

# The AARC Beacon



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

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 12 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 (Part 2).** It should be very interesting! See you there!!

## Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Ben, KG4QVP

AARC Director and member Ben Mills, KG4QVP, will be honored at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor this month. The ceremony will be held on **October 17 at 2:00 PM at the Grace United Methodist Church.** The church is located on Rte. 29 just north of GE Fanuc.

Ben's Eagle project had a lot to do with the club. As you may recall, this past spring Ben coordinated a test of all the RACES sites in District 12. A net was held to test signal strengths on both the repeaters and on simplex. Notebooks containing relevant information were placed at each site and should prove extremely useful in the event of a RACES activation. So come on out to support and congratulate Ben at this event! Ben requests that **RSVP's be directed as soon as possible to his father, Dennis, KG4SYS at [mills4@mindspring.com](mailto:mills4@mindspring.com).** Hope to see you there!!

**(Part 2).** It should be very interesting! See you there!!

## VE Exam Session – November 20

The AARC VEC Team will hold an exam session on **November 20 at 9:00 AM at the Astronomy Building at UVA.** This is a good time to upgrade your license! **You will need to bring photo ID, a photocopy of your license and any CSCE's you may now possess.** Stay tuned for more details in the November Beacon.

## The President Speaks

Pete, W4PRT

Greetings!

Where has the month gone? It seems as if this month went by quicker than most. I don't know if it was because of all the hurricane activity or what, but it is hard to believe that October is upon us.

Thankfully, all we got was a lot of rain and a bit of flooding in some areas and nothing like what we had to deal with during Isabel. I know that on more than one occasion in various counties, folks were prepared for the worst. We were lucky.

At the last club meeting, we took orders for Jackets and Hats. The order form was in the September Beacon for those who missed that meeting. If you want a jacket or hat and missed last month's meeting, please get the order form, fill it out and bring it to the October meeting and see me.

We also started a new Entry Level Technician Class last month that meets at CATEC Thursday nights at 7:30. The class runs through November 11<sup>th</sup> and we will be having a VE test session shortly thereafter. The final date on the session must be worked around dates of UVA home football games.

**The exam session is currently scheduled for November 20; see separate article in this month's Beacon.** This would be a great time to upgrade your license. Winter is approaching and those extra privileges sure would be nice for operating this winter.

**This month we also have Club Elections.** The Nominating Committee has been hard at work getting people on the ballot for this month's club elections. The candidates for the club positions will be posted in this month's Beacon. Please show your support and vote at the upcoming club meeting.

Last month, Jay (K4AZV) gave a presentation on his and Stephanie's (K4BMM) Solar Living arrangement. I know that it was billed as "Batteries and Battery Operation" but due to time constraints Jay didn't have time to get to that in that meeting. So, **for this month's presentation Jay will conclude his two part series by giving the second part of his talk about batteries and battery operation.**

Last month's discussion was very interesting and had a lot of information for those interested in solar power. Jay is very knowledgeable in both these fields and I am sure this discussion will interest many folks in the club.

73 -- Pete

## Veep Peeps

Howard, W4UW

The VP column is not available this month.

73 de W4UW (Howard)

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes September 14, 2004

Members Present: Pete W4PRT, Bob K4DU, Steve KD4HBX, Marty AG4DN. All other Board Members absent. No quorum present.

Pete recognized the fact that a quorum was not present. An informal discussion of a number of topics followed at 6:50 PM.

Pete is making inquiries at NRAO for the possibility of moving our meeting back to that location.

Bob informed the Board that he would be meeting with a Tech Rep from the Central Virginia Electric Coop on 15 September to discuss the BPL problems. He also informed the board that the club will be putting up an antenna on the Albemarle/Charlottesville Rescue Squad 70 foot tower for RACES/ARES purposes.

Pete discussed Field Day for 2005. Organization of the committee for Field Day will take place in December 2004. He plans to use a co-chair system to divide the areas of responsibility. The Board discussed the use of Field Day for a "home coming" event to lure ex-members and non-participating members back to an active role in the club. Alternate sites for Field Day will also be explored.

Steve presented the club expenses for the picnic. Total cost was \$261.42. Complete expense list is available for inspection upon request.

Discussions closed at 7:15 PM.

Submitted by Marty Malt AG4DN, Secy.

### Regular Meeting September 14, 2004

Pete opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. As is our custom all members and guests introduced themselves.

