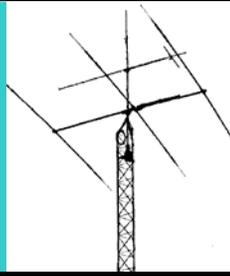


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2005, No. 5



May 2005

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 10 at 7:30 PM** at **the Astronomy Building on the UVA campus.** The program this month will be given by **Dennis, K4THE, on underground antennas.** This should be a very fascinating talk! See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello and welcome to another fine edition of the Beacon. This month we'll mention propagation for March and April. For a fair portion of April (middle of the month) propagation was particularly bad on HF. For the Monday Night Info Net of April 18th with a bit over 100 watts and a vertically polarized antenna, I could not access our two-meter repeater. Switching to our loop antenna for some reason allowed us to hit the repeater. The following Thursday during the NPEN I had no trouble accessing the repeater using the vertical with only 25 watts. Obviously whatever conditions had effect on the HF bands also seem to have some effect in the VHF spectrum that evening.

Things weren't all bad; notably we worked DX HF stations in the following locations during the past two months: South Cook Islands, Israel, Haiti, Salut Island, Morocco, St. Helena Island, Guadeloupe, Iditirod Special Events Station (Alaska), Tunisia, Ascension Island, Jersey Island, Guernsey Island, Bahrain, Svalbard, Grenada and Kenya after W4RAE snagged them.

To date the 220 machine belonging to KG4HOT has produced less than desirable coverage than what was hoped could be achieved. Tim is still working with John N4SYH through some of the challenges the site presents.

Field Day 2005 will be here before you know it and there is still much work to be done to ensure a well-publicized and successful event. The plan for Field Day radio set up will be similar to last year. Two (2) operating HF stations, one (1) VHF/UHF station, one (1) GOTA (Get-on-the-air) station which will all be on battery power with a small solar display. There will be Field Day pins, GOTA pins, and Field Day T-shirts available in limited numbers. Get in touch with Pete (W4PRT) at his work number 982-4690 or K4AZV at 263-5795 to reserve a T-shirt or pin. There will also be some pins and T-shirts for prizes at Field Day (to non-club members only).

We will need a few people during public access hours to be available to staff the GOTA station and attend to non-hams and people who are not members of the club who need information and/or assistance. Any volunteer who spends two hours at this task will receive a Field Day pin.

Last and certainly not least, last months' meeting was a blast! It was suggested a while ago by a club member that we have a meeting without a formal presentation and instead do more socializing. We decided on a show and tell social event combined with a raffle/auction, which sent a few lucky people home with some absolute treasures and earned the club a few bucks in the process. A big thanks from the club to Joe (W2PVY) for the donation of equipment. What a contrast between KI4DJT (John) modern day kit and Stan (K2SSB) somewhat dated (HI!) homebrew equipment was amazing. It seemed as though all had a fun time. A couple of more notable comments heard – "I haven't had this much fun at a meeting in years." And "Vegetables? I've never seen vegetables at a meeting before." That's all for now --- until next time.

73, K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear Friends --- Here it is, May already. Something has happened to time the past few years, it just goes faster and faster. It seems I get less work done, have more to do than ever and wonder if I'll ever get anything finished. What's a broke down old daddy to do?

Our wonderful friend Joe, W2PVY, has lost his bride who has been sick for many years. The way Joe has handled the situation has shown me that Joe is one of the bravest men I have ever met. Serving in the Army I have met many brave men who were fighting for their life and the life of their comrades. I think it's a little easier to display courage when folks are trying to hurt and kill you. You just suck it up and

do what you have been trained to do, or not. What Joe has endured is much worse because it's totally beyond your control, you can't fight, you can't run, you must accept what is occurring and do all you can, or not. I love Joe Giovannelli.

The April Meeting was informal and lots of fun. I brought along an L-C meter and freq. counter that displays the value on a LED and also in code. I was so busy explaining it to the friends that I didn't get to see what Stan K2SSB had brought very much and didn't get the chance to talk to him about his home brew receiver or paddle he made. I hope Stan will bring his stuff again so I can get a good look at his handy work.

