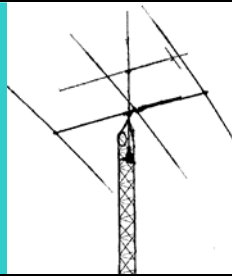


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2005, No. 8



August 2005

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 9 at 6:30 PM** at **McIntire Park, Shelter #1**. **This is the annual AARC Picnic and Tailgate Hamfest**, See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Howdy folks and happy August. Summer is moving right along and for the limited amount of time we have been available to play on the radio it seems as though the HF bands have been quite disturbed. There were at least two CMEs which completely wiped out 20 meters and up. Some of the more interesting entities we worked in July are as follows: St. Paul Island, Israel, St. Vincent, Madeira and Serbia. We worked an interesting station -- the call being NU5DE, a special events station celebrating nude recreation week, operating from a nude recreation resort in Texas. Wonder what their QSL card looks like? Six meter activity has slowed and it seems that this year's E-Skip season was not as exciting as last year's. As late summer rolls into fall watch for tropo-ducting on 2 meters and up. On 6 meters we heard Cancun, St. Lucia, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. KG4HOT reported that he heard several European stations on 6 meters. On 2 meter SSB, K4LTX (Brian) contacted a station in Ohio.

We'd like to thank KG4QVP (Ben) and KG4OVD (Cayman) for their efforts in putting together the Echolink system. Also, thanks to K6OJ (Jon) for donating the radio for use with our Echolink. There are a couple of minor bugs with the Echolink system. Have no fear; these will be worked out soon.

It seems as though there is still enough interest within the club to do some well organized public service events as our volunteer participation permits. To do this properly we need an individual (or group of people) to deal with the task of establishing how many people in the club are willing to volunteer and for how many public service events per year. I feel that we must not over-commit in any area let alone

public service for the sake of not burning out our members. This position of public service point person/people should be on a yearly rotation so as not to overburden any club members. There is a certain amount of volunteer work which every club member can provide with regards to his/her own abilities. The club cannot survive without them. If you have not volunteered before, I urge you to test the waters.....just a bit. Ease in gently. There will be others to help you. Your work will be greatly appreciated by all.

I recently had a conversation with KD4BMQ (Phil), who is associated with the RATS group in Richmond. We talked about the possibility of doing events together here and there. Phil expressed interest in doing a foxhunt with our club and perhaps the Waynesboro group. I expressed the desire to have a DX competition between the clubs in order to bring about some friendly rivalry. As these ideas have just surfaced, please let me know your thoughts and your desire to participate in either or both events.

I'm looking forward to seeing everybody at the club picnic.

P.S. You know the clarity of your mind is changing when you accidentally write U.S.B. instead of U.S.A. on your QSL card envelope.

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear Friends --- Here it is the end of July and I'm just now getting my article in to Bob. I didn't have too much to write about so I'll try to describe something I heard on another local repeater that upset me very much. Well, some hams were rag chewing and our club came up for discussion. There was a fellow who felt our club should be called the Albemarle Amateur Country club and that our group and repeater were not very friendly. Right off the bat I was angry and didn't respond until I collected my thoughts so as not to make too much of an ass of myself. I finally got on the air and said to the fellow, "... you're talking about 60 or so really nice people who run two weekly nets, are involved in public service, have Field Day and teach classes so others can become hams. If you think this is bad please join and help us improve the club ...". The fellow responded by saying he had tried to join the club but no one would take his money and was told he couldn't be a member until he was voted in by the membership. Furthermore, he felt that many in the club made him feel unwanted until he could pass the 25 word requirement. When I heard this I remembered the first club luncheon I attended. There was one of the friends who told me that 2 meters was a waste of time and that folks who are Tech's are just barely above CB enthusiasts who are just now learning to walk erect and CW was the only mode worth pursuing. Just as I was beginning to feel really dumb and a little unwanted good old W2HD, K2SSB

and K4DU really welcomed me to the club and group and made me feel much more at ease. I realized something else, which was that the code requirement for Extras hasn't been 25 words for quite a while so this fellow can really hold a grudge.

What gives, how could this happen? I've been a member of an astronomy club for years. I've never seen this kind of behavior among fellow astronomers I don't understand this friction among us hams. I have heard negative things about us on two different repeaters and would like to get to the bottom of it. I'm also inviting these guys to the picnic so they can get to know us and find out how friendly and much fun we are. I hope they'll attend. I welcome all comments on this subject.

Thanks and ...

73 de KI4DJT

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes July 12, 2005

Members present: Jay, K4AZV, Prez; John, KI4DJT, Veep; Marty, AG4DN, Sec'y; Bob, K4DU, Treas.; Bill, AD6JV, Pete, W4PRT; Dennis, K4THE; Stephanie, K4BMM. Members absent: Mike, W4XN.

