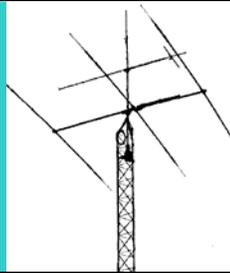


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2005, No. 4



April 2005

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 12 at 7:30 PM** at **the Astronomy Building on the UVA campus**. The program this month is simply to **get to know your fellow club members better or you may bring and describe a project you are working on!** It should be very interesting! See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello and welcome to yet another fun and exciting Beacon. We are away from home at the time of this writing so because our logs are not with us, I'll have to rely upon my memory as to what we worked in March. With a spectacular E skip opening on 6 meters and 2, I was able to make a quadruple hop to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Unfortunately the timing of my contacts seems to have coincided with the Tsunami so, I may not have made it into the VU4RBI and VU4NRO logs on the other end. Other contacts during that opening included Alaska, the last state that I needed for WAS.

On HF I managed a mobile to air contact with Air Force One where I proceeded to tell the president (not widely known to be a ham) what I thought about drilling for oil in the Alaska Wildlife Refuge. Another interesting contact was with Jon (K6OJ) while he was using an innovative loop antenna design. Jon's new antenna utilizes the eave of the roof as a feedpoint attachment for the loop. About five minutes into the QSO Jon's roof ignited into flames. Credited with saving Jon's life is Edison, Jon's Tibetan spaniel who alerted Jon to the impending doom and assisted with the escape just moments before the roof collapsed. I understand that more information about the "Ring of Fire Antenna" will be posted soon on a new website www.JoMamma.com.

It was recently overheard at the club meeting that Dave (K4DND) doesn't feel that he has enough work to do and would like to have more responsibility (especially on weekends). To satisfy this urge we will embark on a new public service event by providing communications services at the Annual Animal Husbandry and Bovine Artificial Insemination Convention sponsored by Virginia Tech and held each year somewhere in Buckingham County. K4DND has volunteered to spearhead this project.

Noting the Club's lack of a permanent home, Steph and I have decided to donate 10 acres of our property to the club for the purpose of having a permanent home for the club and a substantial radio station/antenna farm. This amount of land would be enough to have some fun with the 160-meter moon bounce antenna array that I have planned for the future. There ought to be one acre left on which to situate the shack once the moon bounce system is in place. I have also decided that now is the time to do something with that pesky \$5,000.00 in the club's checking account. Sitting there doing nothing, it also has accomplished nothing. I've decided to use that money to purchase (for the club of course) the new Yaesu VHF/UHF radio that will be unveiled at Dayton. This will be one of the first additions to the club's new ham shack in Wingina. This purchase only puts the club \$5,000 in debt but hey, without something to work for we tend to get lazy.

Finally I have decided to ask Harry (W2HD) to give a short talk on his lifetime experiences in amateur radio. I'm thinking of asking him to hold it down to four hours, but because we don't want to miss anything you may need to bring your sleeping bags just in case he can't fit in into the time allotted.

Until next time (if there is a next time), Happy April!!

10-4 Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear Friends,

Years ago and shortly after I got out of the Army I wound up in Santa Monica and began a carpentry apprenticeship. The first shop where I worked was the carpentry shop for the City of Santa Monica where we worked on all the city buildings and Santa Monica pier. After being there a few months another apprentice was hired, Leonard Jasiunas. Len was another young, strong and a little bit smart guy who, like me, just loved learning to be good carpenters there

under the wing of a few really great old fellows, master carpenters, who really liked having us around. E.g. ----- "Hey John, bring me up 50 sheets of 3/4 plywood up here". "Sure Ray", I'd exclaim, wagging my tail the whole time! "Len boy, bring me 40 joists". "You got it ,Oscar", Len beamed as he ran back and forth from the pile carrying two 16 foot 2x12's at a time. Anyway, Len and I became great friends, our whole families included and we remain so to this day.

