

The AARC Beacon



**Amateur Radio News For
Charlottesville, VA and
surrounding counties**

Volume 2003, No. 12

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December 2003

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 9 at 7:30 PM** at the **UVA Astronomy Building**. The program will be presented by **Joe, W2PVY** about **"THE ULTIMATE PORTABLE RADIO"**. This should be a very interesting topic!

See you there!!



## The President Speaks

*Steve, KF4ZGD*

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take some time to reflect back on what this year was like for the club and its members. First of all, none of what was accomplished over the past year could have been done without the hard work of our dedicated board members. My personal thanks go to Pete, Marty, Steve C., Bob, Howard, Will, and my father for all the effort they've put into the club this year.

Second, I want to thank *\*everyone\** for their participation in the many events this year. You, the members, are the life blood of the club. The success of everything that goes on in the club depends on you and your participation. Thank you for coming out to Field Day. Thank you for manning the



county fair station. Thank you for attending the club meetings, the picnic, the luncheons, the winter dinner, the nets. Thank you for supporting club-related activities such as the public service events, RACES events, and the damage assessment class, which I will discuss in a few minutes.

Third, I will address the participation issue from a different angle. While there were quite a few club members involved in many of the events, many faces were missing. Of course this is only a hobby, and we all have lives to live outside of radio, but make it a point to show up somewhere at least a few times a year so we don't forget there's a face associated with that voice on the radio. If you were one of those missing persons this year, then by all means make it a New Years resolution to become involved in 2004!

Fourth, I have really enjoyed the new activities that have been put on by the club in the past year, and I hope we continue this trend. The county fair was certainly exciting, and the T-hunt last spring was fun though well under-attended. Recently there has been some excitement for HF'ers in the club who have been able to contribute to club contest efforts in several recent contests.

Fifth, here's some recent noteworthy news. The disaster assessment class was a success! The capacity crowd of twenty-five attendees learned what basic disaster assessment is all about, and how it can be done over the radio. Hopefully we'll never have to use these skills, but if we do, it's certainly another way we can be of assistance to the community when foul weather strikes.

At last month's club meeting there was an interesting discussion about the possibility of the club changing its name. There were many ideas put forward, but no general consensus. This topic was postponed until this month so that more members could bring their thoughts to the meeting. If you have any ideas, pro or con, we want to hear them! On that note, the meeting will be Tuesday December 9th at 7:30 P.M. Our presentation will be given by **Joe, W2PVY, who has agreed to talk about "THE ULTIMATE PORTABLE RADIO"**.

In closing, let me take a moment to reflect on my personal experiences as club president. Taking over the job as a sixteen year-old, I didn't know what to expect, and perhaps many club members didn't know what to expect either. After getting over a few jitters at the beginning of the year, I settled down and realized that being club president wasn't that bad after all. Presiding over meetings and writing articles never was an exciting job, but it certainly has been good real-life experience. As has been pointed out to me by several people, things don't get any easier from here. So, I appreciate all of you having the faith in me to allow me to be your 2003 president. For the past three months, I've been toiling over my college studies at Piedmont, so I'm definitely ready to turn over my presidential responsibilities in order to focus my attention on my college studies. Good luck to you

Pete, and all the incoming officers. May the New Year be a prosperous one for the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club!

As always .....

73 -- Steve, KF4ZGD

## Veep Peeps

Pete, W4PRT

Greetings!

I hope that everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Boy, what a month November was. I'm glad that it is finally over. Between getting rear-ended in my truck and then hitting a deer four days later on my way to work, the family acquiring a cold over Thanksgiving and then having my ISP go on the fritz for nearly a week now, I am glad that November has passed and December is on its way.

I apologize for the lateness in this column and the brevity as well, but I am without Internet at the moment and have to piece meal this together at work as time permits.

Anyway, I'd like to thank those folks that came out and helped with the tree and limb removal up at Marshall Manor. I think that Dave has an upcoming work party in the works to do some more work up there. It was great to get up there and take a look around and see where the repeater lives. There were a lot of trees down and with the folks that we had we made short work of it.

**I want to thank everyone --- and I do mean everyone --- who has helped me out this year.** I could not have done any of it without the help from everyone involved. I had a great time as Vice President and hope to have an even better year as President. Again, my many thanks to all of you.

For this month's program, **Joe, W2PVY has agreed to talk about "THE ULTIMATE PORTABLE RADIO"**. As he says, "In order to explain it, I'll have to go into some misunderstandings about listening to DX broadcast stations, which is the focus of this talk". He's got the project in the works and hopefully we can have it ready by the time of this month's meeting.

