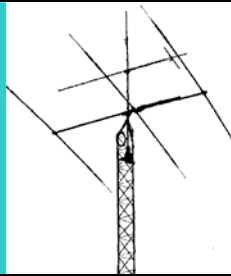


# The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2005, No. 9



September 2005

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 13 at 7:30 PM** at **the Astronomy Building on the UVA campus**. The program will be a **presentation on Yagi antennas**, which is always an interesting topic. See you there!!

## The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

On 6 meters E Skip season really slowed down at the end of July and the beginning of August. It was limited to the Midwest and the Northwest. On the HF bands we heard Puerto Rico, Belarus, Spain, Belgium, Brazil, Serbia, Guatemala and last but not least, Hong Kong. The IOTA contest took place in August and so we contacted a fair number of islands.

We had a good crew that showed up for the club's repeater site cleanup day. Thanks to Tim (KG4HOT), Lee (K4ISW), Ben (KG4QVP), David (KB1DOE) and Pete (W4PRT) and yours truly.

The Echolink project is coming along nicely. As with any new thing there are always a few issues that creep up which cause a little frustration in the beginning. Thankfully through the cooperation of the club members these issues are receiving attention and Echolink appears to be a fun, new way to communicate.

It would greatly benefit our club if someone would step forward to become the District Emergency Communication Coordinator for the club. For more information give me a call at 434-263-5795. By the way, if you have been sending me emails, give me a call. Until mid-fall I will not be able to take the necessary time to answer emails.

I'm sure many of you, who read the Daily Progress, probably saw the article regarding the proposed expansion of BPL service in a multi-county area of central Virginia. The original deployment in Lovingston used a piece of equipment which has since been modified to further notch out areas of

the radio spectrum which are now experiencing interference. These new "regenerators" should be available for testing shortly. This does not mean that all sensitive frequencies will be able to be notched out. With the new regenerators the hope is to have between minimum discernible levels to zero noise in the amateur radio spectrum. There will however be noise in other areas of the spectrum including highly destructive BPL signal in the SWL frequencies. Be aware that a successful "notching scheme" does not include many frequencies of interest. We are in contact with Central Virginia Electric Cooperative and IBEC (the company providing the BPL service) regarding the amateur radio spectrum. Basically in a nutshell, if you live within 100 feet of a power line and you spend time listening to shortwave broadcasts you will be severely impacted but as one club member once said on this very subject...."you have to pick your fights." Any comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

On the forefront there is a hamfest in Virginia Beach on September 17 and 18 at Virginia Wesleyan College. For information - [Hamfest@EXIS.net](mailto:Hamfest@EXIS.net) or [www.vahamfest.com](http://www.vahamfest.com). There are a few interesting contests to note in September. There is a YL contest - the YLRL Howdy Days on September 14-16 for YLs only. For information - [www.QL.net/YLRL](http://www.QL.net/YLRL). The North American Sprint CW contest will take place at 0000-0400 Z on September 11. The North American Sprint SSB will take place at 0000-0400 on September 18. Information can be found at: [CWsprint@NCJweb.com](mailto:CWsprint@NCJweb.com) and [SSBsprint@NCJweb.com](mailto:SSBsprint@NCJweb.com). It looks like the beginning of the fall and winter DX season is upon us.

Enjoy your radios and until next time...

*73, Jay K4AZV*

## Veep Peeps

*John, KI4DJT*

Dear Friends -- September already! The days are already much shorter than just a few weeks ago. Looking east shortly after dark the great square of Pegasus stands below and a little to the south of the big "W" Cassiopeia. Between these two large and easily recognized constellations is the constellation Andromeda with its naked-eye visible and beautiful in binoculars Andromeda galaxy. It is said the Andromeda galaxy is the only naked eye object seen in the Northern hemisphere that is not in the Milky Way but if you're in a very dark place and it's very clear and you have good eyesight the galaxy M-33 can be seen too. If the sky permits I would be glad to point it out to anyone who is interested after the September meeting.

Andrew and I had a great time at the club picnic. We wound up cooking about 50 hamburgers, 40 Italian sausages and about 40 hot dogs. The friends brought salads, drinks and desserts and all the food was very good. I had some stuff

left over as I had expected around 50 folks for dinner and I think it was closer to around 35 or so. It had been cloudy, rainy and hot most of the day and I think many stayed home because of it but we had a nice shelter and the weather

cooperated for us and let us off the hook before dinner time. By the time I was finished cooking many of the friends had already left and I finally got to sit with Joe and Steph and my son Andrew before we had to clean up and clear out. I hope more of the friends can attend next season

**The topic for the meeting this month will be on beam antennas and KI4DJT will give a short demonstration.**

Also, I have some hot dogs we didn't cook at the picnic. I have them in the freezer and will serve them after the meeting.

One more thing: I have good news and it doesn't have anything to do with saving money on my car insurance. On Sunday August 21, I passed the code element 1 and the written element 3 in Stafford. I guess three times is a charm? I want to thank the worlds best Elmers AD6JV and K4DND for all their help and encouragement. I'm looking forward to trying CW and am just plain eager to get on the HF bands and make some new friends on the air.