Pete informed the membership that at the October meeting we would have elections for the 2005 officers. A nomination committee has been formed and their list of candidates will appear in the October Beacon. Members may place candidates for any position on the ballot from the floor at the October meeting.

Pete requested Marty present club business at this point. Marty informed the membership that we had a request to support a public service event put on by the Richmond Road Runners on Sunday 5 December at Bear Creek State Park in Cumberland County. There was a need for seven hams to provide the communications for this event. The floor was open for discussion and interest in supporting this event. Comments from the membership indicated reluctance to support an event that was obviously in the area of the Richmond radio clubs and the distance from Charlottesville and vicinity to the park was excessive. A letter was sent to the organizer of the race indicating the membership's view of this request.

Marty called for a motion for approval of June and July's Board and Membership meetings as they appeared in the August 2004 Beacon. The motion was made, second and approved with no comment.

Kevin Ward's (K4BDR) membership application and another were placed before the membership for approval. Both applications were approved without comment.

Marty noted that the club had received a thank you letter and a plaque from the MS Society for the club's efforts in providing communication support for the MS 150. Plaque and letter will be made a part of the club files and are available for review upon request.

Pete now turned to the purchase of club jackets and caps. He took orders from those members desiring to purchase the items.

Tom W4RAE informed the membership that the Tech Class in Charlottesville is in the second week with 6 students. The classes will last for a total of eight weeks. A test will be scheduled for the first Saturday after the last class. Of note is that CW is also included.

The floor was turned over to Joe W2PVY. His was the first presentation of two for the meeting. He described the actions he had taken to build an AM/FM/Stereo radio. He noted among other things the importance of vibration in the operation of a speaker, the necessary characteristics of the box used to house the radio and that although this radio could be called "portable" it was 24 lbs. The membership showed a great deal of interest in what he had accomplished as indicated by their questions.

The next presentation was by Jay K4AZV. He informed the membership that since the electric company wanted a great deal of money to run a line to his home in Nelson County, he set out to make his house completely independent of commercial power. Through the use of solar panels and propane gas he now lives in a house that is independent. His solar units are capable of storing power for at least a week without sun. The payback in having such independence is not lower costs but having power when lines are down. The set up of the system for a residence can cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000. He covered the components

of the system and where he used propane appliances to conserve electricity. The presentation was interesting and "enlightening" to say the least. Questions were many and showed the interest Jay had aroused in the membership.

With no further business or comments from the floor, Pete called for a motion to close the meeting. A motion was made, second and approved with no discussion at 8:40 PM.

*Submitted by Marty Mait AGADN, Secy.*

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

*Bob, W4RQ*

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

**Oct 9-10 ARRL 2004 International EME Competition**

**Oct 30-31 ARRL 2004 International EME Competition**

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

### Other Contests of Interest

**Oct 2 The PSK31 Rumble**

**Oct 2-3 Oceania DX Contest - SSB**

**Oct 9-10 Oceania DX Contest - CW**

**Oct 16-17 Worked All Germany Contest - CW and SSB**

**Oct 30-31 CQ Worldwide DX Contest - SSB**

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 Beacon PDF Upgrade

*Bob, W4RQ*

Effective with this issue, my Adobe Acrobat software has been upgraded to the latest version 6. This software is used to create the PDF file of the Beacon.

If you do not already have Acrobat Reader 6, 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!!

## NTIA's BPL Position Still a Moving Target

From The ARRL Letter, October 8, 2004

The position of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) with respect to BPL appears to be a moving target.

From expressing "broad concerns" about BPL in August 2003 to claiming BPL could help alleviate power line noise this past June, the NTIA now has aligned its position even more closely with that of the FCC -- already an unapologetic BPL proponent. At the same time, the agency's recently amended recommendations recognize the reality of BPL's interference potential and suggest a "not-in-my-backyard" attitude toward BPL deployment near government radio systems.

In a cover letter to one of two separate filings last month, NTIA Office of Spectrum Management Associate Administrator Fredrick R. Wentland says the agency believes its "less burdensome proposals" will "adequately protect federal radio communication systems from locally generated BPL emissions while minimizing restrictions on BPL."

An agency of the US Department of Commerce, the NTIA now says it "fully supports" the FCC's proposed method to extrapolate the level of BPL emissions from power lines. It's also dropped its call for a "height correction" for measurements below 30 MHz. Based on the NTIA's own earlier studies, the method the agency now supports could result in measurements that fail to accurately reflect actual emission levels by as much as 20 dB.

