

The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2003, No. 6

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June 2003

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 10 at 7:30 PM** at the **Astronomy Building on the UVA campus**. The program for the evening will be a **presentation on the Madison County repeaters by Buddy Nighswonger, AD4CG**. Should be interesting!

See you there!!

## The President Speaks

*Steve, KF4ZGD*

It's officially June! Time to get out the tents, radios, and BBQ grills, and head on out to Earlysville Fire Dept. This year's Field Day will be the best in terms of number of stations on the air that we have had in quite a while, so come on out and make it a success. It will also be a homecoming, of sorts, for all the active club members, non-active club members, and also those who have let their membership lapse over the years. So, there will be as many people present as you can invite!!! Remember, XYLs and family are also welcome, and be sure to invite anyone who is interested in Amateur Radio, and wants to see what it is all about!

Well, I have been staying busy over the past few months, between SATs and finishing up another school year, but have had some time for radio. I have been using some PSK-31 on HF, as well as regularly checking into the North American Youth Net on 20M. Another interesting thing I have tried recently is weather satellite reception, and have nearly completed construction of a Quadrifilar Helix antenna designed to improve reception.

In addition, I just poured the concrete and completed a portable PVC mast project that I have been "working on" for the past year.

Aside from all that, we have made the reservations for McIntire Park Shelter #1, where we will be holding the annual AARC Picnic and Hamfest in August. Remember, the AARC meeting this month will be June 10, at the Astronomy

Building. It should be very interesting, as a ham from Madison will be in to talk about the Madison repeater. So, I am hoping everyone can make it out to the meeting, and don't forget Field Day is June 28-29!

73 -- Steve Traylor, KF4ZGD

## Veep Peeps

Pete, W4PRT

Greetings! You'll have to excuse the brevity of this column. On May 24, I got married and last week was the honeymoon. On the honeymoon I got to visit the ARRL headquarters in Newington Connecticut. I got to operate from one of the studios and take a tour of the administrative facilities.

This months presentation will be given by Buddy Nighswonger (AD4CG) on the repeater configuration of the Madison County Radio club has in Madison.

We had a great meeting last month with plenty of Field Day Planning and hopefully we can get everything finalized rather quickly. I am really excited about this years Field Day and hope that everyone will participate.

In addition, here are the **upcoming presentations that we have at the next three Club Meetings.**

**July** is going to be a presentation by Carl Clements (W4CAC) who is our ARRL Section Manager. **August** is traditionally our **Picnic Meeting** and 2nd Annual Hamfest. **September** is going to be a presentation by Albemarle Police Department about the MobileWatch Program.

That's all for now. See you at this months meeting.

73, Pete

## Upgrade to Extra!

Bob Pattison, K4DU

So you've got your ticket and you're having fun with public service events, local nets and Field Day activities. Good, that is part of what the hobby is all about. Do you remember the questions on the Technician exam about the "Basis and Purpose" of Amateur Radio?

The words contained in Part 97.1 are a covenant of sorts. In a sense one could say that the government agrees to provide spectrum and sustain the hobby as a licensed service as long as we fulfill our part in the deal.

"(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to **providing emergency communications.**

- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to **contribute to the advancement of the radio art.**
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for **advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.**
- (d) **Expansion of** the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of **trained operators, technicians and electronics experts.**
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to **enhance international goodwill."**

Embedded in these five principles is a strong sense of public service and advancement of knowledge and skills. The license class structure provides one clear measure that the FCC can use to determine how seriously amateurs take their responsibility to advance their knowledge. If we fail to take our part seriously we jeopardize the amateur radio service.

Frankly in today's three-tiered system with one code exam there is no reason why every amateur should not advance all the way through the ranks from Technician to Extra. If you can distinguish between a "dit" and a "dah" you have what it takes to conquer the code at 5 WPM.

Some may say why should I upgrade? What do I get in return? Extra Class licensee's have the full privileges within the amateur bands. As volunteer examiners they can examine for all licenses classes, and they can take pride in the knowledge that they mastered the knowledge required to obtain the highest class of license issued. So to my friends still holding Technician, General and Advanced Class licenses I ask, what are you waiting for?

