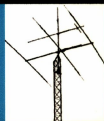


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2004, No. 11

November 2004

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 9 at 7:30 PM at the Astronomy Building on the UVA campus.** The program will be given by **Jay Rostow (K4AZV)** on his experiences in operating on **6 meters.** 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 CSE's you may now possess.**

AARC Officers for 2005

As elected at the October meeting, our club officers for 2005 are:

Officers

President	Jay K4AZV
VEEP	John KI4DJT
Secretary	Marty AG4DN
Treasurer	Bob K4DU

Board Members

Stephanie	K4BMM
Pete	W4PRT
Bill	AD6JV
Mike	W4XN
Dennis	K4THE

The President Speaks

Pete, W4PRT

The President's column is not available this month.

73 -- Pete

Veep Peeps

Howard, W4UF

The VP column is not available this month.

73 de W4UF (Howard)

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes October 12, 2004

Members Present: Pete W4PRT, Bill AG6JV, Marty AG4DN, Bob K4DU, Howard W4UF, Steve KD4HBX. Board Members Absent: Ralph K4CFE, Jill KG4TFS.

Pete opened the Board meeting at 6:35 PM.

Pete presented a financial report for Ralph. In summary the club's financial status as of 30 September 2004:

Total Revenues:	\$1,723.50
Total Expenses:	\$1,837.46
Excess Revenues:	(\$113.96)
Balances:	
AARC Fund	\$3,650.57
Repeater Fund	\$1,082.68
Packet Fund	\$78.51

A complete report is available upon request and attached to these minutes.

Bob reported no new members.

Jay K4AZV will make the third in a series of presentations covering 6 meters at the November club meeting.

The last session of the current Tech class is scheduled for 11 November. There will be a VE session on 20 November.

Bob reported for the Tech Committee. It was his opinion that the interference on the 76 repeater could be caused by two machines being in close proximity to each other at the 76 sites. He comes to this conclusion since the interference has a definite pattern.

He also reported on the BPL interference tests he is running with the Central Virginia Electric Coop in Nelson County. The Coop is cooperating in the study. It is anticipated the results will be published by the November club meeting. Bob also indicated he will operate in the World Wide CQ Net 30-31 October.

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

Submitted by Marty Malt AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting October 12, 2004

Pete called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. The introduction of members and guests followed.

For this evening Pete decided to have the presentation by Jay K4AZV prior to any club business.

Jay made an extremely informative presentation on the various types of batteries, their pluses and their drawbacks. He distributed three handouts, "The Care and Feeding of Batteries," "Wire Loss Tables," and a "Load Evaluation Form." These handouts are an excellent summary of his remarks and have been made a permanent attachment to these minutes. Copies are available upon request for those not in attendance.

Pete now turned to committee reports.

Pete made the finance presentation he received from Ralph K4CFE. (See Board Minutes for details.)

Dave K4DND reported for the Tech Committee. He noted that the problems with the 76 repeater are intermittent and will take further analysis. He reported that the 220 repeater is up and running. Turning to the Bucks Elbow tower he informed the membership that there are many problems with the tower. For a true test of the effectiveness of the site, we will have to wait until the trees leaf out next year. The bottom line is that we are locked out of Bucks Elbow until next year.

Dave informed the membership that a \$227,000 grant was awarded by the Central Virginia Hospital Group for Virginia RACES to establish two radios each at their member hospitals. UVA Hospital and Martha Jefferson Hospital are among those participating.

Pete informed the group that the current Tech Class will be completed on 11 November and a VE will take place 20 November 9 AM to 1 PM, at this site.

Bob K4DU now presented the Nominating Committee's slate of club officers for next year. The floor was opened for additional nominations. By unanimous acclamation the following members were elected for 2005.

Officers

President	Jay K4AZV
VEEP	John K14DJT
Secy.	Marty AG4DN
Treas.	Bob K4DU

Board Members

Stephanie	K4BMM
Pete	W4PRT
Bill	AD6JV
Mike	W4XN
Dennis	K4THE

With this portion club business taken care of Pete discussed the problems and plans for June 2005 Field Day. The Earlysville site will not be available for 2005. Jay K4AZV noted that Old Walnut Creek Park should be considered along with other parks in Albemarle County. Jay and Pete will work together on site selection.

Bob K4DU noted that World Wide CQ contest would take place 30-31 October. He reminded the membership that we have a need for volunteers. He requested that individuals contact him if they care to participate. Bob further informed the membership that the BPL study, in cooperation with Central Virginia Electric Coop, should be completed prior to the November meeting. He requested those interested in assisting contact him. The site for the study is Nelson County a rural area with about 4000 Coop costumers.

Pete called for approval of the September club minutes as they appeared in the October Beacon. A motion was made, second and approved with no comment.

This concluded club business. A motion was made to adjourn, second and approved with no comment.

