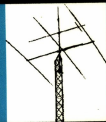


The AARC Beacon



*Serving radio enthusiasts
and communities in
Central Virginia –
The Radio Club for
Central Virginia*

Volume 2004, No. 1

January 2004

Inside this Issue

- 1 Meeting Notice
- 1 Board Meeting Notice
- 1 The President Speaks
- 3 As I See It...
- 4 Musings on Straight Key Night
- 4 Northern Piedmont Emergency Net Year-End Report for 2003
- 5 Club Business
- 7 FCC Announces New Universal Licensing System Interface
- 8 Contest Highlights - Upcoming
- 8 W4DO – Silent Key
- 8 New ARRL Antenna Design and Construction Course in January
- 9 ARRL and the Citizen Corps
- 11 AARC Public Service Schedule
- 11 Area Hamfests
- 11 FCC Database Updates
- 11 VE Session Schedule - 2003
- 11 For Sale Items
- 11 AARC Club Officers
- 11 Contest Calendars

Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be the **Annual Winter Dinner** to be held on **Sunday, January 11 at 6:00 PM** at the **Ponderosa Restaurant at Pantops**. The program will be to just come on out, have your fill of tasty food and just have fun!

See you there!!

Board Meeting Notice

There will be a very "brief" Board Meeting at approximately 5:30 PM (half an hour prior to the annual dinner meeting) at the Ponderosa on January 11 to discuss approval for Ben's new application for club admission.

The President Speaks

Pete, W4PRT

Greetings!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe Holiday Season. A new year is upon us and I hope that we can accomplish many things for the Club in the year to come. I think that we had a number of successful events this past year. Most notably was the wide array of Public Service events throughout the year. The ones that I went to seemed well attended and well received by the folks sponsoring the event. Let's keep up the good work and if you weren't able to attend a particular event last year, try to plan on making it to one this year. I am sure that Hein will have a fresh clipboard handy at all times.

Field Day 2003 was a great success. What else can I say that I haven't said already? Everyone had a great time and the operation of the event went very well. Again, thanks to everyone that participated. For those folks that weren't able to make it out for Field Day last year, please try and attend

this year. It was a lot of fun for everyone. So, make your plans early and mark your calendars. Let's all plan on attending Field Day 2004 this year.

Another great success we had was the Clubs presence at the Albemarle County Fair. I think that the Club got a lot of exposure, as did Amateur Radio. A number of folks at the fair sent out radiograms and we even had conversations with some Public Officials about Amateur Radio.

In addition, in the midst of an emergency, we had folks there that offered the resources of Amateur Radio and assisted in rescuing folks trapped beneath fallen tents.

In addition, I would like to thank everyone personally for helping out during hurricane Isabel. The service that we provide during times of emergencies is vital to the community and its residents. Most of the time we do not get praise for this service and if we do it is mainly from the people that we work with to get through such emergencies. Keep up the good work.

One thing that I would have liked to do better last year was programs. The problem with this is being repetitive. In the past, we have had a lot of great programs. The year goes by fast and before you know it, you're looking for more programs. However, you can't really do that great program that you had last year because it's too soon and would be repetitive. We've thrown around a lot of ideas and even had a survey that wasn't very reflective of what we might want to do or like to do, but I had to try and get some idea of what folks wanted. It's not an easy task at all. So, if there's something out there that you want to know about, let's hear it. If there is something out there that you've found that you are interested in, let's hear it. There's no way that we could have exhausted all the possibilities that this hobby provides us.

There were a few things that I didn't get done, either. We had talked about starting a VHF/UHF contest around the area. There seemed to be some interest when we talked about it. It seems that it fell through the cracks. Perhaps if there is some interest in doing this we can make it happen. Who knows, it could be a lot of fun for years to come.

I had also wanted to do a Santa Net last year. Well, actually the last two years. If you don't know what a Santa Net is, you can take a look at the following webpage and it'll explain it all - <http://www.arl.org/news/features/2001/12/06/1/>. I think that this is a very worthy cause. Seeing that we have two major hospitals in the area I think that we could do a lot of good, for the kids, the community, and the Club.

The last item that I'd like to see happen this year is a Slow Code Practice Sessions. This summer, I was fortunate enough to join FISTS (The International Morse Preservation Society) and became involved in their Code Buddy Program. They pair you up with another Amateur Radio Operator and you set up a schedule to practice CW. We practiced an hour each night for a month. It was a fantastic experience, I

learned a lot about Amateur Radio, my rig and CW. I'm sure that there are folks out there that would like to hone their CW skills. Or, maybe there are folks that want to get started, but don't know how. I think that there may be some interest in this sort of thing. If so, let me know and we'll get something started.