I was not able to get the last month's meeting minutes ready for this month's newsletter. I apologize. They will be posted in the January Beacon.

73, Pete





## Amendment Proposal to Club By-Laws Regarding Name Change

Bob, K4DU

### The following Amendments are proposed:

In order to better accomplish the mission stated in the "Articles of Incorporation" filed on January 30, 1987 for the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, the membership desires to change the name of the organization to more accurately reflect our focus and area of service.

Therefore be it resolved that the organization formerly known as the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club (AARC) be known from this date forward as **The Radio Club of Central Virginia (CVRC)**.

To that end the following amendments to the Bylaws and actions are proposed.

1. The current name of the Bylaws "AARC Bylaws" is amended to read **Bylaws of The Radio Club of Central Virginia**.
2. Article I of the Bylaws is amended by replacing the words "The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc." with the words **The Radio Club of Central Virginia**.
3. Article II, Section 2 of the Bylaws, the section on "Honorary Member" is amended by replacing the words "The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc." with the words **The Radio Club of Central Virginia**.
4. The Articles of Incorporation shall be restated to note the name change.

### Additional motions:

5. The Board is directed to seek counsel from W4NPX, Robert Blodinger, Attorney, to file the necessary papers with the State Corporation Commission to accomplish the name change.

6. The Board is further directed to take such actions and complete any additional filings and notifications required to accomplish this name change.

## What's In a Name - Part 2

Bob, K4DU

### The Radio Club of Central Virginia (CVRC)

In the November issue of the Beacon I wrote about the need for the AARC to change its name. At the November meeting we talked about possible names and the process required to make the change. The vast majority of the reaction that I have heard on this question has been in favor of changing the name.

In order to make such a change the membership must pass motions to amend the Bylaws and direct the board to take actions necessary to accomplish the change with the State Corporation Commission. Amendments must be submitted to the secretary and published in advance of meetings so that all members are informed and have an opportunity to express their opinions and vote on the matter. I have submitted language to the club secretary for the club's action. You will find the text of the motion to amend in this issue of the Beacon.

The amendment proposes that we change the clubs name to **The Radio Club of Central Virginia (CVRC)**. As you try on the name to see how it fits, let me tell you my rationale for the name proposed. Most radio clubs are (Fill in the blank) RC or (Fill in the blank) RA (Radio Club or Radio Association); thus The Podunk Hollow Radio Club or the Green Mountain Radio Association. Turning the name around sets us apart and makes the focus radio rather than Albemarle or Central Virginia. Making the name start with "The" says that this is **The** radio club to be part of in Central Virginia. Just as UVA is known as "The University", we take on the identity of "The Radio Club".

You will notice that the word Amateur is missing from the title. That is intentional. Our By-Laws state that you must be a licensed amateur radio operator to become a member. That has not and will not change. The focus is radio communications. If part of our goal is to expand the pool of licensed amateurs we want those who are interested to seek us out. You don't have to be licensed to come to the meetings or take classes. Making it "The Radio Club" is more inclusive;



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adding Amateur only inserts a word that is already "understood". Brevity is magic in marketing.

I settled on Central Virginia rather than the Piedmont or Northern Piedmont because it more accurately describes the area we serve. There are already Piedmont and Foothills Radio Clubs in other geographies.

Finally you will notice that the order of letters in the abbreviation (CVRC) differs from the order of the words in the name. This is intentional and adds an international flair. I would point out that many international committees have this phenomenon in the names and acronyms; this is due mostly to the difference in the order in which words appear between French and English. A nice touch don't you agree, mon ami?

After much thought and consideration I believe that **The Radio Club of Central Virginia** (CVRC) is the best name that we could adopt. Making this change will help the club build on the work done by those who came before us and positions the Club to accomplish it's objectives in the twenty-first century.

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes October 14, 2003

November minutes are unavailable and will be published in the January issue of the Beacon.

*Submitted by Marty AG4DN, Secy.*

### Regular Meeting September 9, 2003

November minutes are unavailable and will be published in the January issue of the Beacon.

*Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.*

## Online Licensing Course, Lobbying Kit Part of ARRL 2004 PLAN

*Tnx to Rick, KO4WQ*

An on-line Amateur Radio licensing course --- possibly bundled with ARRL membership --- plus additional Certification and Continuing Education courses <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>> are among the strategic objectives of the League's 2004 Operational Plan. The League also plans to evaluate its existing ARRL on-line class offerings. The item was among several the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) designated to include in next year's plan

when it met November 9 in Irving, Texas. Work on the licensing course already is under way, and the ARRL expects to announce its availability in the near future.