Submitted by Marty Malt AG4DN, Secy.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Nov 6-8 ARRL November Sweepstakes - CW

Nov 20-22 ARRL November Sweepstakes - SSB

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

Nov 13-14 Japan Int'l DX Contest - SSB

Nov 27-28 CQ Worldwide DX Contest - CW

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

KG4QVP - Soaring With Eagles

Bob, K4DU

On Sunday October 17th members of Boy Scout Troop 111, the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, and friends and family of Ben Mills, KG4QVP gathered at the Grace United Methodist Church near GE Fanuc to honor Ben as he became an Eagle Scout. Dave Damon, K4DND spoke about Ben's Eagle project and Bob Pattison, K4DU talked about Ben's involvement in the club and the community.



Ben's Eagle project was designed to test the communications capabilities of the amateur radio antennas installed at the firehouses, rescue squads and EOC centers in Albemarle, Charlottesville, Greene, Louisa and Fluvanna counties. Upon completion of the test Ben prepared a report and copies were provided to each Emergency Coordinator and for each location in the test. Thanks to Ben we know where the feed lines are at each of these sites and what power levels are required to communicate from each site to every other site.

For those of you who may not know, Ben is going to school at Virginia Tech. He is studying Electronic Engineering. Ben was recently elected to the post of Vice President of the Virginia Tech Amateur Radio Club.

We are eager to see what the future holds for Ben. Way to go Ben!

The Meaning of the Wouff-Hong

Article and photos courtesy of Bruce, KG2IC

"The Wouff-Hong is amateur radio's most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation."

The Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1930, page 11



I checked my backpack once again; just to be sure it was still there. It was, and its finish though now dull, still bespoke of a proud past. Of my radio purchases over the past 5 years, this simple item, purchased for less than one would spend on a lunch, had eclipsed them all. Let me explain...

On August 14, 1999 Bill K2LNU and I attended the moving sale of our friend, Fred Hammond VE3HC in Guelph, Ontario. I had first met Fred 4 years ago, when I was still quite new to the hobby. Fred, licensed since 1929, had established and maintained the outstanding Hammond Museum of Radio in his hometown of Guelph. Bill and I, along with many others, had become frequent visitors to his museum. His warm "V.. E.. 3.. H-Henry..C-Charlie" had greeted me several times on 75 meter AM as a return to my call of "CQ". However, in 1998 Fred sadly suffered a stroke, and although recovering, has been absent from the air.

At the sale, much of the gear was quickly snapped up, but a garage full of cardboard boxes containing radio parts was left largely untouched. You know the type of the boxes I am speaking about, the kind found under the tables at many a hamfest, covered with alternate layers of dust and grime, so often overlooked by those in quest of more "glamorous" finds. I have always found such boxes truly the proverbial diamonds in the rough, time capsules of radios rich legacy. Needless to say, I was soon busy rooting around in the parts boxes in the garage, boxes that had caught the attention of only a few other amateurs.

I saw a nearby ham pickup, examine curiously and then return to the box an odd shaped metal object. The size and shape certainly looked familiar, but I discounted it, as I would never expect to find such in a box of radio parts. Still, my own curiosity now peaked; I walked over, bent down, and picked up the item for myself. Yes, I thought, as I carefully turned it over in my hands, it really is. Although the once shiny finish was now discolored with age, and caked with decades of dust, there was no mistaking the classic form; it was a "Wouff-Hong".

In 1917, stories by an anonymous writer with the pseudonym "The Old Man", or "T.O.M." began to appear in the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL) monthly publication QST. Titled the "Rotten Radio" series, they brutally assailed and exposed the poor operating practices of the day with caustic satire and humor. It was in one of these stories, entitled "Rotten QRM", that T.O.M. blasted the gibberish he'd overheard in one particular QSO, citing as an example the words "wouff hong", which apparently was either a concocted abbreviation, or someone's poor attempt at sending.

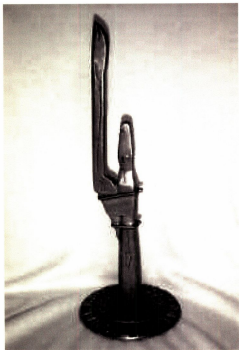
At the time of the articles T.O.M. did not know what a Wouff-Hong was, but he later adopted it as a disciplinary object with which to both flail bad operating practices and inflict punishment on the perpetrators. It is said that in the following era he had, half jokingly, proposed its use as an instrument of torture and discipline, to maintain decency and order in the ham radio community.

It was early in 1919 that T.O.M. contributed an article to QST called "Rotten Starting", criticizing the slow progress of the United States government to allow hams to operate again. It finished with "I am sending you a specimen of a real live Wouff-Hong which came to light when we started to get our junk out of cold storage. Keep it in the editorial sanctum where you can lay your hands on it quickly in an emergency. We will soon be allowed to transmit, and then you will need it." Accompanying this article was a weird, misshapen, wooden, wire-bound two-pronged tuning fork-like object. Yes, the Wouff-Hong. The first portrait of the Wouff-Hong appeared in QST for July that year. At each Board meeting, the Wouff-Hong stood on display, to the blanched looks of the humbled Directors."