Now, on with the new stuff. Remember, the Club is having its **Annual Dinner Meeting, Sunday, January 11th, 2004 at the Ponderosa Steak House at Pantops. Dinner starts at 1800 (6:00 pm).** Bring your family, friends, and anyone else that you can think of to share a great time with us. Let's put the word out and have a full house.

There are a number of things happening in the Amateur Radio world for the month of January. A few of them are:

January 1st - Straight Key Night. SKN 2004 begins at 7:00 p.m. EST December 31 and runs for 24 hours through 7:00 p.m. EST January 1 (0000 -2400 UTC January 1, 2004). **You did participate in Straight Key Night, didn't you?** See p 96 of Dec 2003 QST.

January 3rd and 4th - ARRL RTTY Roundup. 1800Z Jan 3-2400Z Jan 4; see p 97 of Dec 2003 QST.

January 4th - Kids Day. 1800 to 2400Z. No limit on operating time. See p 50 of Dec 2003 QST.

January 10th and 11th - North American QSO Party (CW) - Sponsored by the *National Contest Journal* from 1800Z Jan 10-0600Z Jan 11. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Categories: SOAB and M2, 100 W power limit, operate a maximum of 10 hours (off times must be at least 30 min and M2 entries may operate the entire contest). Exchange: Name and SPC. Score: QSOs x States + Provinces + NA DXCC entities (count each once per band). For information: <http://www.ncjweb.com/nagrules.php>. Logs due Feb 10 to cwnagp@ncjweb.com or Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, 4225 Farmdale Ave, Studio City, CA 91604. The same mailing address will be used for both modes of this contest.

January 17th and 18th - North American QSO Party (Phone) - 1800Z Jan 17-0600Z Jan 18 (see Jan 10-12). Logs due Feb 17 to ssbnagp@ncjweb.com or Bruce Horn WA7BNM, 4225 Farmdale Ave, Studio City, CA 91604.

January 24th and 25th - CQ WW 160 Meter Contest - CW, sponsored by *CQ Magazine* from 0000Z Jan 24-2359Z Jan 25 (Phone is Feb 21-22). Exchange: RST and SPC. Categories: SO-QRP (<5 W) -LP (<150 W) -HP, MO categories. Enter as MO if packet or spotting nets are used. QSO points: own entity-2 pts, same continent-5 pts, diff cont-10 pts, /MM stations count 5 points, but no multiplier. Score: QSO points x states + VE call areas (VY0 added this year) + DXCC entities (KH6 and KL7 count as DXCC only). For more information, check the web at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/infoc.html>. Logs due by Feb 28 to

cq160cw@kkn.net (Cabrillo format only) or CQ 160 Contest, 25 Newbridge Rd, Hicksville, NY 11801.

January 24th – 26th – ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes - 1900Z Jan 24-0400Z Jan 26; see p 97, "Dec 2003 QST".

***PLEASE NOTE: The QST Contest Corral dates are incorrect.**

By far, the best advice that I have read about Amateur Radio came from KG4IUM, Andrea Hartlage, Contributing Editor for the ARRL Youth@HamRadio.Fun column. She encourages young Amateurs to try a variety of things related to the hobby, but the one thing that she said that stuck with me as good advice was, "Get involved! No Excuses!"

73 -- Pete

As I See It...

Jon, W4OJ, VP

This is the part of the Beacon where I try to formulate some useful thoughts about the club and Amateur Radio and then share them with you. I hope you will enjoy my offering(s) and I look forward to your constructive comments.

Now is the time of year to reflect on the past and think of the future. Among our membership are newer and older Amateurs. Our degree of experience is different but our common interest in radio binds us. It would help us to give some time to reflect on why we are interested in Amateur Radio and what we hope to accomplish with it. Let's look at the cornerstone of our privileges...

§97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(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 communications 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.

Our club has long been very active in (a). We are reliable, prepared and well trained. I fondly remember the many events I've participated in with this club. The MS150 and many other events provide our community with a valuable service and training in preparation for "events" like our recent Hurricane. I missed the MS150 this year but I was pleased to be able to man the Red Cross Center with Ben (KG4QVP). Our club's service to the community is widely appreciated and is a critical link in our regional emergency communications. I believe we should look closely at our performance in these events and work toward specific goals through post mortem reviews. We do a great job, but I know we can do better. We can always do better. We also need to promote participation in these events by our members. It's fun, you get outdoors and you're upholding our service's regulations! This is a **GREAT** way to protect our spectrum!

