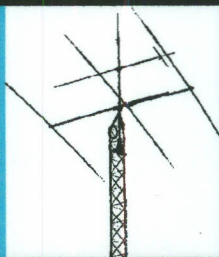


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2002, No. 12

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December 2002

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at 7:30 PM at the **Astronomy building on the UVA campus at the corner of Alderman and McCormick**. The program for the evening will be announced. **Please note that club meetings will no longer be held at the NRAO building.**

See you there!!

## Board Meeting Notice

The AARC Board will meet this **Tuesday December 3rd at 7:00 PM at the Astronomy Building at UVA**. Board members whose terms begin in 2003 are invited to attend.

## The President Speaks

*Bob, K4DU*

As 2002 draws to a close it is time to take stock of where we stand and set plans for the future. The AARC has a long and rich tradition of service to ham radio and the community here in Central Virginia. In January a new administration will take charge and it will be their responsibility to move the club forward. In recent weeks some have asked me what I thought the club should be doing in the weeks and months to come.

The club is the focal point for radio enthusiasts in Central Virginia. Recognizing that, I believe we should expand our programs. We should work to bring in speakers that will present the full breadth of our great hobby. From kit building to microwave, to HF, digital modes, antenna design, propagation, and software and beyond, we must continue to attract and feature speakers that will expand our horizons. We also must promote the club, our meetings and activities more effectively to the wider community. We must continue to embrace the idea that we are a learning community. The



clubs activities help spawn interest in new subjects, hone new skills and add to our knowledge.

We are no longer the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club. We have active members from the city of Charlottesville (which is actually not part of Albemarle County), Greene, Orange, Augusta, Fluvanna, Nelson and Louisa counties. Several of the officers and board members do not reside in Albemarle. We are the radio club of choice in "Central" or "Piedmont Virginia". It is time that we recognize this. Even if we don't change the name, let us address the fact that we need to engage the larger community that we serve.

As a club we must actively promote the hobby to people throughout the community. I have always favored engaging schools and scouts because I believe that today's young people are the future of the hobby. I am a ham today because someone cared enough to share the hobby with me when I was 12 years old. We must grow our numbers. A growing number of licensed amateurs will ensure the survival and advancement of the hobby. Each of us should set a goal of personally recruiting and helping one new ham into the fold each year.

I would like to take the time to thank all who pitched in this year to make things happen for the AARC. Thanks to:

- Bob K4UVT for the excellent job on the Beacon,
- Pete W4PRT for stepping forward to chair Field Day,
- Elmer KF4UCI for a wonderful job keeping the repeaters running,
- Joe KD4RWX for keeping the publications going,
- Marty AD4GN for an excellent job as club secretary,
- Steve KD4HBX and Marty and everyone who helped on the Annual Club Picnic and First Annual Swapfest
- Greg N4PGS for handling public service events (with Dave K4DND and Hein N4FWA giving full support),
- Will KJ4XZ and Ron K4RKA for their work obtaining surplus items for recycling,
- Tom W4RAE for teaching classes,
- Ernie W2EIU for doing an excellent job with PR,
- And everyone else whose name and calls I neglected to mention.

We are a vibrant club that succeeds because many volunteer to work public service events, help with special projects like Field Day, classes, VE Sessions, elmering and share what you know with others.

To do the work at hand we need others to step forward. The current slate of board members and volunteers will not

feel that you need to be asked to step forward, consider this as your engraved invitation. If you have expressed an

interest in working on something in the past and feel as if it fell on deaf ears, step forward again. Occasionally things fall through the cracks and your assistance is too valuable to let that happen.

The club will be what its members make it. Yes, we have our roots in FM repeaters and public service, but we are much more than that. It would be nice to see the AARC active in ARRL contests. As we embark on the journey to the future I must admit I am eager to see what it holds and to be an active part as we move forward together. The AARC is a very special club. Together we can make it even better!

Finally, thank you for your patience and support over the years that I have served as your AARC President.