Jay opened the meeting at 6:45 PM.

The first order of business was the arrangements for the **club annual picnic and Tailgate fest for August 9, 2005. The location is to be at the McIntire Park picnic area, Shelter #1.** The park fee has been paid. A committee for the picnic was selected and is made up of John (chairman), Marty, Bill and Steve, KD4HBX.

A bill was presented for club insurance covering equipment and liability in the amount of \$662 for the year July 2005 to July 2006. The approval for payment will be presented to the general membership at the club meeting.

An E-mail addressed to Marty from Brad Taylor KW4USA requested the club inquire if anyone would be interested in becoming District #3 Emergency Coordinator. It was noted that many of our new members who reside in Nelson County would be good candidates for the position. However, Nelson County is in District #12 and there is a question of their eligibility for the DEC in District #3. A general discussion followed on the possibility of having Richmond ARES/RACES include Nelson County in District #3. This will be followed up.

Jay informed the Board that he would draft the "Thank You" letter to Mrs. Kluge for use of her property for the 76 repeater.

A review of Field Day activities followed. It was noted that the Public Service Announcements were very favorably received by the public from the feedback received. The club will send out thank you letters to the agencies that provided the service.

It was also noted that the Governor's Field Day Proclamation had fallen through the cracks and not requested this year. However, a local government proclamation was obtained.

The last item for the Board was EchoLink availability from the 76 repeater. Ben, KG4QVP and Cayman, KG4OVD will make a presentation on Echo Link at the General membership meeting to follow this evening.

With no further business before the Board, Jay closed the meeting 7:30 PM

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting July 12, 2005

Jay opened the meeting at 7:45 PM. Introduction of members and guests followed.

The June AARC Board and Regular Membership Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2005 were approved with the following corrections: Board Minutes - Delete Mike W4XN from Members Present; Change meeting date from April 12, 2005 to June 14, 2005; Regular Meeting Minutes - Change meeting date from April 12, 2005 to June 14, 2005.

Jay announced that the presentation for this evening would be on EchoLink, presented by Ben KG4QVP and Cayman KG4OVD. Jay and the membership recognized Ben for obtaining his **EXTRA** ticket. Ben and Cayman made an interesting presentation on the mechanics of EchoLink and how to make use it through the 76 repeater. They distributed instructions on the use of DTMF Commands to get on EchoLink. They also made a contact from the meeting room to a station in California. The membership thanked them both for setting up the system for club use. The meeting moved on to club business. Harry W2HD made a motion that the club make a \$25 contribution the "The Amateur Radio News Line". Joe W2PVY made an amendment to the motion to contribute \$25 semi annually to the "News Line." Joe's motion was approved by the membership. The Treasurer will mail out the check.

Bob K4DU announced the need to pay for the club insurance for the next 12 months. A motion was made to approve the \$662 necessary and was approved by the membership.

Tom W4RAE reported that he hoped that we would be able to arrange for a Tech class at CATEC in September. Since no one in authority is present during these summer months, he will have to wait until later in the summer to see what could be arranged.

Tim KG4HOT reported the 76 repeater antenna will be raised another ten feet for more effective coverage. He called for

additional assistance for the TECH Committee Chairman. No one person can do it alone.

Jay announced the need for a District #3 Emergency Coordinator and one for Charlottesville/Albemarle. Anyone interested should contact Jay or Marty.

The club received a thank you letter from the MS Society for radio support for the MS 150. The letter informed the club that \$180,000 had been pledged and contributed to the fund for the Blue Ridge Chapter. Approximately \$486 per rider had been pledged from the sponsors of the 323 riders. Jay thanked Ben for his efforts in organizing the club effort. *(Letter available for examination upon request.)*

Jay thanked Joe W2PVY for his contribution of antennas for the club prior to his move to Charlottesville.

Jay now moved on to the **Club picnic and Tailgate Fest on 9 August 2005, at McIntire Park, Shelter #1 at 6:30 PM.** The committee to assist John was announced (See Board Minutes). A motion was made to support the picnic with club funds not to exceed \$250. The motion was passed without discussion. The membership was reminded that **there would be no formal meeting in August.**

Bill was thanked by the membership for providing the refreshments for the evening. Dave KB1DOE volunteered to provide the refreshments for the September meeting.