Upholding item (b) many members of the club are active in new modes and activities like Packet radio for TCP/IP, APRS and other such activities. When I started with Amateur Radio I became quite involved in packet, I never thought that one day a computer sound card would deliver all the modes I never had a chance to play with before like SSTV and new modes like PSK. But I do enjoy those modes now and often find new and exciting contacts with these modes. Recently excitement among some younger amateurs has brought many SSTV pictures the local airwaves. Amateur Radio certainly CAN compete with The Internet for the minds and imaginations of those who will be responsible for the future of Amateur Radio! We need to do everything we can do promote these activities! (Think "fully enabled Echolink" for one...)

Through our regular classes and VE sessions we have long upheld items (c) and (d). In fact I earned my first license here with the club and have brought 8 people into our ranks bringing them to AARC VE sessions. This year I upgraded to General and then Extra while involved with the club. Everyone should think of bringing in at least one new amateur each year. Technician Class licenses are a great way to join the Amateur ranks and within the reach of all of our friends. Encourage them to try out Amateur Radio, if only to have their own callsign! Mobile FM communications are useful and easily appreciated by folks, let's get them involved! And UPGRADE! It is not terribly difficult and if you read the rules above, it's actually "required" isn't it? It's fun and rewarding. Trust me.

Item (e) is an activity into which our club has made a significant expansion this year with a wonderful performance in the CQ WW SSB contest. Everyone who was involved enjoyed themselves and I hope we can do more of this activity in the future. I've worked a few contests this year and even placed third in the US Islands QSO Party and activated a New Island as well! I can't wait for the walnut plague to show up for my growing wallpaper collection. I am much more capable of working my radio, understanding the

effects of propagation and other skills which are born of experience.

I've got 130+ DXCC countries logged on many bands and modes. My knowledge and understanding of geography and even world conditions and cultures has increased dramatically as I search through the web and learn about the new contacts I've made. By direct contacts with peoples of other nations we can provide depiction's of Americans and our behavior which are separate from those projected by our government and media, good or bad. When Emergencies require long distance communications in difficult circumstances American Radio Amateurs are known and trusted upon to be high quality operators. Let's pay more attention to HF activities; it's a very important part of our service and our hobby. The privileges are relatively easy to earn and add greatly to the ways you can enjoy radio and provide service.

As the year unfolds, give some thought to what you are doing and what your club is doing to uphold the basis of our license grants. Find those things that speak to you and offer your skills, time and "love of working" radio.

It is a pleasure and a great honor to be associated with the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club and its membership. Thank you!

Best 73 de Jon, W4OJ (ex K4CQY & K4CQY)

Musings on Straight Key Night

Bob W4RQ

It had been 25 years since I had even *touch*ed a straight key. The last time I used one was as a guest op at a multi-single CW DX contest effort in California back in the 1980's. Right in the middle of the heat of the pileups, the electronic keyer I was using decided to up and die. The only other choice available was a straight key, and I was expected to keep our QSO rate as high as possible. So, I used the straight key for the next five hours and, amazingly enough, was able to keep up a respectable QSO rate.

Being a dyed-in-the-wool CW fan, I decided to give the annual ARRL Straight Key night a go this year, as I had never participated in one before. So I dug into my key collection and resurrected my trusty Nye Viking straight key. Starting off, I thought my sending fist was rather sloppy. Hmm ... maybe it needs some adjustment and I proceeded to tweak it. "Ahhhh soooo desu ka..." (Japanese for "ahhhh soooo..."), I said!! That did the trick and my fist became **MUCH, MUCH** better.

I only worked seven stations over a four hour period, but I must admit it was a lot of fun. Due to my medical problem that makes sitting extremely painful, I was doing this from a kneeling position (not exactly the most ergonomically correct

way to do it...). The next day, my "sending" arm was rather sore, so that tells me I was quite out of practice using a straight key. But with more practice during the year and finding a better operating position for using it, I should be in good shape to give SKN an even better run next year!!

For those of you who like CW and own a straight key, I highly recommend jumping into SKN next New Year's Eve and having a bit of fun with it. For me, it sure brought back a lot of memories of my first days in ham radio back in the early 60's. I started with a straight key and used it until I could afford a Vibroplex "bug", which I used for many years until graduating to the newer electronic keyers and Benchner paddles. Even so, I enjoyed it. It's rather like riding a bicycle ... once you get back into it, it comes back pretty quickly and you return to your previous proficiency level in short order.