We had a raffle and I was lucky enough to get a winning ticket and picked up an MFJ regenerative shortwave receiver. It's a fun little rig that takes a little while to learn to tune properly. I have used the top fence wire around the pasture for an antenna, about a 1/4 mile long, and discovered that a 9 volt wall wart is too noisy to be of much use but a 12 volt deep cycle marine battery supplies much better power than a 9 volt battery. The little rig is more selective and less noisy with 3 more volts.

At the May meeting Dennis K4THE will be giving a presentation on underground antennas and a 2 meter Yagi he has made from a cheap TV antenna. I wonder if the underground antenna is lightning proof? I guess I'll find out when Dennis gives the talk. I would also like to see the yagi could be fashioned for 6 meters with the same type of stuff.

Well folks that's it for me. See you at the meeting. Thanks and ...

73 de KI4DJT

The Da Vinci Code Phoeel

Professor Gregory Haufentroof

Several years ago, as a young graduate student I found myself in Rome researching the work of Leonardo Da Vinci and exploring stories about an ancient order guarding the Holy Grail. I must admit this doesn't sound too scientific, but what's a young graduate student to do in the summer?

I struck up a friendship with a priest from Guatemala who wanted to improve his English skills. It seems at the time he was working for a Cardinal from Germany. Only German and Italian were spoken in the office so the young priest and I would meet for dinner at a sidewalk restaurant not too far from the Vatican. The food was good and the wine was cheap. After two weeks we were fast friends.

I told him that I had heard about a code by Da Vinci that held secrets about life and offered blessings to all who mastered it. The priest said he would look into it and let me know what he found out.

Two weeks passed and I heard nothing from the priest. Then late one night he knocked on the door of my hotel room. Out of breath and obviously concerned that he had been followed he asked to come in. Father Manuel had discovered something of great importance and he promised to reveal it to me if I would meet him the following evening at 11 PM on the west end of the bridge that crossed the Tiber below Castle Gondalfo. He could not say anything more.

The next day seemed to take eons to pass. Finally night fell and I walked to the bridge. We entered the castle through a side door and climbed a winding stairway that led to a large room with tapestries on the wall.

The room was lit entirely by torches.

On the table was a research paper written by a Vatican scientist. It spoke about a code made from long and short sounds that when combined yielded letters, numbers and something called pro-signs. The article went on to say that this code enabled people all over the world to communicate. Further the research showed that people who mastered this code demonstrated an enhanced ability to concentrate. They also described a feeling of euphoria after completing contact with people in far away lands after using this mode (?) of communication. Most of the people studied using this method of communication showed signs of the release of endorphins in the blood stream while using the code.

Suddenly I realized that I was not alone. At the other end of the table was a quiet man who had been watching me intently. After a moment he spoke in a thick German accent "You do realize that they will try to take it away from you." Startled by his statement finally I responded. "What do you mean?" The man dressed in black and red said calmly "We have tried to keep this information secret for three centuries, but now it is out in the world. Forces of the dark side have slowly but steadily worked to take this gift away from man. They don't want anyone to know the benefits of this code. We have shared this with you in the hope that you would do your part to keep this code alive. It is up to you I can say no more." And with that he left.

"But what about Da Vinci?" I said. Father Manuel responded, "Believe me, if Da Vinci were alive today he would be working QRP, going on Dxpeditons and designing antennas. Besides, this Da Vinci code stuff is just marketing hype to sell books. Don't take you eye off the ball Greg. The Cardinal does not like failure."

That was twenty years ago. His words ring true to me today. Slowly but surely the code began to disappear from other services until it remained with one, amateur radio. Like anything worthwhile it takes some work to master, but heck, so did walking and talking. What he said about the code is true. I prescribe at least 2 CW contacts a day at minimum to obtain the desired results.