*73 de K4DU*

*"El Presidente"*

## Veep Peeps

*Josh, KG4NGV*

*No VP column available at press time*

## Reflections of An Oldtimer

*Stan, K2SSB*

"Hi, I'm Stan, K2SSB. "How many of us have introduced ourselves to our amateur radio friends this way? Actually, strictly speaking, this statement is not true.

To see what I am talking about, we have to go back to

people who were then "old timers" for my information). Before 1949, the FCC began issuing to successful applicants a single piece of paper which was headed "Amateur Radio License." Before the time of the transition, the license consisted of two separate parts. One part was an operator license, while the other part was a station license.

We can look to the radio and television broadcast media for a parallel. Are the call letters assigned to the people who operate the station, or, rather, are they assigned to the transmitter that emits the radio frequency signal? The interest of the FCC is directed to proper operation of the station, so that it operates within the applicable laws and regulations. To be sure, responsibility for proper operation is vested in a trustee or other legal entity. If the FCC suspects

take corrective action.

As my first Amateur Radio License was issued while I lived in Massachusetts, I know most about the situation in the first call area. At about the time when World War II broke out,



the FCC ceased issuing amateur radio station licenses and their corresponding call signs. It did, however, continue to issue amateur radio operator radio licenses. It did this because possession of an operator license by an individual constituted proof that the individual possessed a known level of technical skill in the radio and communications arts. Such people were valuable to the armed services. In time during that War, all men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five were subject to the draft.

When World War II ended, the FCC resumed its issuance of station licenses. In New England, the station license calls that were assigned resumed about in the middle of the W1Nxx series. (At that time, prefixes that began with K were confined to Territories of the United States. For example, stations in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were issued K4xxx calls, those in the Canal Zone were issued K5xxx calls, those in Hawaii were issued K6xxx calls, and those in Alaska were issued K7xxx calls.) Soon, however, the FCC realized that paperwork could be reduced by issuing a combined operator and station license. To this combination license it gave the name Amateur Radio License. The license has been known by this name ever since.

This may appear to be a trivial distinction. It isn't. Let's say that Joe Ham goes to the home of Jane Ham and requests permission to operate Jane's transmitter. (Recall that it is Jane who is responsible for the proper operation of any transmitter located at the "fixed transmitter location" shown on her license.) The call that must be used by any transmitter located at Jane's home is the call that is on the license that was issued to Jane. Joe must therefore use the call that shown on Jane's license and not the one that is shown on his license. The converse applies whenever Jane visits Joe's home and wishes to operate a transmitter that is located there.

What if Jane wishes to test her own transmitter at Joe's home? I believe that she would use the call that is on Joe's license. That is because (until licenses issued in 1988) the license form consisted of two parts. One part gave the call and mailing address of the licensee, while the other part gave the address at which any licensed transmitter was to be located. The most recent licenses no longer make this distinction, but I believe that this procedure is still correct. During portable operation, Jane (or Joe) can use her (his) call anywhere except where a station license exists. At such a location, Jane (Joe) must use the station call letters that are issued to a transmitter operating at that location, and none other.

Complicated? Yes, a bit. Yet there is a real distinction between (a) the license which is granted to an amateur radio operator after he/she has demonstrated the requisite technical and regulatory skills and knowledge and (b) the license (and the call letters associated with it) that is assigned to an amateur radio station.

Sooo -- the next time you introduce yourself, "Hi, I'm Joe, KD4xxx," stop for a moment to think what it really means.

Steve, KF4ZGD

Here are some interesting links relating to battery construction that I ran across in researching a question for the Thursday technical session. The first one describes the manufacture of an alkaline cell, and the second describes a carbon-zinc cell.

[http://www.varta.com/de/magazine/download/universal\\_alkaline\\_plakat\\_e.pdf](http://www.varta.com/de/magazine/download/universal_alkaline_plakat_e.pdf)

[http://www.varta.com/de/magazine/download/zink\\_kohle\\_plakat\\_e.pdf](http://www.varta.com/de/magazine/download/zink_kohle_plakat_e.pdf)

#### **AARC Board Minutes November 5, 2002**

Board opened at 7:15 P.M.

