Emergency Training Exercise |
| 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.