Back then young folks didn't watch much TV and we would sit around, listen to jazz records, drink and talk about the problems of the world and what should be done to fix it.

Len did plenty of this stuff but when he was by himself he usually had a short wave radio crackling away and a scanner on making noise too. One day I was teasing Len about it and asked him why he would bother to listen to so much noise. He looked me straight in the eye and said, "I'll tell you why, it's because it saved my whole family". Here's what I learned.

In WWII Lens grandma, Mrs.Janausitis, his mother Asta about 15, Uncle Algirdis about 12 and another Aunt I don't know who was older than Asta were refugees in Dresden. They fled there from their homeland in Lithuania. I can only imagine how horrible and murderous the Soviets must have been to the Lithuanians to cause people to flee to a place as terrible and oppressive as Nazi Germany.

Well, there they were, stuck there. As you can imagine there wasn't too much for 12 year old boys to play with. But Algirdis was one of those geeky kids who liked to take thing apart and put them back together; he became an EE. Fortunately for Algirdis there were plenty of shot-up German and Allied vehicles around and when he came upon one he would try to collect all the radio junk he could get away with. By doing this Al built a rig that could pick up any Allied or German transmissions. He had to be very careful about this because this was forbidden. The Nazis would not have had a single problem killing a 12 year old kid and probably his whole family who broke the rules. So he would always listen on headphones.

On this day the BBC had four 1/4 megawatt transmitters blasting away 1 KHz apart to punch through the German jammers. Al was listening to the BBC and said, "Hey Asta, the Allies are going to bomb Dresden". They told the family and they asked him if he was sure. He told them that's what I heard and he was sure. I think they told some others but they didn't believe young Algirdis.

Well, they grabbed their family pictures, some clothes and just a few things they could carry and headed for the river. By the time they got to the river the bombing had started. The heat was so intense and the smoke so bad that they had to get in the water and cover their mouths and noses with wet cloths. Even the stones were melted at the place they were staying! Thanks to Uncle Al and his homebrew rig the

whole family survived the bombing of Dresden and I got to be friends with these wonderful folks.

Asta now lives in Santa Monica and is near her daughters Audrey and Margy and granddaughter Bunny. Algirdis lives in Chicago and Len is now a building inspector in Northern California.

Take care and 73,

John. KI4DJT

AARC Presents Awards at Piedmont Regional Science Fair

John, KI4DJT. Photos courtesy of Bill, AD6JV

The 24th annual Piedmont Regional Science Fair was held here in Charlottesville at the Omni Hotel on Monday March 14. At the February meeting it was suggested that we at AARC participate in the Fair by giving our own awards like the Charlottesville Astronomical Society and the U.S. military have done for years. It was brought up for a vote to the members and was immediately passed without a single vote nay. It was suggested that we give a plaque to the junior and senior division winners. K4DND, Dave, suggested we give a "Now You're Talking" book too.

We had two very nice wooden plaques made for us by Jefferson Engraving and Awards. I think they cost about \$70 for both. Jay, K4AZV got the "Now You're Talking" books for us and we had them for all to see at the March meeting.

We needed a couple volunteers to judge for the club awards and the Fair was asking for regular judges, as they always need help. **Bill, AD6JV and Jay, K4AZV were there to judge for AARC. Bob Dorsey W4RQ, Lee K4ISW and I were regular fair judges.** After lunch when my regular judging duties were completed I got together with Bill and we decided who would receive the AARC awards.

In the Junior Division **Scott Rollins** of King George Middle School won with **"What Makes an Electric Motor So Powerful"**. Scott fashioned an electric motor and powered it with different voltages to show how the different voltages affected the power of the motor and how much it could lift.



John, KI4DJT presents the AARC Junior Division award to Scott Rollins

In the Senior Division **Alexandra Tucker** of Charlottesville High School won with **"Sound Reflectivity: Experimenting with a Sound Collecting Dish"**.



