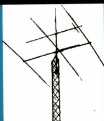


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2004, No. 4

April 2004

Inside this Issue

- 1 Meeting Notice
- 1 The President Speaks
- 2 Veep Peeps
- 2 FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio Restructuring Plans
- 3 ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Course Registration
- 3 ARRL Emergency Communications Course Registration
- 4 BPL Handout from ARRL
- 4 Tales from the Left Coast
- 5 Club Business
- 6 Contest Highlights - Upcoming
- 7 AARC Public Service Schedule
- 7 Area Hamfests
- 7 FCC Database Updates
- 7 VE Session Schedule - 2003
- 7 For Sale Items
- 7 AARC Club Officers
- 7 Contest Calendars

Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 9 at 7:30 PM** at the **Astronomy Building on the UVA campus**. The program will be a presentation by **Bob (K4DU)**, giving an overview of the four **Amateur Radio restructuring proposals before the FCC**.

See you there!!

The President Speaks

Pete, W4PRT

Greetings!

The end of March was very busy with a lot of activity going on around the area. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the ARES/RACES drill on March 26th. I would also like to thank everyone who participated in helping with Ben's (KG4QVP) Eagle Scout Project. I would also like to thank everyone who came out to help with the Jefferson Cup Bike Races.

As I mentioned in last month's column, Public Service events are very important to the community and to the Club as well. They are a great opportunity for gaining communications skills and training that can be used in Emergencies. They are also a lot of fun.

The next blip on the Public Service radar is the MS Walk. The MS Walk will be held April 18th, 2004. The walk will begin around 2:00 pm at the Omni Hotel. People are needed to help cover rest stops, walk organizers and a few roving vehicles are needed as well.

The Walk organizers appreciated the job we did for them last year and said that they could not do this event without us this year and really needed our help again.

Again, if you can volunteer the call for help is out there. Let's all try and make this another successful event. If you would like to help out with this please get in touch with Howard Gay (W4UF). His e-mail address is w4uf@arrl.net. I'm sure that Howard will be mentioning this again at the

upcoming meeting and if you can help please let him know then or prior to the meeting.

Okay, now is the part of the column where I refer to this month's listings in the **"ARRL Active Club Online Primer"**. This month is rather light but here goes.

April Notes:

Plan May meeting. (Suggestion: Contact Public Information Coordinator for list of potential speakers for May meeting. Recruit speaker.)

Arrange special field trip to local point of interest: observatory, electric utility, broadcast station transmitter, airport communications center for examples.)

Hold ARRL Night meeting. Also, review Field Day planning status.

In talking with Howard and lining up this month's program, we already have a program in place for May.

We've talked before about arranging a Club Field Trip before. If anyone has any ideas for such a trip that might be of interest to the Club, please let us know either at the meeting or prior to the meeting. E-mail is fine.

As for ARRL night, we have had folks come and visit us from the region and the section in the past. If folks would think that this would be interesting, perhaps we can arrange to get these folks to one of the future meetings.

For **this month's program** at the next Club Meeting, **Bob (K4DU) will be giving an overview of the four Amateur Radio restructuring proposals before the FCC.** Bob briefly touched on these at the February meeting but this discussion will offer a lot more detail on the different proposals that are out there.

So, if you would like to get the skinny on what all this is and what it might mean to you and how you operate in the future come to the next meeting and join us. It should be quite interesting and hopefully everyone's questions can get answered.

Oh, before I forget, for those of you who are wondering how the President did in the **Virginia QSO Party**, I'll let you know...

I had 150 QSOs totaling 9,765 points. So, dig out those logs and compare the numbers. I'm curious to know how folks did. Let me know if you'd like or you can make me sweat it out until Bob (K4DU) hands out the certificates.

Well, that's all that I can think of for now. Hope to see you all at the upcoming Club Meeting. And as always, bring a Ham, bring a friend, bring a family member and share our great hobby with them.

73 -- Pete

Veep Peeps

Howard, W4UF, Interim VP

Greetings to all members of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club from W4UF. I am honored to have been selected to fill the VP position in the interim until the club votes on the permanent replacement for Jon at the April 2004 meeting.