Additionally, the NTIA says it now prefers the FCC's proposal to measure BPL field strength "at various specific locations along a power line" instead of along the length of the line. "NTIA's extensive further analysis shows that the overall peak field strength that would be found in an exhaustive search along the power line would not significantly exceed the peak level measured using the streamlined approach proposed in the NPRM [Notice of Proposed Rule Making]," the agency said. In its earlier comments, however, the NTIA had advised determining field strength by tracking the entire line because its modeling demonstrated that interval measurements "may not consistently reveal the peak level of radiated emissions."

The NTIA also has reconsidered its earlier proposals to exclude certain frequency bands and geographical zones and to provide for voluntary coordination to prevent BPL interference to critical government radio systems. Since filing its comments on the BPL Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) last June, Wentland said, the NTIA has narrowed the scope of specific bands and areas where "special protection mechanisms" regarding BPL should apply.

"Federal radio communications not specifically addressed in the proposed restrictions should be, for the most part, adequately protected in the near term by the baseline interference prevention mechanisms specified in the NPRM (e.g., field strength limits, compliance measurement guidelines, and the prohibition of harmful interference)," Wentland concluded in a cover letter.

The NTIA says its revised recommendations would exclude Access BPL.

Operation nationwide from some 2.2 percent of the HF and low-VHF spectrum and from a minuscule portion -- 0.0007 percent -- of the HF spectrum "in limited geographic areas." That's less than half the spectrum the NTIA initially suggested protecting from BPL interference.

The NTIA says excluded bands primarily should be those used for safety communications "in situations where co-channel emissions from numerous BPL devices may be received via line of sight and ionospheric interfering signal paths." Exclusion zones would include "sensitive radio astronomy sites," generally located in remote, sparsely populated areas where there would be "little or no actual constraint on Access BPL market penetration," NTIA said.

Coordination areas, the NTIA says, should apply to receivers "at known locations that must operate with very weak desired signals and where harmful interference must be prevented" beforehand with a high degree of certainty rather than "after discovery."

Prior coordination of BPL deployment using certain frequencies, the NTIA now says, should apply "in limited geographic areas wherein BPL deployment will not necessarily be constrained, depending on details of the planned BPL deployment." The NTIA also said it could no longer support a requirement for BPL systems to transmit identification codes.

The agency does not appear to have backed away from its recommendation that the FCC apply its more stringent certification, rather than verification, procedures, to authorize BPL systems that, NTIA's comments said, "pose relatively high interference risks."

The ARRL also supports certification, which would require independent testing or review of test results, as opposed to having a BPL operator merely attest that its system complies with FCC rules. The League asserts that certification offers a higher degree of confidence that deployed BPL systems will not continue to exceed Part 15 limits.

The FCC is expected to consider a Report and Order in the BPL Proceeding, ET Docket 04-37, when it meets Thursday, October 14. For additional information, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit ARRL secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.



## AARC Public Service Schedule

November	Montpelier Horse Races
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## Area Hamfests

None Reported

## FCC Database Updates

### New Calls

K4UVH	VA RACES Inc. Club call for University of Virginia Hospital
N4MJH	VA RACES Inc. Club call for Martha Jefferson Hospital

### Upgrades

None Reported

## VE Session Schedule - 2004

November 20 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
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

## AARC Club Officers

President	Pete Thorsen	W4PRT	<a href="mailto:w4prt@arrl.net">w4prt@arrl.net</a> 434-642-1014
Vice President	Howard Gay	W4UF	<a href="mailto:w4uf@arrl.net">w4uf@arrl.net</a> 540-456-6445
Secretary	Marty Mail	AG4DN	<a href="mailto:ag4dn@earthlink.net">ag4dn@earthlink.net</a> 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Ralph Traylor	K4CFE	<a href="mailto:rw03@virginia.edu">rw03@virginia.edu</a> 434-296-7418
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	<a href="mailto:rep4@aol.com">rep4@aol.com</a> 434-985-4828
Director	Ben Mills	KG4QVP	<a href="mailto:bmills@mindspring.com">bmills@mindspring.com</a> 434-953-8108
Director	Jill Anderson	KG4TFS	<a href="mailto:janderson@yahoo.com">janderson@yahoo.com</a> 581-1004
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	<a href="mailto:bill1048@jrcoway.com">bill1048@jrcoway.com</a> 434 872-0686
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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Next Club Meeting :

October 12 - 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
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/AARC\\_Application.pdf](http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/aarc/images/AARC_Application.pdf)