## Contest Highlights This Month

*Bob, K4UVT*

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

**Dec. 5-7** [ARRL 160 Meter Contest](#)

**Dec. 12-14** [ARRL 10-Meter Contest](#)

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

### Other Contests of Interest

**Dec 20-21** [International Naval Activity](#)

**Nov 8-9** [DARC \(Germany\) Xmas Contest](#)

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

*73, Bob W4RQ*

## K4CQY Operation at the WA4TFZ Field Day Event

*Jon, K4CQY*

During the 2002 Field Day I called the Earlsyville firehouse from Georgia to wish Pete (W4PRT) good luck for WA4TFZ. We had both last operated Field Day at the 1993 WA4TFZ operation. I moved back to Charlottesville this year and was pleased to find out he was organizing the event. I asked if I could bring along a radio that I helped our friend Jay (KI4AZV) purchase from EBay. I wanted to test the radio to see if he got a good deal.

After stopping by briefly to help setup the Carolina Windom on Friday night my brother and I came back the next day to stay the weekend and operate with the club. While getting organized with our camper our new friend Dave Damon (K4DND) noticed our radio and asked us if (not if, really but **WHEN**) we were going to get on the air. We hadn't given it much thought but we said we were just going to try to "test" the radio. A little more nice talk and then Dave had to go do something or another.



Shortly we found out what Dave had left to attend to. He had noticed that we had a hunk of copper wire among our junk and he had a bit or two more junk for us. He had a balun and some feedline in his hands and asked us if we thought we were any closer now to getting on the air. Well, we know when to be provoked. My brother, Mike (K4AZY) and I figured that since our hunk of copper wire was only 70' long he would run out and pick up another hunk at Radio Shack.

While Mike was off getting wire my old friend and President Emeritus Bob Pattison (K4DU) came by with a newcomer to the area, Mario (W4/T95LWG). Mario is from Bosnia-Herzegovina and is a talented wood and ceramic craftsman as well as a very committed Amateur Radio Operator.

I talked to Pete and asked if our station would disrupt the WA4TFZ operation and we agreed that it would be best for us to do another operation. There was a nice area that was free for us to operate in with strategic tree placement for our antenna. I called my long time friend Mark Day (N4OQK) and he quickly arrived to help us setup and operate.

Soon Mike, Mark, Mario and I were working on our station. I built the antenna while they set about establishing our ropes in the trees. Shortly afterwards we had the antenna up and our friend Jay brought us a gift of some great (very) deep cycle batteries. We were ready to power our computer and radio!

After 20 hours of use, Mike and I would use the same batteries a few weeks later without recharging for 18 hours of operation in the IARU HF Championships as K4AZY. Jay lives "off the grid" with his wife Stephany (KI4BMM) in Nelson County. I am about to convert my shack to full time 12V/900AH Battery operation with AC charging and 2KW generator backup with Jay's help. Sometime soon we'll have Jay present to the club on full-time Solar/Battery 12V operations. Coincidentally, the November issue QST will have an article on the subject from another source.

Well, it's too long to make a story short but we really enjoyed our spontaneous field day operation. Thanks to all who spurred us on, provided motivation and accommodated our unplanned event. It was a great thrill. This is a great club.

Mario sent a picture along to the Bosnia/Herzegovina equivalent of QST magazine, **T9** which we reprint here for your enjoyment. It basically says that we will learn to read the magazine which is widely available and

that we operated from the camp of the local club WA4TFZ.

#### ČASOPIS "RADIO T9" PRISUTAN U AMERICI

Kako nam javlja OC Mario Gubo, K4CQY Jon i KI4AZY Mike pokušavaju da nauče naš jezik kako bi mogli čitati T9 magazin koji kako se vidi iz priloženog postaje popularan i preko Bare, hi...Dogadaj se zbilo na Field Day-u 2003 u kampu lokalnog kluba WA4TFZ...



**Left to right: Mark N4OQK, Jon K4CQY, Mike KI4AZY make international headlines with an article and picture in T9, the amateur radio magazine of Bosnia-Herzegovina.**

#### [Note]:

The Amateur radio association in Bosnia and Herzegovina issues a magazine for electronics, communications and ham radio named "RADIO T9". The only magazine of such a kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina is printed every two months. The magazine is distributed B-H-wide and part of each edition is delivered to Slovenia, Croatia, Yugoslavia and Macedonia. For more information please see <http://www.geocities.com/radiot9/english.htm>.