I already have a few leads for possible future presentations at the club meetings, and will provide more detail as things firm up and, accordingly, with the result of the vote.

With things still being up in the air (i.e., until the vote), I'm going to make this column short. Maybe we can avoid killing some virtual trees (i.e., additional electrons upon which an electromotive force would inevitably be impressed by more words).

73, Howard

FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio Restructuring Plans

ARRL Bulletin ARLB007, March 24, 2004

The FCC is seeking comment on three plans, one from the ARRL that would reshape the Amateur Service licensing structure. Each Petition for Rule Making responds to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 actions last summer that made changes to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. While differing substantially in some other aspects, the three petitions call for modifications at Amateur Radio's entry level and for a three-tiered license system. One petition goes beyond licensing structure to recommend additional changes to amateur testing and HF digital privileges. A fourth petition focuses solely on the Morse requirement. Comments are due by April 24 on all four petitions.

Designated **RM-10867**, ARRL's petition asks the FCC to create a new entry-level license class -- being called "Novice" for now. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus certain VHF and UHF privileges. The League plan also would consolidate Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General licensees into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technicians automatically would gain General privileges without additional testing. Applicants for Amateur Extra would still have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the General and Extra written exams would stay the same.

A news report "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access," www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/, has further details. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are addressed on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html.

An "unincorporated grassroots organization," the **Radio Amateur Foundation (RAF)**, has filed a petition designated as RM-10868. Its wide-ranging filing asks the FCC to modify the Technician ticket to allow restricted HF phone, data, image and CW privileges. The group also proposes retaining the 5 WPM Morse requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants, upgrading Advanced class holders to Extra and all Novices to Technician. The Radio Amateur Foundation said it sees no need to change licensing requirements for General or Amateur Extra applicants.

The RAF also wants to scrap existing Amateur Radio question pools and start over from scratch, keeping the question pools out of the public domain and requiring a 10-day waiting period before retesting. In addition, it would permit only Generals and Amateur Extras or Technicians licensed more than two years to request vanity call signs.

The RAF has further asked the FCC to permit digital experimentation from 29.0 to 29.3 MHz at bandwidths of up to 15 kHz.

In his two-page petition designated RM-10869, Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, calls on the FCC to retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for General class applicants and to raise the Morse requirement to 13 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants. He called Morse code "the most reliable mode of communication" in an emergency. Lowrance would make no change in Technician licensing requirements.

The **National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC)** wants the FCC to establish a new entry-level license called the **Communicator class**. Its petition, designated RM-10870, reiterates its call -- first made last fall in RM-10787--to altogether eliminate the Morse code testing requirement.

The NCVEC's petition would upgrade all current Novices to Communicator class. The NCVEC would further upgrade all existing Technician and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to General and all Advanced class licensees to Amateur Extra without further testing. Once the Morse requirement goes away, NCVEC said in its filing, "there will be no effective difference between the Technician and General class licensees."

The new Communicator ticket would permit a power limit of 100 W on bands below 24 MHz and 50 W on all frequencies above 24 MHz. Communicator licensees would have to use commercially manufactured equipment (or gear built from a commercial kit). They could operate both voice and digital modes on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus VHF and UHF up to 70 cm.

All three license restructuring plans call for changes to the present HF subbands.

Interested parties may view and comment on these petitions via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System, www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html. When entering the RM number in the ECFS "Proceeding" field, RM must be in capital letters and the hyphen must be included.

ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Course Registration

From the ARRL Letter, April 2, 2004

The Registration for five technical courses is now open. Classes will begin on April 13 for the **ARRL RFI (EC-006)** and **ARRL Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009)** courses. Students participating in the RFI class will learn to identify sources of interference. Antenna Design and Construction students will become acquainted with antenna design and construction techniques. Registration for **Technician Licensing (EC-010)** will remain open through Sunday, April 11, and classes begin Tuesday, April 20. With the assistance of a mentor, students will learn everything they need to learn to pass the FCC Technician license class test. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) <http://www.arrl.org/cce/> Web page or contact the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program Department <cce@arrl.org>.