Only after his death, was it was revealed to all that T.O.M. had actually been Hiram Percy Maxim, the founder and first President of the ARRL. It is said that he took the secret of the origin of the first Wouff-Hong to his grave.

And here, in my hands, was a Wouff-Hong, long considered amateur radios most sacred symbol of law and order. Cast into its base were the words "ARRL National Convention Chicago, IL Sept 3 4 5 1938". I was holding an artifact from the Golden Age of Radio, made some 61 years ago. I found myself thinking back, wondering about the person that had brought this back from the Convention, now some six decades into the past.



What were the concerns and thoughts of this fellow radio amateur a few short years after the Great Depression? Would he even recognize the hobby today, and what would he think about radio signals now being passed through satellites, computers, and even the Internet? Had radio fulfilled its once bright promise? Would he find today's amateur holding to the high principles of the past? I had to wonder if he would be pleased by what he found, or somehow sadly disappointed? Indeed, how would T.O.M. himself see things? Would his famous "Rotten Radio" articles still be written, and if so, who or what would be the targets? Had we won the technology battle, only to lose the war for the spirit of the hobby?

Started back to reality by the crash of a carelessly dropped metal panel upon the garage floor, I again considered my find. Possibly this "Wouff-Hong" was some sort of souvenir, or perhaps an award handed out at the Convention, I still have to research the exact origin. Delighted, I paid the requested \$5 for the item, and carefully placed it with in my backpack for safe keeping until the sale was over. \$5 was indeed a cheap price for a journey back into radios past,

affording me the opportunity to examine my own beliefs and hopes for the hobby.

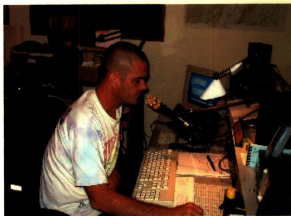
Did this "Wouff-Hong" at one time belong to Fred VE3HC, or was it simply a museum piece carelessly discarded into one of the boxes, discarded and forgotten by a generation that often pays little tribute to past? That question has yet to be answered, but to me, the origin of the piece is not as important as the meaning attached to it, the rich, proud legacy of a magical hobby and the remembrance of a friend.

Bruce KG2IC

AARC on the Air in CQ Worldwide DX Phone Contest

Bob Pattison, K4DU

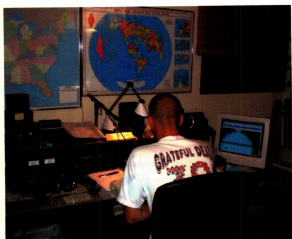
During the weekend of October 30-31 members of the club took turns operating at the station at K4DU. The contest started Friday evening with K4AZV and K4UL doing the honors. Throughout the weekend W4RQ, W2EIU and K4BMM and other visitors joined the effort. Several operators pulled shifts on Saturday and Sunday. If I missed anyone I apologize.



Conditions were good and the operation was casual mostly employing the hunt and pounce mode. We used 100 watts and switched between a beam pointed to the west and a Carolina Windom running NE to SW. Next years plans include a working amplifier and a rotator turning the beam.

The club made 201 contacts in stations in 22 zones. Some of the more exotic contacts were Z31GX - Macedonia, D44TD - Cape Verde, U07J - Ukraine, CU2Z - Azores, MD4K - Isle of Man, T8IM - Belau, ZA/OH2BH - Albania, LZ9W - Bulgaria, LY4Y - Lithuania and ZK1AQT - the South Cook Islands.

It was great fun. Plan to join us next year!



AARC Public Service Schedule

November	Montpelier Horse Races
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Area Hamfests

None Reported	
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FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
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 W2HD@ARRL.NET 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 ARRL Exam Session Search web page.

For Sale Items

None at this time	
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AARC Club Officers

President	Pete Thorsen	W4PRT	w4prt@arrl.net 434-642-1014
Vice President	Howard Gay	W4UF	w4uf@arrl.net 540-456-6445
Secretary	Marty Malt	AG4DN	ag4dn@earthlink.net 434-589-2625
Treasurer	Ralph Traylor	K4CFE	rwt@virginia.edu 434-296-7418
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	rbp4@aol.com 434-965-4828
Director	Ben Mills	KG4QVP	bmills@mindspring.com 434-963-8106
Director	Jill Anderson	KG4TFS	jranderson@yahoo.com 591-1004
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	bill1048@dircomway.com 434 872-0686
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/~e1d4e/aarc/index.htm>



THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2004 No. 11
November 2004



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Beacon.

ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

Contact Information

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

Next Club Meeting :

November 9 - 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 146.780 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
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/~e1d4e/aarc/images/AARC_Application.pdf