John, KI4DJT presents the AARC Senior Division award to Alexandra Tucker

We presented the kids with the awards and invited them to join the club. They were both very happy and surprised to get a prize from us. Bill took a few pictures and we show them in the newsletter.

I had a great time doing this and want to thank all the friends in AARC for letting this happen. I want to give a special thanks to W4RQ, AD6JV and K4AZV for all their help. I hope AARC participation in the Science Fair becomes an annual tradition.

73, John, KI4DJT

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes March 8, 2005

Members Present: Jay, K4AZV, PRES.; John, KI4DJT, VEEP; Marty, AG4DN, SECY; Bob, K4DU, TREAS.; Pete, W4PRT; Bill, AD6JV; Mike, W4XN; Dennis, K4THE. Members Absent: Stephanie, K4BMM.

Jay opened the Board meeting at 6:40 PM.

Jay started the meeting with a discussion of possible locations for the 2005 ARCC Field Day in June. He mentioned that as a result of his inquiries Albemarle County had three potential locations for the event. He noted that maintaining good relations with the County would aid our ability to use one of these sites every year. He will make the contacts and lock in a site for this year.

Jay obtained numerous brochures and documents from ARRL. They covered a multitude of areas of amateur interest. He requested that we keep a stock of them available at all times for distribution at public service events and membership use. Of particular note was a "how to document," "TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TWO DAYS WEEKEND LICENSING COURSE." It presented a crash course for those pursuing a Tech License, yet having limited time. It was noted by the Board that conducting such a program requires students be well prepared prior to the classes or they will never pass the test at the end of the weekend.

Jay continued the discussion with the need to develop the club's own materials for distribution; the need to make our presence known at local events such as the Apple Harvest, Boy Scouts, etc. Jay and John both indicated they would begin a school out reach effort.

General discussion followed with an analysis of the club's public service efforts. There was a belief among some members that the club was over committed, considering the lack of volunteers to cover the events. Some members noted the techniques used in the past to obtain membership commitment. We all recalled that a clipboard of up coming events was circulated at each meeting. Individual members would sign up indicating if they would participate. The need for a systematic effort at out reach to ex-members of the club and all area amateurs was discussed. A need for an individual(s) to cover the media liaison functions was a necessary part of this overall effort.

Jay indicated a desire to have an informal meeting with emphasis upon getting reacquainted with old amateurs and bring in new licensees. He also noted that visits to individual member's homes to see what was in use and to obtain new ideas would assist the club as well.

Harry W2HD raised the need for a formal "Widows Assistance Program" sponsored by the club. Harry explained

that a committee is charged with visiting the homes of the next of kin of local amateurs and assists with the storage and sale of the radio equipment. This can be a vital service for a survivor who knows little or nothing about amateur equipment, its value or disposal. Jay indicated he would see if ARRL has an outline for the functioning of such a committee. Harry indicated the Washington club had developed such an outline.

With no further business before the Board a motion was made to adjourn, second and approved with no comment at 7:35 PM.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting March 8, 2005

Jay opened the meeting at 7:40 PM with the introduction of members and guests.

The approval of the February 2005 AARC Board and General Meeting Minutes as they appeared in the March 2005 Beacon was called for. A motion was made, second and approved with no comment or changes.

Jay continued with comments concerning preparations for Field Day, 25-26 June 2005. He noted that he was moving forward to lock in Walnut Creek Park in Albemarle County and the value of keeping channels of communication open with Parks and Recreation for future events.

John reminded the membership that the Science Fair would take place at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville on Monday 14 March 7:00 AM-12:00 noon. Members that volunteered to be judges were alerted to be present. John showed the membership the awards he had purchased for presentation by AARC.

Bob indicated that the club had a paid up membership of 57 at this point in time. A number of individuals indicated they would pay their dues at the close of this meeting.

Jay notified the membership that the AARC April meeting would be informal. Members were requested to bring in items of interest for a "show and tell" amongst each other. Non-members and guests were encouraged to come and participate as well. This approach can provide an excellent vehicle for dissemination of information and getting acquainted in a relaxed atmosphere.