ARRL Emergency Communications Course Registration

From the ARRL Letter, April 2, 2004

Registration opens Monday, April 5, 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time (0401 UTC), for the on-line Level I Emergency Communications course (EC-001). Registration remains open through the April 10-11 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first. Class begins Tuesday, April 20. Thanks to our grant sponsors -- the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 175 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis.

Senior amateurs are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, <dmiller@arrl.org>; 860-594-0340.

BPL Handout from ARRL

From the ARRL Letter, April 2, 2004

The ARRL has posted a two-page document <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/BPL-leave-behind.pdf>> that discusses Broadband over Power Line (BPL) in lay terms. "Broadband over Power Line: Why Amateur Radio is Concerned about Its Deployment" is available for reprinting and use as a handout when, for example, dealing with members of Congress, municipal officials, power utilities and the news media.

While emphasizing that hams do not oppose broadband services per se and tend to be "early adopters" of new technology, the information sheet outlines Amateur Radio's concern about BPL's potential to create interference. Other broadband delivery methods "do not pollute the radio spectrum as BPL does," the paper states.

It also defines BPL, outlines its current deployment status, discusses FCC regulations already in place and explains that BPL's interference potential is real, not just theoretical. Finally, it lists "Others at risk," including short-wave listeners, public safety agencies and federal government radio systems.

Tales from the Left Coast

Jon, K6OJ (ex-W4OJ)

Greetings from the left coast. I'm certainly not in good ol' Cville anymore. Sunnyvale is a large city just north of San Jose, which is a very large city, and to the north lay numerous cities and finally San Francisco about 30 minutes up highway 101, a monstrous 12 lanes wide near the SFO airport.

My introduction to the local Amateur community was not exactly auspicious. It appears that the Tiny Track III has a most unfortunate propensity to hang PTT in a low power condition. After draining the battery on the Toyota when I arrived it managed to throw an ugly signal all over the APRS frequency locally. I found out when a local ARRL OO sent me email! Seems they used RDF to locate my emissions and

decided they came from the neighbor's house (he's a ham) but he had no APRS equipment. They ended up looking in FindU and decided it was probably me since my last beacon came from the same location from which they RDF'd me. He got my email from QRZ.COM. An honest mistake and I don't think anything 'official' came of it. I'm glad no one took the Wouff-Hong to me!

I've managed to put my VHF/UHF vertical up about 30' or so. An old mounting scheme I learned in '91 after I was first licensed at an AARC VE session and putting together my first station. I've bolted a radio shack tripod to a 4'x4' plywood board and use a few cinderblocks on that to further stabilize the stack of three 10' masts mounted to the tripod. It's a bit flexible but has very low wind loading so it's OK.

There is a "9:00 Talk Net" or something like that on one of the very good repeaters here. The regular NCS is an engineer at Sun Labs and a very smart woman. The net typically goes on for hours. I wonder how she and the other participants find the time, but they do... smart folks and very friendly. Some people say that folks don't answer your call on FM repeaters nowadays but you just have to be coaxing and make sure to let folks know you're friendly and want a chat. I've been throwing out a "K6OJ, new to the area and looking to chat with some locals" then if nothing is heard I might try again. More times than not someone comes back.

Last Wednesday the 9 AM Talk Net group met for lunch. I had a great time and was one of the last to leave. Real nice and smart folks, just like back home with the AARC gang. I made some new friends and was thinking of my old friends. Speaking of which, I managed to get on Echolink and you will find me sometimes monitoring on the .075 repeater. I checked into the youth net this week and it was great speaking with Cayman, Josh, Jeffrey and others. Some folks say it's not radio, but I was in a recliner in the back yard, the laptop on battery power and WiFi A very strange HT indeed. :)

I've done a lot of research and purchased a Cushcraft 5BTV (10-80M trap vertical) and will replace the television antennas on the roof with this 26' antenna. I am trying to get a work party together to help with the work. An Amateur "Barn Raising". I think that ought to get me back into the DXCC game with any luck. I'm going to build an 80M inverted V with the midpoint at the vertical mount and the legs on the backyard corner fence posts. I think this will work like an eastward facing beam and will be my 80M WAS machine...