Members Present: Bob K4DU, Marty AG4DN, Pete W4PRT, Will KJ4XZ. Members Absent: Ralph K4CFE, Steve KF4ZGD, John KX4P, Steve KD4HBX, Josh KG4NGV.

This was the first meeting to be held at the University of Virginia, Astronomy Building.

Since there was not a quorum present the attending members discussed, in an informal manner, transition to the new Board in January 2003.

Items discussed were:

- The January annual dinner. Various locations were discussed.
- In August the picnic and perhaps having a tail gate "hamfest" as we had this year.
- The VEEP article in the Beacon will be reactivated and Pete W4PRT indicated he would submit material.
- The monthly programs for 2003 were discussed. Various subjects were noted and follow up will take place at the appropriate time.
- The desirability of reviewing the club committee structure.

There being no further business the Board meeting closed at 8:00 PM.

*Submitted by Marty AG4DN, Secy.*



## Regular Meeting November 12, 2002

Bob opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. This was the first general meeting in the AARC's new location, the Astronomy Building on the University of Virginia Campus.

There followed the introduction of members.

The ground rules for use of the meeting room were explained. The room is to be put back in the same order in which it was found. The location of parking and rest rooms were noted.

Bob now turned to a round table discussion of "Contesting." He started by stating that the object of contesting was fun and it was not expensive to participate. He next requested a show of hand of those that had performed contesting outside of the "field day" event. There were many in the room that had participated in the past. Individual members chose to relate their experiences with this aspect of the ham radio hobby. The experiences were varied and interesting. A suggestion was made from the floor that a column in the newsletter cover the contests for the coming month. This would enable those who did not have any prior experience to prepare for the event. It would also enable experienced testers to provide guidance to those who desired to enter this area of ham radio.

The membership then approved the Minutes of October's General Meeting.

The 100% success of the seven individuals that took the Tech, General and Extra tests on November 2 was noted. Congratulations were offered to the Education Committee for a job well done as this was the first time in recent memory that the pass rate was 100% for a testing session. There are two new Extra's, one new General and four new Tech's.

Ben KG4QVP announced that a **class session for Technician will take place at the Albemarle High School starting on February 3, 2003. The class will meet on Monday evening 7 PM to 9 PM for eight weeks.** Those who have friends and relatives that are interested should contact the high school directly at 975-9450 to reserve a slot for the class. The cost will be \$30 per student. The fee will cover the Tech preparation book and other overhead expenses.

Roger W4EI invited all who want to view a contest to come to his shack. Call 985-4402 and make your arrangements with Roger.

The club thanked Pete W4PRT for arranging the use of the Astronomy Building for AARC General and Board meetings.

It was noted that the club still has Sperry equipment for raffle or direct sale.

Use of the 220 band and the club 220 net for Monday at 8:30 PM was discussed.

Elmer KF4UCI, Chairman of the Technical Committee indicated that he desired to step down from this position. He did agree to stay on until a replacement could be found.

Greg N4PGS and Dave K4DND discussed public service events and RACES/ARES preparedness. Greg indicated he desired more participation in the future and the club would be more selective in what it chose to support. Dave indicated he felt that participation by club hams at the most recent event was poor. It was pointed out that public events and rapid response to calls for ham support are all part of emergency training. Some members indicated that if the membership had more advanced notice of events the response might well be better. Dave indicated that the RACES phone tree would be updated as well as the RACES list. It was made clear that 146.76 MHz is the emergency frequency for simplex operations in the county and city. Greg notified the membership that the next public service event would be March 6, 2003. This will be an emergency drill. More information will follow as it comes available.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn, second and passed. The meeting closed at 9:15 PM.

*Submitted by Marty AG4DN, Secy.*

# Happy Holidays!!

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And a Prosperous New Year!!