*Happy Holidays -  
Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New  
Year to all !!!*

## Legislative Action on BPL !!

Bob, K4DU

The following letter was recently sent to the FCC in response to my conversation with Congressman Virgil H. Goode regarding the BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) issue. We are making our position known!!

VIRGIL H. GOODE, JR.  
11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4605**

**PLEASE USE THE  
ROCKY MOUNT ADDRESS**

November 17, 2003

Ms. Diane Atkinson  
Congressional Liaison Specialist  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 8-C453  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

Recently I had a conversation with Robert E. Pattison of Charlottesville, Virginia concerning Broadband over Power Lines. I asked Mr. Pattison to provide me additional information about the matter. I believe that Mr. Pattison makes a good point about the need for utilities to work to upgrade their system ahead of pursuing Broadband over Power Lines. I would be very grateful if you could tell me the exact status of the matter at this time, and I would also appreciate any comments that the FCC could make. I would also like any comments that could be made about the point that Broadband over Power Lines could pose real danger to emergency services provided by amateur radio operators.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Virgil Goode, Jr.

VGJr/mm

Cc: Mr. Robert E. Pattison  
P. O. Box 6996  
Charlottesville, VA 22906-6996

70 East Court Street, Suite 215, Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
Fax: 540-484-1459 Phone: 540-484-1254  
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



## AARC Public Service Schedule

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 2004 Schedule not yet available | TBA |
|---------------------------------|-----|

## Area Hamfests

None Reported

## FCC Database Updates

### New Calls

|       |                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| K4JEC | James Crosby (ex- WD4HWW)       |
| K4PMC | Patsy Crosby (XYL of Jim K4JEC) |

### Upgrades

None Reported

## VE Session Schedule - 2003

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 6<br>Charlottesville<br>(ARRL/VEC) | Sponsor: Albemarle ARC VE Team<br>Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)<br>Contact: Harry Dannals, W2HD<br>(434) 974-7388<br>Email: W2HD@ARRL.NET<br>Location: Astronomy Building at UVA<br>530 McCormick Road<br>Charlottesville, VA |
| December 13<br>Madison<br>(ARRL/VEC)        | Sponsor: Madison VE Team<br>Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)<br>Contact: John Berry (540) 543-2580<br>Email: AF4CY@ARRL.NET<br>VEC: ARRL/VEC<br>Location: Madison War Memorial Bldg.<br>MAIN ST.<br>MADISON, VA 22727            |
| Date<br>Location<br>(ARRL VEC)              | For other exam sessions in Virginia<br>outside the AARC area, check the <a href="#">ARRL<br/>Exam Session Search</a> web page.                                                                                                   |

## For Sale Items

|                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Offered by<br>Rick, KO4WQ<br>Contact Rick at<br>(434) 245-1128 | 1 - Astron 12M Regulated Power Supply<br>with manual and original carton with 12v<br>distribution strip<br>2 - 12v Gel Cells<br>1 - Icom 207 H dual band ( 2m & 70 cm )<br>mobile w removable face plate &<br>connecting cable.<br>1 - Portable Power Station with 6, 9 and<br>12v outputs in original Carton. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## AARC Club Officers

|                   |                   |        |                                                                                |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President         | Steven Traylor    | KF4ZGD | <a href="mailto:kf4zgd@arrl.net">kf4zgd@arrl.net</a><br>434-296-7418           |
| Vice<br>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<br>Clements | KD4HBX |                                                                                |

## Contest Calendars

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



THE AARC BEACON  
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Contact Information  
Daniel R. (Bob) Dorsey, Jr. W4RQ  
PO Box 530  
Ruckersville, VA 22968-0530  
(434) 990-2659  
[W4RQ@yahoo.com](mailto:W4RQ@yahoo.com)

Next Club Meeting :

Dec. 9 - 7:30 PM

UVA - Astronomy Bldg.

#### 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

146.160/146.760  
146.325/146.925

223.160/224.760  
449.250/444.250  
145.030  
145.030

##### Tone Access (If needed)

151.4 Hz  
151.4 Hz  
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                |
|--------------|----------------------|
| December 9   | Regular Club Meeting |
| January 2004 | TBA                  |

#### AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

| DATE       | EVENT |
|------------|-------|
| 2004 - TBA | TBA   |

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.