In the back of the house, one lot over the fellow has a tower with a big HF beam and a 2M beam with numerous elements and a nice small tidy 440(?) beam that looks like an M2. The thing is it's still pointed in the same direction it was in 1996. I need to get up the nerve to go introduce myself and see what's up.

There is a local event I have been looking forward to attending. It is the monthly Foothill College Electronics Flea Market which is sponsored every month by a different Amateur Club. The funny thing is this year it's being held on the other side of the valley, very close to my house at Moffett Field. You have to get there before dawn to get the "good stuff" though, and most of the action is over before the gates officially open at 6:30! I found a nice Amateur Radio license granted by the Department of Commerce in 1932 for W6UX (close to W6UZI) and bought it for my collection for \$4.

Well, the DSL came up just the other day after many problems with the Telco. home.turing.org is online once again. It's funny because I haven't hosted my own servers since we left this house over two years ago. This weekend we're going to do more work on the office and network and I'll be scheming on what to do about the antennas. Meanwhile I'm looking into putting something up for 6 meters.....

Very 73 and I look forward to seeing you on the air!

Jon K6OJ

Club Business

*****NOTE***:** At the Regular meeting on Feb 10, 2004, the membership of the AARC approved the club minutes for December 2003 and January 2004.

AARC Board Minutes March 9, 2004

Members present: Pete W4PRT; Marty AG4DN; Ralph K4CFE; Ben KG4QVP; Jill KG4TFS; Steve KD4HBX; Bob K4DU; Howard W4UF. Members Absent: Jon K6OJ.

Pete W4PRT opened the Board Meeting at 6:35 PM.

Bob K4DU discussed the issue of an alternate call for the club repeater. He believes that it would be appropriate to use Harrison Faulkner's call sign W4DO in recognition of his contribution to the club. The family has been contacted and is pleased by this event. Bob has volunteered to be Trustee.

Pete discussed the need to replace Jon in the VEEP position without delay. He moved on to discuss the movement of the 76 repeater from the Kluge Estate to Brown's Mountain. He is in contact with the Jefferson Foundation Trust at present to complete the transfer.

Ralph K4CFE reported \$5943.53 in assets for the club treasury. \$950 has been collected in 2004 membership dues. A full report will be forthcoming shortly.

Ben KG4QVP reported that 55 members have paid their dues thus far. He stated that members who have not paid their dues and receive their Beacon by mail have had their

newsletter stopped pending receipt of 2004 dues. The Board is in concurrence with this action. Ben indicated that the work of establishing a new web site for the club is well under way. He asked for \$50 to cover fees thus far. The request was approved.

Pete indicated he had the Field Day Rules in hand. He indicated he would ask for the membership's approval for the cost of purchasing two antennas for Field Day and other such events. The Board supported this action.

Bob indicated it was time to publish the new hard copy club and regional directory of amateur operators as the club has done in the past. A fee of \$2 or \$3 could be charged for each copy to cover the cost and as a fund raiser. The Board agreed and Bob will bring this idea to the membership.

Pete returned to the need for a new VEEP to fill the vacancy left by Jon's departure. After a discussion of possible nominees, the Board agreed to put before the membership Howard W4DU as a candidate and open the floor for any other nominations in April. Howard was appointed Acting VEEP until such time.

With nothing further to discuss the Board meeting closed at 7:15 PM.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting March 9, 2004

Pete W4PRT called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

This was followed by the introduction of members and guests. Pete recognized Frank Haynes W4NUA a guest. He was one of the first three members of the AARC when it was organized. He currently resides in Northern Virginia. The next matter at hand was the need for a new VEEP. Pete reported that an ad hoc committee of the Board had inquired if Howard W4UF would be willing to run for the position. Howard had indicated he would. The floor was now open for additional nominations at this meeting or the April meeting at which time a special election would be held.

The Education Committee (Colin W4RAE) reported plans were being made for a Tech class this spring. More info will follow.

Tech Committee (Dave K4DND) informed the membership that an emergency antenna had been erected on the Ridge Street Fire Station in Charlottesville. He now discussed the heavy load of public service events coming up at the end of the month. On March 26 there will be an emergency drill in Albemarle/Charlottesville EOC. The time of starting and terminating is being held in secret. Volunteers were needed for amateur emergency antennas in the County. He indicated that Ben KG4QVP will need assistance for his Eagle Scout project on 27 March. Hein N4FWA emphasized that the membership must be ready to react to emergency situations with little prior notice. Dave additionally noted that

there will be Bike Races on the Kluge Loop on 28 March in the AM and PM. Volunteers were needed. A sign up clip board was circulated among the membership.