What happened to that German guy? I haven't a clue, but the other morning I thought I saw someone who looked like him on TV.

As usual Jim, if you are caught, the secretary will disavow any knowledge of you, your personnel or your mission. This newsletter will self destruct in 15 seconds.

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes April 12, 2005

Members Present: Jay, K4AZV (Pres); John, K14DJT (Veep); Marty, AG4DN (Sec'y); Bob, K4DU (Treas.); Stephanie, K4BMM; Pete, W4PRT; Dennis, K4THE; Mike, W4XN; Bill, AD6JV.

Jay called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

Jay opened the meeting with a discussion of the club repeaters. Bob noted that the club 440 repeater was being worked on and would be operational shortly. The point also made was that, if the club does not make use of the frequency on the repeater there is always a danger of losing it. The 76 Repeater at Marshall Manor needs a spring clean up. This will be taken care of. The 76 Repeater also should be raised from its current 75 feet to 100 feet or to the height it was previously. Harry W2HD raised the point concerning the "coordination" of the repeater when it was moved as well as when the repeater antenna is raised. Since Ron K4RKA has all the paper work regarding the "coordination" of the repeater and was not present, Mike will take the lead in assuring we are in compliance by checking documents and perform all other related necessary tasks.

Jay noted that he desired to get the 76 Repeater on Echolink. The club will need someone that understands the system and a computer. Mike will coordinate the effort.

Tim KG4HOT entered into a general discussion of the use of the 220 Repeater or lack of use by the membership, movement of club repeaters to Afton Mountain and the linking of all club repeaters.

Jay turned to the subject of Field Day 2005. He noted the need to contact members as well as other Amateurs in the area and invite them to participate. Bob indicated he had a list of licensed Amateurs in the vicinity and would make the contacts.

Jay informed the Board that a survey had been developed for the membership to indicate their desires for the direction of club activities. Surveys would be distributed to those present for the meeting tonight and be mailed to those not present. (Copy is available upon request).

May 2005

With no further business for the Board, a motion was made to close the meeting, second and approved with no comment at 7:30 PM.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting April 12, 2005

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

Bob submitted the club financial report as of 12 April 2005. In summary the financial picture is as follows:

Revenues \$1,358.00

Expenses \$ 600.69

Funds \$5,745.54

(Copy of report is available upon request)

Tom W4RAE reported that two students had completed the Tech course and were to take the Tech and possibly the General exam on Saturday 23 April.

Although Dave K4DND was not present a report was made for him. The highlights of the report indicated that the 440 Repeater is being worked on; there was a need for a spring clean up of the area around the 75 Repeater and there were plans to raise and move the 76 Repeater.

Mike notified the membership of the plans to interface the 76 Repeater with Echolink and a plan to move the 220 Repeater to Afton Mountain shortly.

Pete covered the plans for Field Day 25-26 June 2005. The publicity is out with the invitations to VIP's. The Location will be Walnut Creek Park. Pete can provide directions to the Park and site.

The survey of membership interests was distributed to the members present and will be mailed to other members not present.

Jay noted the problem of poor participation in public service events. Comments from the membership indicated that notification was not timely or adequate.

A motion was made to approve the March 2005 Board and General Membership Meetings Minutes, second and approved with not comment or changes.

A new member was accepted into the club, Robert Miller KA1KYO of Keswick, VA. He is a new arrival in the area.

Bob conducted a raffle of equipment the Joe W2PVY contributed to the club.

Breaking with tradition, there was no formal presentation planned for this meeting. Instead there was a general "gabfest" where members had an opportunity to engage in

free discussion covering any subject and getting acquainted with other members. A number of members brought in equipment they had made over the years, some dating back to the 1940's. Other brought envelopes they had accumulated from all parts of the world received when the received QSL acknowledgements. It was a very rewarding evening for all participants.

