

Volume 2004, No. 9

September 2004

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 14 at 7:30 PM** at the **Astronomy Building on the UVA campus**. The program will be given by **Jay Rostow (K4AZV) on batteries and battery operation**. It should be very interesting!! See you there!!

It is now time to order your new AARC jackets and hats!!  
The order form is provided later in this issue.

**Orders will be taken at the September meeting. Please make checks out to "Inklings Ink".** Pete W4PRT will provide receipts for those who pay cash. If you cannot attend the meeting, please get your order to Pete W4PRT as soon as possible.

## Pete, W4PRT

**Greetings!**

Well, we're off to a brand new month. August went by pretty fast and there was a lot happening within the Club and around the area. On Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, we had an examination session at the Astronomy Building where we have our Club meetings. Some of the folks that took the Entry Level Technician Class came and took the test and everyone passed. A new class will be starting on September 9<sup>th</sup>; more on that in a bit.

Also that weekend was the "Mountain Momma Road Century" Bike Race in Monterey Va. This is one of the Annual Public Service Events that we help out with. According to Dave (K4DND) the event was well attended and folks had a good time.

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The following Tuesday we had the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Albemarle Amateur Radio Club Swap Fest and Picnic. There were various things for sale and I think I saw some folks leaving with some of those items. We had a great turnout and there was plenty of food for everyone. I'd like to thank Steve Clements (KD4HBX) once again for organizing this event. As usual, it was fantastic.

There were two other Public Service Events that happened a few weeks later. They were, Charlottesville Off-Road Triathlon at Walnut Creek Park and The Blue Ridge Extreme Bike Race. Again, these events were well attended and folks participating said that they enjoyed them very much.

Currently as I write this, **we have a booth at the Albemarle County Fair**. I was there last night and there seemed to be a lot of people there enjoying the fair. We had a lot of folks pass by and even a few that wanted to know a bit more about Amateur Radio. The weather has been perfect and it looks as if it will stay that way through the end of the fair.

There will be a **new Entry Level Technician Class starting September 9<sup>th</sup>** at the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC) on East Rio Road. Class starts at 7:30pm and runs for 10 weeks (I think). A License Examination Session will be scheduled to coincide with the conclusion of the class.

So, if you know anyone that might be interested in getting their license, let them know about the upcoming class. Also, now would be a great time to think about upgrading your license and break out the study material to be ready for the next Exam Session.

The other item I want to mention is about the **Club Jackets and hats**. At the September meeting I'll be taking your orders for the Club Jackets and Hats. Included in this issue of the Beacon is the order form giving all the pertinent information about the jackets and hats. You'll be able to print it out separately and fill in your information on that form (**Please write legibly**). That will make it a lot easier on me when you give me the order form. There is one change not on the form. One of the other colors that are available in the windbreaker is purple. I know of one person that specifically asked for that color. So, if you want one of the Micro Fiber or Windbreaker jackets or hats, please fill out the order form. We'll accept checks and cash. **Please make checks out to "Inklings Ink"**. I'll be providing receipts for those that pay cash.

This presentation this month at our Monthly Club meeting will be given by Jay Rostow (K4AZV) about batteries and battery operation. It should be quite interesting and I hope to see you there.

## Veep Peeps

Howard, W4UUF

August was a fun month! Wouldn't it be great if we could have a picnic like that one every month? I believe it was the best level of attendance I've seen since my association with this club. Yet and still there were good friends that couldn't make it this year—always I hope for the next time...

As we move forward, **this month's presentations will be given by Joe (The Man, the legend, the co-host of the Monday Night Information Net, Mr. Audio himself) Giovanelli, W2PVY, and Jay Rostow, K4AZV**. Joe will bring to a close (for us) his work in search of the **"ideal" DX radio**, demonstrating his final product (to the extent the local environment permits his radio to do its thing). And, Jay will be telling us—in the first of what I hope will become a "mini-series"—**about batteries, charging systems, care, selection and amateur operations using DC**. I don't know about you, but these are subjects in which I have a significantly high degree of interest.

Anyone who would like to present a topic in the future at one of the monthly AARC meetings is hereby solicited to contact me via my call at ar1.net. I know that many of you have made or done something — or just know something — that the rest of us would really enjoy and profit from if you would just share it. Please consider the opportunity to make this more fun for all of us and volunteer to stand up and communicate. By the way, isn't that what we claim to like to do as amateurs?

I look forward to our next opportunity for fellowship at the September meeting.

73 de W4UUF (Howard)

## AARC Picnic 2004

*Photos courtesy of Rick, KO4WQ*

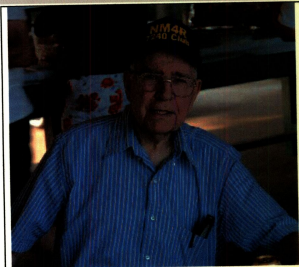
This year's AARC picnic was one of the best ever!! Everyone had a great time. Here are a few photos to remember it by.