Pete thanked Steve KD4HBX for the refreshments. The membership gave Steve a round of applause for his efforts. The costs run about \$30 per month.

Pete informed the membership that the Field Day Packet had arrived. He looked forward to strong membership support as in the past. He indicated the club required two antennas for Field Day and like events. Dave K4DND made a motion for the club to purchase the antennas. The motion was second and with no discussion, approved by the membership.

Pete requested Marty AG4DN to assist him in ordering and obtaining the antennas.

Publications Committee (Ben KG4QVP) informed the membership that there were 55 paid members at present. Members who have not as yet paid and receive the Beacon by mail will no longer receive their copy pending receipt of dues.

New Business

Ben covered the scope and objectives of his Eagle Scout project on 27 March. It will be a three County exercise activating emergency antennas in the area and determining each location's ability to send and receive. He also informed the membership of the work being done to change the club web site.

Bob covered the regional amateur directory project and explained what benefits it would bring; information, reference and as fund raiser. The membership by an informal show of hands indicated their support for the project as well as a willingness to pay \$2 or \$3 per copy.

With no further business the formal portion of the general membership meeting closed at 8:40 PM.

Bob K4DU made the monthly presentation. He discussed the **Virginia QSO Party scheduled for 20-22 March**. He indicated there would be AARC awards as well as state awards. Those interested could make reference to the March Beacon or visit <http://www.qsl.net/sterling/qsoparty.html>.

The club held a raffle with the proceeds going to the club treasury and the raffle winners.

The Secretary's Final Note:

Forget the hasty, unkind word; Forget the slander you have heard;

Forget the quarrel and the cause; Forget the whole affair, because,

Forgetting is the only way, Forget the storm of yesterday,

Forget the bad day of the week, Forget you're not a millionaire;

Forget the gray streaks in your hair; Forget to even get the blues- -

BUT DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES!!!!!!!

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

June 12-14	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
June 19	Kids Day
June 26-27	ARRL Field Day

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

Apr 3-4	QCWA QSO Party
Apr 10-11	Georgia QSO Party
Apr 17	Holyland Contest
Apr 24-25	Florida QSO Party

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

73, Bob W4RQ

AARC Public Service Schedule

June 12 - 13	MS Bike Tour
September	Mountain mama Bike Race - Highland County
November	Montpelier Horse Races

Area Hamfests

RARSFest 2004 April 4	Jim Graham Building NC State Fairgrounds Details at website at URL http://www.rars.org/hamfest
Raleigh NC	

FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
W4PRT	Pete Thorsen - to Extra

VE Session Schedule - 2003

March 13 Madison (ARRL VEC)	Sponsor: Madison VE Team Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: John Berry (540) 543-2580 Email: AF4CY@ARRL.NET Location: Madison War Memorial Bldg, MAIN ST. Madison, VA 22727
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 1 - Portable Power Station with 6, 9 and 12v outputs in original Carton.
--	--

AARC Club Officers

President	Pete Thorsen	W4PRT	w4pn@arrl.net 434-842-1014
Vice President	** VACANT **		
Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	mandjm8@aol.com 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Ralph Traylor	K4CFE	rw6i@virginia.edu 434-296-7418
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	rep4@aol.com 434-985-4826
Director	Ben Mills	KG4QVP	blmills@mindspring.com 434-953-8106
Director	Jill Anderson	KG4TFS	jrandersn@yahoo.com 434-
Director	Howard Gay	W4UF	w4uf@arrl.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!

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. 4
 April 2004



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 2004. Content in this newsletter may be
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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 :

April 13 - 7:30 PM

Astronomy Bldg. at UVA

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

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
April 13	Regular Club Meeting
May 11	Regular Club Meeting
June 8	Regular Club Meeting
July 13	Regular Club Meeting
August 10	AARC Picnic

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
2004 - TBA	TBA

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