Those who take their part of the promise contained in Part 97.1 seriously realize that the journey does not end with the Extra Class ticket. Amateur radio is a rich and varied hobby. There is a lifetime of experiences waiting for you out there. If you are still playing with the same mode or facet of the hobby that you started out with, I suggest that you try something new. Dive in, the waters fine!

## FCC Proposes Additional 5-GHz Spectrum for Unlicensed Use

ARRL Bulletin ARLB037

The FCC has proposed making another 255 MHz of 5-GHz spectrum available for unlicensed use at 5.470 to 5.725 GHz. Amateur Radio has a secondary allocation at 5.650 to 5.925 GHz, which it shares mostly with government and non-government radars.

In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in ET Docket 03-122, approved May 15 but not yet released, the FCC suggested that the additional spectrum be made available for use by unlicensed National Information Infrastructure devices, including Radio Local Area Networks, operating under Part 15 of the FCC's rules.

The FCC's action comes in response to a petition for rule making from the Wi-Fi Alliance, formerly known as WECA. If implemented, Amateur Radio will be left with a 25-MHz segment--5.825 to 5.850 GHz--that is not already earmarked for unlicensed services. The FCC's proposal represents an 80% increase in the amount of 5-GHz spectrum that would become available to unlicensed devices.

The ARRL has opposed past WECA efforts to expand the 5 GHz franchise for unlicensed users. In comments to a 2002 petition, the League said WECA failed to establish any current need for additional spectrum and that the FCC may not be able to enforce rules against harmful interference to licensed users. The ARRL plans to comment on the latest NPRM once the full text has been released.

## SwapFest / Tech Session Note

*Tnx RON K4RKA*

The AARC on the air swapfest and technical session is scaling back operations. We will still give anyone who checks into the session an opportunity to read items they want to buy, sell or trade but we will not maintain or publish a listing as we have for the past several years.

Likewise the technical session will be offered for anyone who has a question to ask or technical information to offer, but we will not conduct a technical seminar. If there are no sale items to list or technical questions, the session will close. Net participants are still invited to list items and ask questions but it will now be up to **YOU** to do so.

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes May 13, 2003

Board meeting opened at 6:35 PM by Steve KF4ZGD. Board members present: Steve KF4ZGD, Steve KD4HBX, Pete W4PRT, Howard KG4TWQ, Bob K4DU, Will KJ4XZ, Marty AG4DN. Members absent: Ralph K4CFE, John KX4P.

An open discussion followed to include members of the audience concerning the possibility of developing a new club logo as well as procuring club jackets and ID badges. Bob K4DU will look into obtaining club badges for starters.

Committee reports followed. Steve KF4ZGD reported for the treasurer indicating little change since the report at the April meeting.

Bob K4DU reported on membership. He planned to organize a campaign to contact past club members and invite them to Field Day. The list will be divided among the Board to make telephonic contacts.

Pete W4PRT reported on programs. He still is looking for programs for October, November and December. He then discussed the location for Field Day activities. The Earlysville Fire/Rescue was agreed upon. Pete will make the formal contact to reserve the site. A need for a reconnaissance of the site for new comers will be set up. Field Day will be the subject of the general club meeting to follow today.

Steve KD4HBX noted that he had reserved the Shelter 1 site at McIntire Park for the August 12 club picnic and Hamfest. The fee covering the use of the site will be \$50.00 and forwarded to Charlottesville Recreation by Ralph.

Marty AG4DN indicated he had received a "request for proposal" from WINA AM Radio for their Community Awareness Grant Program. The Board did not choose to take action on the grant this year because of the timing and requirements. Marty will write a letter to WINA thanking them and requesting we be contacted for the program next year.

Steve KF4ZGD stated he did not have any new information on the repair of the 76 repeater.

Having nothing further to discuss the Board meeting closed at 7:10 PM.

*Submitted by Marty AG4DN, Secy.*

### Regular Meeting May 13, 2003

Steve KF4ZGD opened the meeting at 7:35 PM followed by an introduction of members and guests and a call for a motion for approval of the April 8, 2003 Minutes for the Board and General Membership Meetings. The motion was called, second and approved without comment by the membership.

Pete W4PRT reported on Programs indicating no change since last month. The October, November and December programs for the membership meetings were still open.

Bob K4DU reported on membership. He noted that ex-members of the club would be telephonically contacted and invited to come out for Field Day as an initial step to inducing them to reactivate their club membership.