Northern Piedmont Emergency Net Year-End Report for 2003

Dave K4DND

Once again, thanks to all for participating in the Northern Piedmont Emergency Net this past year. In 2003 there were 51 net sessions. There were a total of 88 call signs represented (up 6 from last year), with an average number of 20.2 check-ins for each session (also up from last year's 17.6).

The following table lists the 88 stations in order of frequency, both by the number of check-ins and the percentage that number represents of the total sessions. The table has been divided into five categories on an entirely arbitrary basis. Those who want to compare 2003 with 2002 can look at the Beacon from February of last year located at <http://home.earthlink.net/~w4rq/AARCBulletin/Feb2003.pdf>.

Thanks also to the following stations who acted as NCS during the year: K4ZGD, K4QVP, K4OXY, N3DFS, K2SSB, and W2PVY.

NAME	CALL SIGN	# OF CHECKINS	CHECKIN PERCENTAGE
CONGRATULATIONS!!			
Steve	KF4ZGD	49	96
Dave	K4DND	48	94
Ron	K4RKA	48	94
Emily	KF4OXY	47	92
Harry	W2HD	44	86
Joe	W2PVY	44	86
Vic	N3DFS	42	82
Stan	K2SSB	39	76

Lee	K4ISW	38	75
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK			
Howard	KG4TWQ	36	71
Ernie	W2EIU	35	69
Rick	K04WQ	35	69
Dick	W4BZW	34	67
Dennis	KG4SYS	31	61
Richard	K8EV	25	49
Alan	KF4NOR	25	49

SEE YOU MORE OFTEN IN 2004?

Brad	N7IVV	20	39
Chuck	KS4NW	19	37
Bill	KD4TOR	19	37
Bob	K4DU	18	35
Jon	K4CQY	18	35
Mike	KA4JJD	18	35
Tom	W4RAE	18	35
Matt	KG4OVD	17	33
Bob	W4RQ	17	33
Josh	K4BBO	16	31
Marty	AG4DN	16	31
Ben	KG4QVP	14	27
Dick	K4EBL	13	25
Steve	KD4HBX	12	24
Ralph	K4CFE	10	20
Don	KE4DDR	10	20
Tim	KG4HOT	9	18
Jimmy	K4JMY	9	18
Jeffrey	KG4QWR	9	18
Brian	KC5BGQ	8	16
Jeff	KE6PVT	8	16
Walt	KG4QIA	8	16
Jay	K4AZV	6	12
Ed	KF4UTD	6	12

OCCASIONALS

Bob	KE4AQD	5	10
Dennis	KI4BFM	5	10
Tom	WB5BNT	5	10
Donna	KG4FOL	4	8
Hein	N4FWA	4	8
Chuck	KG4IJB	4	8
Pete	W4PRT	4	8
Ed	KG4ZDO	4	8
Carter	WD4AYS	3	6
Mark	KI4BSZ	3	6
John	WA4IUN	3	6
Bud	KB4JNI	3	6
Frank	KF4NOO	3	6
Mike	W4XN	3	6

LOST AND CONFUSED, VISITORS, RARE DX, NEWLY LICENSED, PASSING THROUGH TOWN

Ray	K4CRH	2	4
Bob	N4HRV	2	4

Millard	KG4JAO	2	4
Garland	KG4MPR	2	4
Josh	KG4NGV	2	4
Jamie	KA3NXN	2	4
Elmer	KF4UCI	2	4
Al	KF4AGT	1	2
Jim	KC4AUG	1	2
Mike	KI4AZY	1	2
Bruce	AB3BB	1	2
Stephanie	K4BMM	1	2
Floyd	KI4BQG	1	2
Jerry	WD4CEN	1	2
Ralph	N4EHJ	1	2
Brian	KF4FRP	1	2
Mellie	KD4FYF	1	2
John	N3GLZ	1	2
Mike	W4HIR	1	2
Mike	N4HRO	1	2
Melia	W2HTJ	1	2
Andy	KG4IFG	1	2
Jim	K4JEC	1	2
Carol	AA4KP	1	2
Sarah	KG4OFX	1	2
Kenny	KG4PTZ	1	2
Larry	K2TBF	1	2
Jill	KG4TFS	1	2
Matt	KF4TKJ	1	2
Peter	KA2TPK	1	2
Trevor	KE4WLL	1	2
Sam	KD4WTB	1	2
Bert	KD4ZEW	1	2
Sean	KI4CMW	1	2

Club Business**AARC Board Minutes November 11, 2003**

Board Members Present: Steve KF4ZGD, Pete W4PRT, Bob K4DU, Will KJ4XZ, Steve KD4HBX, Howard KG4TWQ.
Members Absent: Marty AG4DN, John KX4P, Ralph K4CFE.