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| <p>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 August be placed directly to the Editor: 804 990-2659 or via E-mail to the Editor at k4uvt@yahoo.com Please let K4RKA know when items can be deleted from this file. Updated 4/5/2002.</p> | |
| Need a Manual?? | Here are some sites recommended on the Thursday night net... www.w7fg.com , alinc.com , kenwood.com , icom.com , hamradio.com . If that is not enough, W2EIU, Ernie has a bunch of manuals, both old and new and K4RKA has several military equipment manuals. Good hunting... |
| 10/31/02 FOR SALE: 10 element 2M Beam | Ron, K4RKA, has for sale a 2 meter beam for \$20. Call 434-973-3640. |
| 11/14/02 FOR SALE: Rohn Tower | Jeffery, KG4QWR, wants to sell a 55-60 foot Rohn tower, presently in concrete but will be taken down. Asking \$150 or best offer. Please contact Jeffery on 146.76 or 147.075 repeaters. Also a discone scanner antenna \$30 & a 2m 5/8 MFJ vertical \$15. C all 540 894 9177. |
| 10/31/02 FOR SALE: 450 MHz Scanner | Lewis, WD4PKS, offers a Unimetrics Durascan 4 450 MHz, 4 channel scanner with crystals for our 444.250 repeater. \$20or trade for ?? Call 434-979-7077 |
| 8/15/02 FOR SALE: K4MTX Estate Sale | Channel Master stereo headphones, \$5. 6 outlet ac power strip, solder sucker, soldering iron, Wollensak stereo headphones \$3 each or best offer. Speaker \$2. Contact Ron, K4RKA, on .925 or 434 973-3640 |

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| None reported | |
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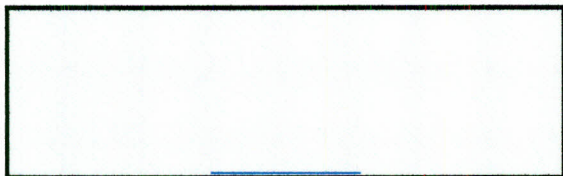
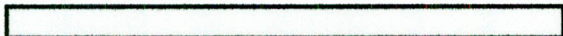
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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| KG4VVY – Technician | William S. Bear, Stanardsville, VA |
| KG4VVZ – Technician | Dale R. Wagner, Lake Monticello, VA |
| KG4VWA – Technician | Jonathan E. Moore, Howardsville, VA |
| KG4VWQ – Technician | Regina L. Rae (XYL W4RAE), C'ville VA |
| KG4TWQ – To Extra | Howard C. Gay, Afton, VA |
| KG4DGS – To Extra | Matthew S. Sommer, Keswick, VA |
| KG4QVO – To General | Ronan Lynch, Ruckersville, VA |

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| December 7 Madison (ARRL VEC) Madison County VE Team | Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: John T. Berry (540)543-2580 Email: AF4CY@ARRL.NET Location: Upstairs Auditorium Main Street Madison, VA 22727 |
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|----------------|----------------------|--------|--|
| President | Bob Pattison | K4DU | rep4@aol.com 434-985-4828 |
| Vice President | Josh Malone | KG4NGV | kg4ngv@tovaris.com 434-760-0417 |
| Secretary | Marty Mait | AG4DN | mandim8@aol.com 434-589-2825 |
| Treasurer | Ralph Traylor | K4CFE | kf4zgd@iuno.com 434-296-7418 |
| Director | Steven Traylor | KF4ZGD | kf4zgd@iuno.com 434-296-7418 |
| Director | Will Seay | KJ4XZ | 434-823-5665 |
| Director | John Green | KX4P | jgreen@comdial.com 434-975-4493 |
| Director | Peter R.Thorsen, Jr. | W4PRT | pri7u@virginia.edu 434-973-6888 |
| Director | Steve Clements | KD4HBX | |



<http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/aarc/index.htm>



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 **Wood Grill Buffet** on Rte 29 North from 11 AM -- 1 PM

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

Youth Net: Each Wednesday at 7:30 PM on 147.075

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

All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater (except for the Youth Net)

WA4TFZ

INPUT/OUTPUT

146.160/146.760
146.325/146.925

Tone Access (If needed)

151.4 Hz
151.4 Hz

223.160/224.760
449.250/444.250
145.030
145.030

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**

December 10

Regular Club Meeting

November 2

Montpelier

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.