Ben KG4QVP indicated that there were students that completed the Tech Course but did not take the test. He is assisting them to locate other test locations. Ben then distributed a number of membership cards.

Steve KD4HBX informed the membership that Shelter 1, McIntire Park has been reserved for the annual club picnic and Hamfest on 12 August. Steve submitted an invoice for a \$50.00 payment to Charlottesville Recreation for the shelter. Steve KF4ZGD will insure Ralph sends out the payment without delay.

Steve KF4ZGD notified the membership that he had no additional information on the repair of the 76 repeater. He went on to inform the membership that a new club logo, additional club jackets and possibility of new club name badges was being explored.

Harry W2HD called for the recognition of Harrison W4DO who was in the audience.

Steve KF4ZGD informed the membership that members could get a discount on "73 Magazine" through the club. Those interested could contact him.

Ben KG4QVP reminded the membership of the coming MS 150 on June 7 and 8. He passed the sign up sheet to the membership for volunteers to support this worthy event.

Pete W4PRT now discussed Field Day plans. He reminded the membership that the club only had one station last year. He believes the club can do better than that this year. Bob K4DU indicated that Field Day was for fun not necessarily an event to rack up a high club score. He indicated this is a great time to bring back previous members of the club. After much discussion of the various possibilities for the club it was decided that we would attempt to set up five stations as follows:

| Station   | Captain      |
|-----------|--------------|
| Satellite | Dick W4BZW   |
| GOTA      | Steve KF4ZGD |
| HF        | Pete W4PRT   |
| QRP       | Bob K4DU     |
| HF        | Bill KD4TOR  |

Discussion followed to obtain the necessary equipment for each station. The need for lap top computers and proper software for logging, antennas, tents, rope, placing notification in the Beacon, batteries, radios, sign up time

sheets and adequate staffing for five stations was discussed. The question of Field Day T-shirts and hat pins although discussed was left open. The "Class F Station" was not thought practical since the Charlottesville/Albemarle EOC would have to be staffed and operating as part of the station requirement. Marty AG4DN made a motion to approve a sum not to exceed \$200 to cover the cost of food for the club members staffing the stations. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership without discussion. The Field Day basic planning was completed for this meeting, however it will be picked up and finalized at the June meeting.

Steve now called upon Tom W4RAE to describe a radio that he was building from plans he had found in a 1940 QST. This radio was being built from scratch. It did have at this point a 6L6 oscillator with an 807 amp. At present he could send CW at 35 Watts. He was building a power supply and hoped to finally operate on 160-10 meter bands. He had yet to make a logbook. The membership was very impressed with Tom's project, asked numerous questions and did some reminiscing about radios of the past and how they were put together.

Pete K4PRT and Steve KD4HBK indicated they would handle the refreshments for the June meeting.

With no further business Steve KF4ZGD called for a motion to close the meeting. The motion was made, seconded and approved without discussion.

*Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.*

## Contest Highlights This Month

*Bob, K4UVT*

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

**Jun 14-16** [ARRL June VHF QSO Party](#)

**Jun 21** [Kid's Day](#)

**Jun 28-29** [ARRL Field Day](#)

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be obtained online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar - 2003](#) webpage.

### Other Contests of Interest

**June 14-15** [WW South America CW Contest](#)

**June 15-21** [FISTS Straight Key Week](#)

**June 21-22** [All Asian DX Contest](#)

**June 28-29** [Marconi Memorial Contest HF](#)

The [SM3CER Contest Service - Contest Calendars](#) has info and rules for just about every contest that exists.

*73, Bob K4UVT*

| AARC Public Service Schedule |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday June 7              | Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour, first day                                                                                                                                                  |
| Saturday June 7              | Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour, second day                                                                                                                                                 |
| June ??                      | Triathlon, Walnut Creek Park                                                                                                                                                             |
| Saturday August 2            | Mountain Mama Bike Tour, Monterey VA.<br>A heavy-duty bike tour through mountains of Virginia and West Virginia. About 100 miles with more than 10,000 feet of climbing. All in one day. |
| August ??                    | Triathlon, Walnut Creek Park                                                                                                                                                             |
| Saturday Sept. 20            | 911 Drill                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Saturday November 1          | Montpelier Horse Races                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Area Hamfests    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Manassas Hamfest | Ole Virginia Hams ARC<br><a href="http://www.qsl.net/olevahams">http://www.qsl.net/olevahams</a><br>Contact: Jack McDermott, N4YIC<br>7977 Deward Court<br>Manassas, VA 20109-3120<br>Phone: 703-335-9139<br>Fax: 703-330-7987<br>Email: n4yic@arrl.net |
| June 1           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| FCC Database Updates |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>New Calls</b>     |  |
| None reported        |  |
| <b>Upgrades</b>      |  |
| None reported        |  |