Steve KF4ZGD called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
Committee Reports followed.

Membership: Bob K4DU nothing to report.

Programs: Pete W4PRT indicated he was still looking for a speaker for the December General Membership meeting.

Technical: Dave K4DND requested volunteers for a work party for the 76 repeater site at Marshall Manor. The group will meet on November 22, 2003 at 8:00 AM at Barracks Road to remove trees and brush. Volunteers are requested to bring chain saws and other brush removal equipment. The 7K controller is on order for the 76 repeater. He further indicated that the 220 repeater problems had no easy

solutions. He did present a number of options for consideration: (1) Buy cans to fix the repeater, (2) Tim KG4HOT wants to buy the repeater, (3) If the club does not want to purchase the cans for the repeater should it be sold to Tim? There followed discussion of the pros and cons of each option. It was agreed that this entire issue should be brought to the General Membership for resolution.

Activities: Steve KD4HBX indicated there would be refreshments for the December club meeting.

General Items: Pete indicated that the purchase of jackets and hats for the club must wait upon the approval or disapproval of the pending name change. Will stated he will buy power poles and have them for sale at the December Meeting. Bob K4DU discussed with the Board his ideas for a name change and how to move forward with the process.

With no further business the Board Meeting closed at 7:10 PM.

Submitted by Marty Malt AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting November 11, 2003

Steve KF4ZGD called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. He then called for introductions of members and guests.

Committee Reports:

Programs: Pete W4PRT informed the membership that the program for the December meeting was still pending.

Technical: Dave K4DND reported on committee activities. (See minutes of Board Meeting November 11, 2003).

General Items: The Minutes of the Board and General Membership Meeting for October were approved with no changes as they appeared in the November 2003 Beacon.

Will W4RQ announced that there will be a VE Session on December 6, 2003 at the UVA Astronomy Building from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Ben KG4QVP reminded the membership that there will be a class on Damage Assessment at the Red Cross, November 17, 2003. The class would last about two hours. Will KJ4XZ informed the membership that power poles would be available at the December club meeting.

John K4CQY then presented the WRCT 2002 Video.

With no further business a motion was made for adjournment, seconded and approved with no discussion.

Submitted by Marty Malt AG4DN, Secy.

AARC Board Minutes December 9, 2003

Board Members Present: Steve KF4ZGD, Pete W4PRT, Ralph K4CFE, Marty AG4DN, Bob K4DU, Steve KD4HBX, Howard KG4TWQ, Will KJ4ZGD. Members absent: John KX4P.

Steve opened the meeting at 6:30 PM, and then called for committee reports.

Programs: Pete indicated the program for tonight would be given by Joe W2PVY. The subject is "The Ultimate Portable Radio." He went on to state the AARC Annual Banquet is scheduled for Sunday, 11 January 2004 at the Ponderosa Steak House at PanTops.

Membership: Bob reported that he had obtained a list of last month's new Amateurs in the area and would follow up.

Refreshments: Steve KD4HBX presented a bill of his expenditures for club meeting refreshments that he had paid. The monthly cost was about \$20 per meeting. The Board felt that this was well within the ability of the club to handle on a regular basis. The bill was given to Ralph and is available for examination by the membership. (Contact Secretary if desired.)

Technical: Dave K4DND reported that the 220 repeater had been worked on and put back up. Although all difficulties had not been corrected it was in far better shape after the work had been completed. Hein N4FWA is programming the 7K controller and it is anticipated that both the 76 and the 444 will operate off this controller. Upon completing this task the 5K controller can be shifted to the 220 repeater. It is hoped that this will enhance use of the 220 repeater.

Finance: Ralph reported the club had a cash balance of \$5038. He requested all bills for 2003 be submitted to him in a timely fashion in order that he may close the accounts for 2003 prior to the end of the year. Bob raised the issue of sending a letter reminder to all club members current and in 2002 that annual dues should be paid promptly and welcoming all members past and present back to the Club.

General Items: Pete indicated work was continuing on coming up with a new club logo.