Jay presented the materials he had accumulated from ARRL. (See Board Minutes)

Jay made a call for volunteers to cover the Bike Races on 26 March. The nature of what could be expected was explained to new members. Jay recorded the names of the volunteers and indicated he would contact Dave K4DND. It appeared from the number of volunteers that the club could cover the event.

An appeal was made for a ride share to get members who could no longer drive or had other disabilities to the AARC meetings. This has been operating on an informal basis for many years. Those needing transportation, if they cannot arrange rides on their own, contact any club officer for assistance.

Kevin K4BDR was the speaker for the evening. His subject was slow scan TV. Handbooks covering operation of the program and software to get started were distributed. Kevin explained the workings of the program whereby a computer photo in a can be transmitted over an Amateur radio band to another Amateur operator, down loaded and viewed in the receiving computer. This technology has great application for emergency services, whereby a disaster photo can go directly to an emergency service provider showing the exact nature of the disaster. The program can operate on all platforms from Windows 95 or better. There are protocols that must be followed and designated frequencies for use. The resolution and speed of the transmission can be adjusted to meet the needs of the situation. As with any Amateur radio transmission the sender must use his/her call sign. There were numerous questions asked indicating a solid interest in the program. Kevin was thanked by the membership for a very informative presentation.

Jay indicated a need for an old computer for "Echo link" use. Any one having one available should contact Jay.

The membership thanked Dennis for providing refreshments for the meeting. Jay volunteered to bring refreshments for the April meeting.

Tim KG4HOT indicated he could provide 7-8 dorm room accommodations for any one desiring to go to Dayton. He also indicated he might be available to provide vendors passes. Those interested were requested to contact him directly.

With no further business a motion was made to adjourn, second and approved with no comment at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

None this month

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

Other Contests of Interest

Apr 2-3 QCWA QSO Party

Apr 9-10 Japan International DX Contest - CW

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

73, Bob W4RQ

Response to AARC BPL Report

Tnx Bob Pattison, K4DU

[Editor's Note: The AARC report on BPL testing in Nelson County was published in the March 2005 issue of The Beacon. The following are exchanges of correspondence between AARC, IBEC and ARRL relating to that report.]

AARC Letter to IBEC

Mr. (IBEC representative):

Jay Rostow, K4AZV has asked me to forward a copy of the Report from our December test in Nelson County. A copy is attached. Please make certain that others in IBEC who need to know about our findings have a copy. This report has been sent to the ARRL and appears in the March issue of the AARC Beacon.

During our test, we recall being told that the problems that we encountered on 60 meters and elsewhere should be resolved by the next generation of equipment that was expected early Q1/2005. As far as we know, this next generation equipment has not been installed at CVEC.

Please advise us on IBEC's schedule for the deployment of the new equipment. If the deployment is imminent, the AARC will schedule a second round of testing. If IBEC's plans have changed or if we have no information by the end of the month indicating a pending deployment, the AARC will move to file a complaint with the FCC based upon the findings of our study in December.

I would like to remind you that Ed Hare, W1RFI has offered to test your "modems" in the ARRL Labs if you will provide him two to work with. I am certain that you will want to use the new equipment for that test.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Bob Pattison, K4DU, Treasurer – AARC

IBEC Response to the AARC BPL Report

Bob,

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the test report from December. We appreciate the cooperation of the AARC and the time and effort that has been expended to examine the BPL system at CVEC.

The 2nd generation equipment that IBEC will be deploying has enhanced frequency notching capabilities and will add additional protection in the 60 meter band. The schedule for deployment of this equipment has slipped past Q1 2005, but as soon as we have a hard date for installation I will let you know.

While not required by the FCC Report and Order in October 2004, IBEC has chosen to notch the Amateur Bands on a pre-emptive basis as good practice. We feel that we have the most "ham friendly" solution available.