Jay thanked all those who participated and supported Field Day. The experience of this year proved that there was a need for a permanent publicity chairperson. Jay asked anyone interested to contact him. He also noted that additional T-shirts were on their way from ARRL for those who ordered them and not as yet received any. Jay pointed out to the membership that the club planned to move locations for Field Day around the area as needed. He emphasized that we are not married to one spot. Joe W2PVY added the need for improving the organization for the club to meet the needs of the day. He noted the use of assigned time blocks for club members well in advance. Jay noted that the leadership for the event should be passed around and that every station should have a station captain assigned. Jay and Pete indicated that they would write an "after action report" of the events and recommendations so that the lessons learned not be lost for the future.

Jay noted that those participating in the Dayton HamFest had not taken any photos for the Beacon or web site. He noted that an opportunity was lost with no photos. He also noted that every amateur should attend at least once. Bill reviewed the symposium he attended on QRP while at Dayton prior to the regular schedule. This was an activity well worth attending.

There being no further business a motion was made to close the meeting at 9:10 PM, seconded and approved with no comment.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Dean Brothers Win QCWA Scholarships

Matthew J. Dean, KE4UKY, and Michael L. Dean, KE4UKX, both from Charlottesville, have been awarded the QCWA Silent Key Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$1000. Congratulations, Matt and Mike!!

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Aug 6-7 ARRL UHF 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

Aug 27-28 Hawaii QSO Party

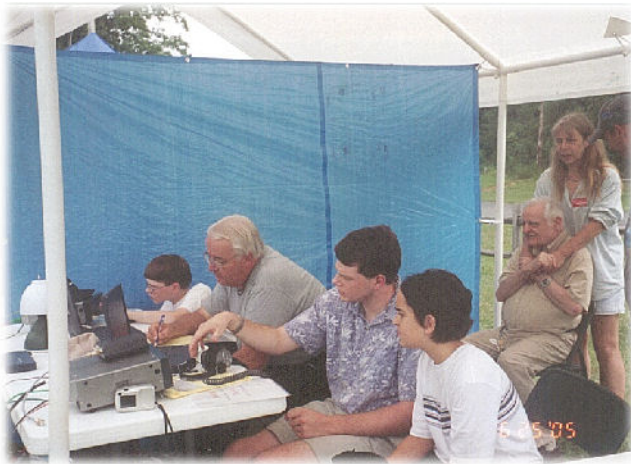
The [SM3CER Contest Service - Contest Calendars](#) has info and rules for these contests and just about every contest that exists.

73, Bob W4RQ

AARC Field Day 2005 Photos

Photos courtesy of Marty, AG4DN

Due to processing delays, these photos from Field Day arrived too late to be included in last month's issue.



Leon Mait and Ben KG4QVP on the right – Joe W2PVY and Steph K4BMM watching from behind!



Joe, W2PVY and Stephanie, K4BMM



Ben KG4QVP and Leon Mait (Marty's grandson) about to give 15 meters a try...



L to R – Jim K4BAV and Kevin K4BRD



The bands are hopping!



Mmmmmm... nice and shady here...

A Gem Discovered

Bob Pattison, K4DU

I must admit I am a book collector. At Hamfests you will often find me rummaging through the books to see what is available. Every so often, at a flea market or in a box of materials brought to a radio club meeting, you find a gem. The gem I found recently is a book that was published in 1959 written by Bill Orr, W6SAI entitled ***S-9 Signals - Inexpensive "Build-it-Yourself" Antennas for the Radio Amateur.***

Leafing through the book a number of projects caught my eye. There is a chapter entitled ***Five Dollar Beam Antennas!***, describing how to build two and three element wire beams fed with 75-ohm TV twin lead. These antennas use ladder line for the driven element and cooper wire for the parasitic elements. Both the driven element and the parasitic elements (director on the two element beam, and director and reflector for the three element beam) are attached to bamboo poles at the ends to keep them properly spaced. "Flipping" the antenna changes the directional orientation of the beam. W6SAI built these beams for use at a station in Monaco, 3A2AF, which is considered a substandard location for radio operations because of the

surrounding hills and they did an outstanding job. I am looking at this chapter and entertaining thoughts about building a wire beam for 40 or 80 meters.

Another chapter describes a "***Demi-Quad Beam Antenna.***" This project uses four bamboo poles attached to a center plate with u-bolts. The 150-ohm feedline attaches to the wire element at the bottom section of the quad where an insulator is installed. The length of the sides vary depending upon the band that you build it for --- 17'7" for 20 meters, 11'8" for 15 meters, 8'8" for 10 meters and 4'11" for six meters. There are also instructions for building a balun to deal with the 150 ohm feedline.