Will had obtained power poles for sale by the club at tonight's meeting. He submitted a bill for \$77.23 to cover cost. It was agreed that the price of 10 pairs would be as in the past, \$7.50.

Bob indicated that he would bring before the membership the proposed name change as it appeared in the December Beacon. The changes will be read tonight and cannot be voted upon until the next regularly scheduled meeting, which, due to the January Banquet, will be in February 2004. Jon (VEEP Elect) requested the Board recognize the work Elmer KF4UCI had completed on the 220 repeater with a vote of appreciation. A vote was taken and Elmer is so recognized.

A number of items were given to the club for raffle this evening contributed by Will and Marty. The cup mailed to the Club by ARRL in recognition of the club's financial support of the Spectrum Defense Fund was also placed in the raffle. The need for checking the accuracy of member's home addresses, E-mail address, etc., was emphasized. Accurate E-mail addresses for Board members was another

need along with an up to date property inventory. These items are to be addressed again in 2004. Outgoing Board members were also thanked for their service.

With no further business the Board meeting closed at 7:15 PM

Submitted by Marty AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting December 9, 2003

Steve KF4ZGD called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Committee reports followed.

Finance: Ralph K4CFE reminded the membership to submit any outstanding bills for payment without delay in order to close the club books prior to 1 Jan 2004. He also noted that there was no change in membership fees for 2004. He requested prompt payment of annual dues by the membership.

Programs: Pete noted that Joe W2PVY will make a presentation tonight with the subject as noted in the December Beacon. Pete thanked all for the support he received as VEEP this past year and requested the same support be given to John K4CQY as he assumes the position of VEEP. John reminded the membership that on January 11, 2004, at 6:00 PM at the Ponderosa in PanTops the AARC will have its annual Banquet.

Membership: Bob K4DU reminded the membership that dues are due with the first of the New Year upon us. He also informed the group that in this next year club members for 2003 and those in 2002 who dropped out will receive a letter welcoming them back to the club and reminding them to pay their dues. John noted the need for up-to-date mailing and E-mail lists. He then circulated a sign-up sheet requesting this information from those present.

Education: Tom W4RAE stated in all probability there would be a Tech class in the spring.

Technical: Dave K4DND (see Minutes of Board Meeting for December). Dave reminded the membership that there was an autopatch to the State Police through the 925 repeater that can be raised by using *911 on your radio key pad. Identify yourself as an Amateur Operator to alert the operator that you are on a radio and can only handle one way conversations. Dave brought to the attention of the membership that there was a need to move the 76 repeater from Marshall Manor due to difficulty of access. He indicated this was a long term goal, not for immediate action.

Refreshments: Steve KD4HBX noted that there were refreshments tonight and refreshments for January would be provided by the Ponderosa. He also noted the continuation of refreshments at normal club meetings into the foreseeable future.

General Items: Pete W4PRT and Marty AG4DN informed the membership that the November Minutes and the December Minutes would be ready for approval at the next

regular club meeting in February 2004. Pete passed around a catalog showing jackets and caps for the membership to review. A club jacket similar to the current one can be obtained for \$20 and one with a warmer lining will run \$40. Caps with logo will run \$13. The logo is being developed.

Steve KF4ZGD informed the group that power poles will be available for \$7.50 for 10 pairs after the meeting.

New Item Proposed: Change in Club Name. (See December 2003 Beacon for details).

Bob K4DU introduced his motion for a change in the club name. He noted that this was only a reading and according to the By-laws the changes could not be voted on until the next regular club meeting in February. The floor was now opened for discussion. In a heated exchange of opinions the pros and cons of change and remaining as AARC came to the floor. An unofficial poll of those present was taken to get a sense of the membership. Those in favor of maintaining the current name were in the majority. Bob K4DU withdrew his proposed change from consideration at this time.

Continuation of General Items: Stan K2SSB requested a vote of appreciation for the contribution of Steve as President for the passed year. So moved, seconded and approved without discussion. Steve KF4ZGD indicated that a spring trip to West Virginia to the radio observatory would be worth undertaking this coming year. This will be addressed at a later date.

Program: Joe W2PVY made his presentation regarding the "Ultimate Radio". He covered the nature of radio signals, noise, enhanced signals and amplification. He indicated that in order to get a proper signal there is a trade-off between the various factors. He had with him a radio he had assembled to demonstrate the principles he discussed. A question and answer period followed. Audience participation indicated strong interest in the subject.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:04 PM followed by a raffle and refreshments.

Submitted by Marty Malt AG4DN, Secy.