**Ernie W2EIU and Steve KD4HBX priming the grill for all the hungry AARC'ers!!**



**Everybody starts sampling the culinary delights...**



**Morris, NM4R enjoying the picnic**



**Dave K4DND and Morris NM4R busy chowing down...**



**Bob K4DU and Charles K4TY**

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes August 10, 2004

There was no Board meeting in August. The August meeting was the annual AARC picnic and hamfest.

*Submitted by Marty Malt AG4DN, Secy.*

### Regular Meeting August 10, 2004

The August meeting was our annual AARC picnic and hamfest. No business was conducted, as everyone was having fun!!

*Submitted by Marty Malt AG4DN, Secy.*

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

**Sept 11-12** ARRL 2004 VHF QSO Party

**Sept 18-19** ARRL 2004 10 GHZ and Up Contest

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar 2004](#) webpage.

### Other Contests of Interest

**Sept 4** Russian "Radio" RTTY WW Contest

**Sept 11-12** Worked All Europe DX Contest - SSB

**Sept 12** Louisiana QSO Party - CW and SSB

**Sept 18-19** Scandinavian Activity Contest - CW

**Sept 25-26** Scandinavian Activity Contest - SSB

**Sept 25-26** Texas QSO Party

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

*73, Bob W4RQ*

## AARC Beacon PDF Upgrade

Bob, W4RQ

Within the next week, I will be upgrading my Adobe Acrobat software to the latest and greatest - version 6. This software is used to create the PDF file of the Beacon each month and uploaded to the club website newsletter page.

In order to avoid backward compatibility problems with the Acrobat reader, it is recommended that you be sure to have the latest version (V6) of the Acrobat Reader. If you do not already have it, you may obtain it as a free download from Adobe. It can be obtained at the URL <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readmain.html>. Download it to your hard drive, install it and you'll be good to go!!

**The Beacon will be produced with Acrobat 6 effective with the October 2004 edition.**

## Hurricane Net, WX4NHC Continue Helping Forecasters Track Frances

*From the ARRL Bulletin, September 3, 2004-09-04*

*[Editor's Note]: Although this bulletin is specific for Hurricane Frances, it is timely and useful information for all amateurs during hurricane season. And we know that a hurricane can easily come our way, as Isabel did last year!!*

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) on 14.325 MHz this week has been working hand-in-hand with WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) to relay weather data and damage reports as a downgraded Hurricane Frances continues on what appears to be an inevitable collision with Florida's Atlantic Coast. As of September 3 at 1800 UTC, the National Hurricane Center said Frances was "relentlessly

lashing central and western Bahamas" while slowly heading for Florida.

"We continue to have torrential rains," Marti Brown, KF4TRG/C6A, on Abaco reported to the HWN net control station September 3. "It's essentially a whiteout condition." Her report, typical of those being gathered, may portend what Southern Florida can expect. Another Amateur Radio report from the Bahamas indicated that seas were breaching the dunes of the beach, and residents were evacuating.

All such reports, typically including real-time measured weather data, are passed along to WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center for forecasters to review. HWN operators have been handling and relaying all reports with businesslike efficiency, despite occasional QRM -- some of it possibly intentional.

HWN Manager Mike Pilgrim, KSMP, in Boca Raton, Florida, briefly checked into the net using an indoor antenna "in case we need it," he told net control. The latest National Hurricane Center forecast is available via the HWN Web site <<http://www.hwn.org/atlanctic/hap31us.htm>>, which includes graphics.

During hurricanes and severe weather emergencies, trained HWN members work in cooperation with WX4NHC to relay observed or measured weather data and damage reports to forecasters via Amateur Radio. The ground-level weather data assist NHC forecasters in predicting a storm's path and behavior.

Frances was downgraded September 3 to a Category 3 hurricane, with winds of 115 MPH with higher gusts. Its forward motion was expected to continue to slow, however, perhaps buying some time for Floridians preparing for or escaping the storm's anticipated wrath.

As the state continued to recover from Hurricane Charley in mid-August, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams throughout Florida this week got ready for another punishing storm. Some communities hard-hit by Charley are in the potential path of Hurricane Frances.

Special sessions of the Southern Florida ARES Net (SFAN) to coordinate response activities (Florida Midday Traffic Net and Tropical Phone Traffic Net, both on 7242 KHz) were called up this week. Southern Florida ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Jim Goldsberry, KD4GR, says the Broward County Emergency Preparedness Net activated September 2 from the Broward County emergency operations center (EOC).

Palm Beach County also was recruiting ARES volunteers for shelter and EOC communicator duty. Palm Beach County RACES Officer Mark Filla, KS4VT, reported coastline and mobile home evacuations were under way.