With regards to the test results, we unfortunately do not share the same conclusions. Operation of the IBEC BPL systems during the last year in has resulted in no interference complaints. While we may have to disagree on interpretation of test results, we look forward to future cooperation on this project.

Sincerely,

(IBEC representative)

ARRL Comments on the IBEC Response

From: "Hare, Ed W1RFI" <w1rfi@arrl.org>

To: REP4@aol.com

CC: "Sumner, Dave, K1ZZ" <dsumner@arrl.org>, "Imlay, Chris" <w3kd@arrl.org>, "Rinaldo, Paul" <W4RI@arrl.org>, "Kramer, Harold, WJ1B" <wj1b@arrl.org>

There are several consistent patterns here.

- The BPL industry claims that it is easy to correct interference
- BPL companies make some effort to avoid interference
- Those efforts are insufficient, and either they don't completely notch all amateur bands, or there is about 10-20 dB of degradation in parts of one or more bands
- They then "disagree" about harmful interference and continue to build their system
- After they discount interference reports, they claim they haven't had any

As to working with ARRL:

- The industry claims it wants to be cooperative
- They talk about working with ARRL
- They never actually do
- Then they claim that ARRL won't work productively with them

At this stage, it doesn't appear that IBEC is serious about resolving interference. If you have documented interference,

and their only response is to disagree, follow the steps at <http://www.arrl.org/~ehare/bpl/complaints.html> and report it. Do be clear to the FCC that you have contacted IBEC and that they have chosen not to address your interference complaint.

I cc'ed a few other ARRL folks and will forward your original report to them.

Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL Laboratory Manager

Original Message to ARRL

From: REP4@aol.com

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2005 5:33 PM

To: Hare, Ed W1RFI

Subject: IBEC's Response - Nelson County

Ed -

Here is a copy of IBEC's response. In answer to your question, we were waiting for their response before filing a complaint. Given that we do not have a firm answer, the AARC must now make that decision. I will keep you posted.

Feel free to post our report and their response on the BPL reflector, and yes I am on that list.

Has IBEC responded to you directly on your offer of a test in the ARRL lab?

Bob Pattison, K4DU

AARC Public Service Schedule	
To be announced	

Area Hamfests	
None Reported	

FCC Database Updates	
New Calls	
None reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	

VE Session Schedule - 2004	
April 9 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.

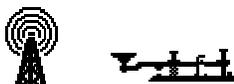
For Sale Items	
Gateway Computer AEA PakRatt 232	Gateway computer. Includes monitor, mouse keyboard, manual and 56K modem. Pentium III, 500 MHz, 64MB, 20GB HD. Pakratt 232 model PK 232 MBX Includes cables and manual. Call Ernie, W2EIU at (434) 985-4180

AARC Club Officers			
President	Jay Rostow	K4AZV	k4azv@turing.org 434-263-5795
Vice President	John Turchi	KI4DJT	m51John@juno.com 540-543-2037
Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	ag4dn@earthlink.net 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Bob Pattison	K4DU	rep4@aol.com 434-960-3344
Director	Pete Thorsen	W4PRT	w4prt@arrl.net 434-982-4690
Director	Mike DiGirolamo	W4XN	w4xn@arrl.net 434 977-6377
Director	Stephanie Rostow	K4BMM	434-263-5795
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net 434 872-0686
Director	Dennis Mennerich	K4THE	k4the@arrl.net 434 973-5407

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 2005



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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
W4RQ@yahoo.com

Next Club Meeting : April 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

<u>INPUT/OUTPUT</u>	<u>Tone Access (If needed)</u>
146.160/146.760	151.4 Hz
146.325/146.925	151.4 Hz
223.160/224.760	No Tone
449.250/444.250	151.4 Hz (If enabled)
145.030	MACHO Node
145.030	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 12	Regular Club Meeting
May 10	Regular Club Meeting
June 14	Regular Club Meeting
July 12	Regular Club Meeting
August 9	Annual AARC Picnic and Hamfest
September 13	Regular Club Meeting
October 11	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
2005 - 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