FCC Announces New Universal Licensing System Interface

ARL0071 from ARRL

The FCC on December 14 will unveil a new on-line filing interface for its Universal Licensing System (ULS), on the web at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>, which includes the Amateur Service.

To implement the changes, the ULS on-line filing system will be down from 12 AM EST Saturday, December 13, until 10 AM EST Sunday, December 14.

Among other features, the ULS's new look will include easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new system, called "ULS License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

ULS License Manager will be compatible with most major Web browsers and computer platforms and no longer will require downloading Java and JavaScript files. An FCC staffer involved with implementing ULS License Manager notes that all features may not be in place when the system debuts.

The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) no longer will be accepted for log-in purposes, the FCC said.

Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

There is also a new paper version of FCC Form 605, dated December 2003. One change is that Form 605 no longer requests a date of birth and will only accept an FRN and CORES password. There are no Amateur Service-related changes to any Form 605 schedules. The FCC says Amateur Service applicants may continue to use the March 2001 (or later) edition of Form 605, although it encourages use of the newest version. The new FCC Form 605 now is available on the FCC Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, K4UVT

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Jan 1 | Straight Key Night |
| Jan 24-26 | ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes |
| Feb 9-13 | School Club Round-Up |

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar 2004](http://www.arrl.org/contests) webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Jan 10-11 | Hunting LIONS on the Air |
| Jan 10-11 | North American QSO Party CW |
| Jan 17-18 | North American QSO Party SSB |
| Jan 24-25 | CQ 160 Meter Contest |
| Jan 24-25 | REF (France) Contest |

The [SM3CER Contest Service - Contest Calendars](http://www.sm3cer.org) has info and rules for just about every contest that exists.

73, Bob W4RQ

W4DO - Silent Key

It is with deep regret that we report that Harrison Faulkner, W4DO, became a Silent Key on December 20, 2003. He was a long-time member of AARC and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

New ARRL Antenna Design and Construction Course in January

Tnx Rick, K04WQ

[Editor's Note: Although the registration deadline has past for this course, we print here now to make you aware of it. We will endeavor to provide more advance notice the next time this course is offered].

If there's one thing that all radio amateurs have in common it's the need for an antenna. The ARRL Certification and Continuing Education program (C-CE) <http://www.arrl.org/ccce> will open registration Monday, December 22, for its new **"Antenna Design and Construction" (EC-009) on-line course. Signup begins at 12:01 AM Eastern Time (0501 UTC).** Registration for "Antenna Design and Construction" will remain open until Sunday, December 28. The class will begin Tuesday, January 13, 2004.

Authored by Ward Silver, N0AX, "Antenna Design and Construction" joins "Antenna Modeling" (EC-004) as the C-CE program's second antenna-related course. It will use the ARRL publication **Simple and Fun Antennas for Hams** available at <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=8&words=8624> by Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, and Dean Straw, N6BV, for its textbook. Students must have a copy before starting this class, which takes 20 to 25 hours to complete.

Students who take "Antenna Design and Construction" must hold an Amateur Radio license to be able to complete some of the course's practical activities. They will become familiar with—and experience—antenna design and construction techniques. Optional antenna construction projects and experiments involving HF and VHF/UHF antennas of various types are available for the more adventuresome.

The registration fee for EC-009 is \$65 for members and \$95 for nonmembers, exclusive of textbooks and materials. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/cce> and click on EC 009. For additional information, contact the Certification and Continuing Education Program staff cce@arrl.org.

ARRL and the Citizen Corps

Tnx John, W4IM

Dear Affiliated Clubs,

Important info from the League you may want to consider this coming year!!

ARRL, Citizen Corps and You

In July 2003 ARRL signed a Statement of Affiliation with the Citizen Corps, making ARRL an affiliate organization working with Citizen Corps and other organizations to promote the goals of Citizen Corps. As an affiliate organization, ARRL, along with American Red Cross, NOAA, Points of Light Foundation, Veterans of Foreign Wars and others, was invited to a two-day meeting in Maryland on December 2 and 3. The purpose of the meeting was to identify strategies and goals for organizations working with Citizen Corps.

In the course of the meeting, Citizen Corps staff shared the information that \$35 million was awarded to state Citizen Corps groups. Each state will receive a share of the money based on a population-based formula. The funding was awarded in order to execute states' strategic plans for disaster prevention and preparedness and recovery - this plan had to be submitted to Citizen Corps by December 31, 2003. Funds will begin flowing to states in March 2004.