"This is not a drill," emphasized Polk County Assistant Emergency Coordinator Wayne Miles, KG4TCJ, in a message to the Florida ARES reflector. Among the areas assaulted by

Hurricane Charley, Polk County ARES has begun conducting informational nets (146.985 MHz, 127.3 Hz tone) at the top of every hour.

Earlier this week, Indian River County Emergency Management's Nathan McCollum put that county's Auxiliary Communication Services (ACS) -- a Citizen Corps group -- on a "Level 1" alert. The ACS includes Amateur Radio and REACT communication resources.

SATERN, the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network, planned to activate September 4 at 1400 UTC on 14.265 MHz. SATERN will handle emergency and health-and-welfare traffic for those attempting to get news of friend and relatives in the affected areas. SATERN also accepts specific H&W inquiries via its Web page <<http://www.satarn.org>>.

A fairly new all-CV entity, the National Radio Emergency Net (NREN), activated September 3 in response to Hurricane Frances to monitor 14,050 kHz and 7050 kHz for health-and-welfare, emergency traffic and hurricane information throughout the weekend. NREN is geared to low-power, portable and mobile stations.

ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager Dave Armbrust, AE4MR, said Hillsborough County and Sarasota County ARES were preparing for ARES Mutual Assistance Team (ARESMAT) deployments. "If your county is not directly hit, please be ready to lend a hand elsewhere if requested," he advised.

In a message to the Tampa Amateur Radio Club Hillsborough County of Emergency Management Director Larry Gispert, KR4X, said that many emergency workers were "very impressed" by what Amateur Radio volunteers were able to accomplish during Hurricane Charley.

"In this day and age of ubiquitous Internet access and prolific cell phone usage, it is still amazing that when the chips are down the only reliable form of communication is a bunch of hams with their radios," Gispert said.

## AARC Public Service Schedule

August 7	Mountain Mama Bike Race – Highland County
November	Montpelier Horse Races

## Area Hamfests

September 18-19 Roanoke Division Convention  Virginia Beach, VA	Sponsor: Tidewater Radio Conventions <a href="http://www.vahamfest.com">http://www.vahamfest.com</a> Contact: Mr. Lynn Lilla, W9DJQ 848 Stacey Place Virginia Beach, VA 23464 Phone: 757-479-1597 Email: <a href="mailto:hamfest@exis.net">hamfest@exis.net</a>
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## FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	

## VE Session Schedule - 2004

August 7 Charlottesville  (ARRL VEC)	Sponsor: Albemarle ARC VE Team Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: Harry J. Dannals W2HD (434) 974-7388 <a href="mailto:W2HD@ARRL.NET">W2HD@ARRL.NET</a> Location: University Of VA 530 McCormick RD Astronomy Bldg-Room 201 Corner of McCormick & Alderman Charlottesville, VA 22904
September 18 Madison  (ARRL VEC)	Sponsor: Madison VE Team Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: John Berry (540) 543-2580 <a href="mailto:AF4CY@ARRL.NET">AF4CY@ARRL.NET</a> 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 <a href="#">ARRL Exam Session Search</a> web page.

## For Sale Items

None at this time	
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## AARC Club Officers

President	Pete Thorsen	W4PRT	<a href="mailto:w4prt@arrl.net">w4prt@arrl.net</a> 434-842-1014
Vice President	Howard Gay	W4UF	<a href="mailto:w4uf@arrl.net">w4uf@arrl.net</a> 540-456-8445
Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	<a href="mailto:ag4dn@earthlink.net">ag4dn@earthlink.net</a> 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Ralph Traylor	K4CFE	<a href="mailto:rt4@virginia.edu">rt4@virginia.edu</a> 434-296-7418
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	<a href="mailto:rop4@aol.com">rop4@aol.com</a> 434-985-4828
Director	Ben Mills	KG4QVP	<a href="mailto:bmills@rminespring.com">bmills@rminespring.com</a> 434-953-8108
Director	Jill Anderson	KG4TFS	<a href="mailto:jranderson@yahoo.com">jranderson@yahoo.com</a> 581-1004
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	<a href="mailto:bill1048@direcway.com">bill1048@direcway.com</a> 434-872-0688
Director	Steve Clements	KD4HBX	

## Contest Calendars

<a href="#">ARRL Contest Calendar 2004</a>	ARRL sponsored contests
<a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2004</a>	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
<a href="#">Contesting Online</a>	Just about everything contests!

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



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

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[W4RQ@yahoo.com](mailto:W4RQ@yahoo.com)

Next Club Meeting :

Sept. 14 - 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
September 14	Regular Club Meeting
October 12	Regular Club Meeting
November 9	Regular Club Meeting
December 14	Regular Club Meeting

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/AARCApplication.pdf>