| VE Session Schedule - 2003                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 14<br>Richmond<br><br>(Richmond ARC/RAVE)<br>(ARRL VEC) | Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)<br>Contact: Patrick Wilson<br>(804)932-9424<br>Email: <a href="mailto:W4PW@ARRL.NET">W4PW@ARRL.NET</a><br><a href="http://www.w4pw.org">www.w4pw.org</a> (To Register)<br>Location: J Sargeant Reynolds Comm. College<br>1651 E PARHAM RD-BLDG B<br>RICHMOND, VA 23228 |
| June 14<br>Madison<br><br>(Madison VE Team)<br>(ARRL VEC)    | Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)<br>Contact: John Berry (540)543-2580<br>Email: <a href="mailto:AF4CY@ARRL.NET">AF4CY@ARRL.NET</a><br>VEC: ARRL/VEC<br>Location: Madison War Memorial Bldg.<br>Main St.<br>Madison, VA                                                                                  |
| Date<br>Location<br><br>(ARRL VEC)                           | For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the <a href="#">ARRL Exam Session Search</a> web page.                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| AARC Club Officers |                |        |                                                                                |
|--------------------|----------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President          | Steven Traylor | KF4ZGD | <a href="mailto:kf4zgd@juno.com">kf4zgd@juno.com</a><br>434-296-7418           |
| Vice President     | Pete Thorsen   | W4PRT  | <a href="mailto:w4prt@arrl.net">w4prt@arrl.net</a><br>434-842-1014             |
| Secretary          | Marty Mait     | AG4DN  | <a href="mailto:mandlm8@aol.com">mandlm8@aol.com</a><br>434-589-2825           |
| Treasurer          | Ralph Traylor  | K4CFE  | <a href="mailto:rw6t@virginia.edu">rw6t@virginia.edu</a><br>434-296-7418       |
| Director           | Bob Pattison   | K4DU   | <a href="mailto:rep4@aol.com">rep4@aol.com</a><br>434-985-4828                 |
| Director           | Will Seay      | KJ4XZ  | 434-823-5665                                                                   |
| Director           | John Green     | KX4P   | <a href="mailto:jgreen@comdial.com">jgreen@comdial.com</a><br>434-975-4493     |
| Director           | Howard Gay     | KG4TWQ | <a href="mailto:kg4fyf@earthlink.net">kg4fyf@earthlink.net</a><br>540-456-6445 |
| Director           | Steve Clements | KD4HBX |                                                                                |

| Contest Calendars                                      |                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">ARRL Contest Calendar 2003</a>             | ARRL sponsored contests                                                       |
| <a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2003</a> | Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests |
| <a href="#">Contesting Online</a>                      | Just about everything contests!                                               |

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 - 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month

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 Ruckersville, VA 22968-0530  
 (434) 990-2659  
[K4uvt@arrl.net](mailto:K4uvt@arrl.net)

Next Club Meeting : June 10 - 7:30 PM UVA - Astronomy Building

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 UVA Astronomy building at 530 McCormick Road.  
**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)**

AREA REPEATERS

**WA4TFZ**

| INPUT/OUTPUT    | Tone Access (if needed)   |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 146.160/146.760 | 151.4 Hz                  |
| 146.325/146.925 | 151.4 Hz                  |
| 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 10     | Regular Club Meeting      |
| July 8      | Regular Club Meeting      |
| August 12   | <b>Annual Club Picnic</b> |
| September 9 | Regular Club Meeting      |
| October 14  | Regular Club Meeting      |
| November 11 | Regular Club Meeting      |
| December 9  | Regular Club Meeting      |

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

| DATE       | EVENT                             |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| June 7     | MS Bike Tour, Day 1               |
| June 8     | MS Bike Tour, Day 2               |
| August 2   | Mountain Mama Bike Tour, Monterey |
| November 1 | 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.