What does this mean for ARRL? Since there is no funding available on the national level, ARRL HQ is not eligible for funds. However, for ARES groups and Amateur Radio clubs, there is potential funding for projects that relate to a state's strategic plan. The message from Citizen Corps was that participation and funding must be at the local and state level. Each state has a Point of Contact (POC) for Citizen Corps and a State Administrative Agency (SAA) that will manage the funds. The Citizen Corps funding mandate requires that the SAA work through the POC for programs and initiatives to be funded locally. The POC and SAA may be the same in some states. ARRL affiliated clubs that are interested in this funding might best band together, and should take the initiative to contact their state POC and SAA about programs that need funding (a pilot project, specialized training, equipment or a system). If there is more than one Section in the state, it would be best to work together on a funding request and present a unified plan that may be better

received by the POC and SAA. Please share this information with those you feel would be interested. Also, SMs and/or SECs should contact the state POCs, if this has not already been done, to ensure that Amateur Radio is included in the state's strategic plan.

So, it's up to you. If you need funding for a local project, event or initiative, collaborate on your grant request by contacting other Amateur Radio groups in your area or state to coordinate and integrate your plans. Then contact the state Citizen Corps POC. A list of state POCs is on the web at <http://www.citizen corps.gov/citizenCorps/statepoc.do>. Additional information about Citizen Corps is at web address www.citizen corps.gov.

73,

John Humphrey W4IM, Pres. RVARC, VA ACC

w4im@arrl.net

***Happy
New
Year !!!***

**Best Wishes in
2004 to all
AARC members
and their
families for
continued
health, well-
being and
success!**

**May the new
year bring you
memorable
QSO's,
interesting club
activities, good
DX, great
propagation on
HF / VHF and
high scores in
the contests!!**

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)
W4OJ	Jon Gefaell (ex - K4CQY)

Upgrades

None Reported

VE Session Schedule - 2003

Date
Location

(ARRL VEC)

For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the [ARRL Exam Session Search](#) web page.

For Sale Items

Offered by
Rick, KO4WQ
Contact Rick at
(434) 245-1128

- 1 - Astron 12M Regulated Power Supply with manual and original carton with 12v distribution strip
- 2 - 12v Gel Cells
- 1 - Icom 207 H dual band (2m & 70 cm) mobile w removable face plate & connecting cable.
- 1 - Portable Power Station with 6, 9 and 12v outputs in original Carton.

AARC Club Officers

President	Pete Thorsen	W4PRT	w4prt@arrl.net 434-842-1014
Vice President	Jon Gefaell	W4OJ	jon@turing.org 434-996-9628
Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	mandm8@aol.com 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Ralph Traylor	K4CFE	rw6t@virginia.edu 434-296-7418
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	rep4@aol.com 434-985-4828
Director	Ben Mills	KG4QVP	434-
Director	Jill Anderson	KG4TFS	jrandersn@yahoo.com 434-
Director	Howard Gay	KG4TWQ	kg4tyf@earthlink.net 540-456-6445
Director	Steve Clements	KD4HBX	

Contest Calendars

ARRL Contest Calendar 2004	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2004	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
Contesting Online	Just about everything contests!

January 2004

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



THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2004 No. 1
January 2004



ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information
Daniel R. (Bob) Dorsey, Jr. W4RQ
PO Box 530
Ruckersville, VA 22968-0530
(434) 990-2659
W4RO@yahoo.com

Next Club Meeting :

January 11 - 6:00 PM

Ponderosa at Pantops

CLUB MEETINGS AND NETS

REGULAR Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

BOARD & TECHNICAL Meetings: Prior to regular meeting at 6:30 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

Other Area Repeaters

145.410 (-) 100 Hz Tone (if enabled) -- AF4CY (Madison)

442.075 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone -- KF4UCI

Tone Access (if needed)

151.4 Hz

151.4 Hz

No Tone

151.4 Hz (if enabled)

MACHO Node

CHO Packet Bulletin Board

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
January 11	Winter Dinner Meeting - Ponderosa Pantops
February 10	Regular Club Meeting
March 9	Regular Club Meeting
April 13	Regular Club Meeting
May 11	Regular Club Meeting
June 8	Regular Club Meeting
July 13	Regular Club Meeting
August 10	AARC Picnic

Please sign up at meetings as the SIGN UP CLIPBOARD is passed around. Contact Greg N4PGS indicating your interest in working particular events.

Membership application available in PDF format at http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/aarc/images/AARC_Application.pdf

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
2004 - TBA	TBA