There is also a chapter entitled ***The "Cobra" Ground Plane for 10 or 6 meters.*** To quote liberally from the chapter: "It consists of a quarter wave whip suspended at the top by an insulator and length of rope hung from a convenient tree or other support. The whip is feed at the lower end by a low impedance coaxial transmission line (RG58/U or RG8/U). A quarter wave section of this line serves as a skirt for the whip actually making the antenna a modified vertical dipole array." The lower end of the skirt is decoupled from the line by a resonant decoupling coil.

The book contains eleven antenna projects for HF and VHF along with a chapter entitled "***Sugar Coated Antenna Theory.***" William Orr is an excellent writer with a talent for taking complicated subjects and making it understandable. Bill's masterpiece is a book entitled *Radio Handbook* published by Editors and Engineers. You may gloss over it at a flea market thinking that it is another edition of the ARRL Handbook. It is not! I highly recommend that you add a copy of Bill's *Radio Handbook* to your library. If you would like more information on the book or one of these projects send me an email at k4du@arrl.net.

It All Begins With You...

Bob Pattison, K4DU

In a few days we will gather around the grill and celebrate another successful year at the ***AARC Annual Swapfest and Summer Picnic.*** About three years ago we made this a Swapfest and the membership has responded by bringing goodies for sale, trade and occasionally gifting. For the past two years the spaces immediately in front of the shelter have been full of tailgaters with goodies to ogle over and haggle for. Soon the flea market spaces and tables will begin to expand down the road.

All successful Hamfests have their beginnings in smaller gatherings. The Dayton Hamvention® started in 1951 as a relatively small get together with 7 exhibitors and 6 forums. The original flea market was the parking lot of the Biltmore Hotel in downtown Dayton. You can still see the place as you drive along Main Street on the north side just before you

cross the Miami River. The Hamvention® grew because the club (DARA) had a vision and because they were committed to putting on a quality event.

My point is simply this: what happens to the Swapfest, what happens to the AARC, what happens to amateur radio in central Virginia is up to you. If amateur radio has been good to you, share the joy! Tell other people that you know about the fun that you are having and make it a point each year to recruit someone into the hobby and bring them along. Thank the person who showed you amateur radio by "paying it forward".

If you enjoy the Swapfest and the AARC pay it forward by supporting this event and helping it and the club grow. Invite others to come, bring something to sell or trade and help us make next year's event bigger and better still!

I'll see you there!

FCC Proposes Dropping Morse Requirement Entirely

ARRL Bulletin ARLB018

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the recommendation in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Changes to Part 97 that the FCC proposed in the NPRM would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said. The NPRM consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community--including one from the ARRL -- that had proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on the FCC's NPRM.

The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum.

To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements for HF access.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised to see the FCC propose scrapping the Morse requirement altogether, although the League had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors will closely study the 30-page NPRM and comment further once they've had an opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees will easily be able upgrade to General once the code requirement goes away. The Commission also said its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140 already addresses some of the other issues petitioners raised.

A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM in WT 05-235 will begin once the notice appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days.

AARC Public Service Schedule

August 6	Mountain Mama Bike Race
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Area Hamfests

August 7 Berryville	Sponsor: Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club http://www.svarc.us/hamfest/index.html Talk-In: 146.82 - Contact: Tom Brownlee, AF2D 744 Gafia Lodge Road Middletown, VA 22645 Phone: 540-869-7065 Fax: 540-869-7067 Email: af2d@arrl.net Berryville, VA Clark County Ruritan Fairgrounds Business Route 7
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FCC Database Updates

New Calls

None Reported	
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Upgrades

KG4QVP	Ben --- to EXTRA!!!
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Vanity Calls

None Reported	
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VE Session Schedule - 2004

August 7 Berryville (ARRL VEC)	Sponsor: MOUNTAIN ARC Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: WILLIAM M TUCKER (301)729-2544 Email: K3UEZ@QSL.NET VEC: Laurel VEC Location: D.G. Cooley Elem. School 34 WESTWOOD RD ACROSS STREET FROM HAMFEST BERRYVILLE, VA 22611.
August 13 Richmond (ARRL VEC)	Sponsor: RICHMOND ARC/RAVE Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: PATRICK WILSON (804)932-9424 Email: W4PW@ARRL.NET Location: J SARGEANT REYNOLDS COMM COLL 1651 E PARHAM RD-BLDG B WWW.W4PW.ORG (TO REGISTER) PRE-REGISTRATION URGED! RICHMOND, VA 23228
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 reported	
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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>



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

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

Next Club Meeting : August 9 - 6:30 PM McIntire Park, Shelter 1

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
August 9	Annual AARC Picnic and Hamfest
September 13	Regular Club Meeting
October 11	Regular Club Meeting
November 8	Regular Club Meeting
December 13	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
August 6	Mountain Mama Bike Race

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