At the conclusion of the evening a motion was made adjourn, second and approved with no comment at 9:10 PM

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Jun 11-13 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

Jun 25-26 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/contests.html) webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

May 14-15 CQ-M International DX Contest

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

73, Bob W4RQ

June Giovanelli, KD4ATH - SK

Tnx Bob Pattison, K4DU

June Giovanelli was a student in an AARC licensing class that I helped teach. June's laugh was infectious and I remember the joy on her face when she passed her license exam. June, KD4ATH and Joe were regulars on the MS 150 and other public service events. June would drive and Joe would navigate. It was not unusual to find them manning a rest stop at some country store in the middle of nowhere whose shelves looked as if it still had stock from the 1930's. Always concerned about others, June went out of her way to make certain that you had what you needed. June loved the Lord and I am certain that her laugh now brings joy to others as she staffs a rest stop in heaven.

MS-150 Participation Survey

Ben, KG4QVP

Greetings AARC members:

It's already time to start thinking about the club's annual participation in the National MS Society's MS150 Bike Tour. The local tour is held every year over the second weekend in June. **This year it will be held on June 11th and 12th.** Unlike the past several years, the tour will be starting in Lynchburg this year, head west through Bedford, and go to south Smith Mountain Lake, then return to Lynchburg on Sunday. Positions available are similar to years past --- rest stop stations, SAG vehicles, medical and tour coordinator ride-alongs, as well as start and finish line stations. Also this year, we will be utilizing APRS extensively.

This is a fun weekend for all, and it is in support of a great group of riders (several hundred of them), riding for a great cause. We provide essential communications for the MS Staff, tour coordinators, and medical staff. Even though the tour will be out of town this year, the MS folks are depending on us to be there in full force. Again this year we will be joined by members of the Lynchburg Amateur Radio Club.

Right now we are gathering volunteers for our communications support of the event. Please click on the link below to go to an online survey, it will only take a moment of your time, but will circumvent unnecessary emails for clarification and questions.

<http://www.blmills.com/MS150/survey.html>

We hope to hear from you soon so we can count on your participation this year. We sincerely hope you consider participating and look forward to seeing you in June.

Thanks,

Ben Mills, KG4QVP

AARC VEC Session - April 23

Bob, W4RQ

The AARC ARRL/VEC Team held an FCC licensing exam session on April 23 at the Astronomy Building at UVA.

We had one upgrade to Extra Class – our own Dave, KB1DOE! Three candidates upgraded to General, and we had two new hams pass their Technician exam. See the FCC Database Updates column later in this issue for more details.

Congratulations to all our successful candidates!!

Contact

Your

Your

Article

AARC

Could

Beacon

Be

Editor

here!!!

For

Details...

AARC Public Service Schedule

To be announced	
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Area Hamfests

June 5 Manassas	Sponsor: Ole Virginia Hams ARC http://www.w4ovh.com/ Talk-In: 146.970-; 224.660-; 442.200+ Contact: Keith Bennington, KM4AA 12205 Woodlark Court Manassas, VA 20112 Phone: 703-909-1512 Fax: 703-369-2877 Email: km4aa@arrl.net Prince William County Fairgrounds 10624 Dumfries Road
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FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
KI4JXB	John Knappenberger, Tech
KI4JXC	John T. Condon, Tech
Upgrades	
KB1DOE	Dave Bednarz – to Extra!!
KA1KYO	Robert B. Miller – to General
KG4ZWD	John R. Oliver – to General
KG4ZWE	Andrea D. Oliver – to General

VE Session Schedule - 2004

Date Location (ARRL VEC)	For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the ARRL Exam Session Search web page.
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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
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AARC Club Officers

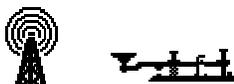
President	Jay Rostow	K4AZV	k4azv@turing.org 434-263-5795
Vice President	John Turchi	KI4DJT	m51john@juno.com 540-543-2037
Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	ag4dn@earthlink.net 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Bob Pattison	K4DU	rep4@aol.com 434-960-3344
Director	Pete Thorsen	W4PRT	w4prt@arrl.net 434-982-4690
Director	Mike 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. 5
May 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 : May 10 - 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
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