Take care and ...

*73 de KI4DJT*

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes July 12, 2005

No minutes – AARC Picnic and all present had a great time!!

*Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.*

### Regular Meeting July 12, 2005

No minutes – AARC Picnic and all present had a great time!!

*Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.*

## Higher Vanity Callsign Application Fee Now in Effect

*ARRL Bulletin ARLB020*

The application fee for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign rose to \$21.90 effective for applications received on or after Tuesday, August 23. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released a new Fee Filing Guide this week, and WTB personnel have confirmed that the new vanity fee is in effect.

In a Report and Order and Order On Reconsideration (R&O) in the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 released July 7, the FCC raised the vanity application fee for FY 2005 from \$20.80 to \$21.90 for the 10-year license term. The FCC said it had adjusted FY 2004 "payment units" for each service to better reflect expected FY 2005 payment liabilities. The fee went up from \$16.30 to \$20.80 a year ago.

A re-evaluation in the number of anticipated vanity call sign applications -- or "payment units" -- accounts for this latest fee hike. The FCC says it anticipates 7600 vanity applications - - up only slightly from a year earlier.

More information on vanity call signs is available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html>.

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

#### Sep 10-12 ARRL VHF QSO Party

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 August Picnic

*No photos provided ... sri...*

With the threat of storms hanging on the day from early morning on we really did not know if our annual picnic and tailgate fest was going to be a wet event or a dry one. But as you know by tradition, the event is held rain or shine. As luck would have it the rain stopped, the sky remained cloudy, the temperature remained comfortable and we sincerely hope, all had a good time. A committee of our finest inspired by our VEEP John KI4DJT supported by yours truly, Bill AD6JV, Steve KD4HBX and Ron K4RKA plus wives and family members presented a picnic meal set for only the finest. John, our great chef, kept the hamburgers, sausage and hot dogs coming until we could not possibly eat another bite. The tailgating part of our event again was a great success. However, those that brought items for sale to clear out an attic or basement as is the custom, ended up bring more home than they brought to the feast. So, what's

new!!! As the years have gone by this event has become a greater and greater success. For those that for any reason could not attend, we strongly encourage you to come out next year and bring the family, the dog, the cat and even your pet goat or boa if you have one.

We wish to apologize to those who came late because of the confusion in the starting time. The Beacon listed 6:30 PM and the radio nets broadcast 5:30 PM. In the future we will make greater efforts to coordinate our announcements. In spite of this glitch there was ample food, drink, and friendship for all.

*Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN SECY*

## ARRL President Urges Orderly Amateur Response to Katrina

*From the ARRL Letter, Sept. 9, 2005*

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, this week called on the Amateur Radio community to exercise patience as the Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans flooding relief and recovery efforts move into high gear.

"I know many people would like to move now," Haynie said. "Please don't. I know many of you want to enter the fray, come to the coast and get involved. Please, not yet." Haynie instead advised hams eager to assist to make sure they're prepared, refresh their skills and knowledge of protocols and procedures.

The ARRL now is seeking experienced Amateur Radio emergency volunteers to help supplement communication for American Red Cross feeding and sheltering operations in Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Special consideration will be given to operators who have successfully completed the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course training (Level I minimum) to serve as team leaders. All interested should e-mail <Katrina@arrl.org>, providing name, call sign, contact information and any equipment you can take along on a field deployment for an indefinite period. Volunteers may face hardship conditions without the usual amenities and will need to provide their own transportation to the marshaling area.

Haynie says safety is of paramount importance to all ARES volunteers. "For now, the area is simply too dangerous, and no one is being allowed in," he pointed out. "Transportation and logistics, including volunteer groups coming in, must be done in an orderly manner or we may only add to the chaos and confusion." He requested that ARES members and teams work through their Section Emergency Coordinators (SECs).

President Haynie's complete remarks are on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/09/01/1/>.

Amateur Radio operators from Texas were deployed this week to New Orleans to assist in the trouble-plagued evacuation of flooding refugees from the Louisiana Superdome. Because of additional flooding, damage to the facility and other problems at the Superdome, authorities conveyed the 25,000 flood evacuees in the sports stadium to the Houston Astrodome and other locations in Texas.

Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator Gary Stratton, K5GLS, says ham radio communication between Houston and the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, emergency operations center (EOC) September 1 was able to clarify some logistical issues involved with the refugee relocation effort.

While Amateur Radio is providing support in Louisiana for various relief organizations, Stratton said most ham radio efforts to date have gone toward assisting with emergency management and search-and-rescue operations. Stratton says he has ARES members ready to roll once authorities reopen the hardest-hit parishes that have been closed off to outsiders.

"We have people on standby from all over northern Louisiana and from the South Texas Section basically champing at the bit trying to find out when they can go," Stratton told ARRL. "It's a very tough wait." Volunteers have been or will be deployed into areas that are not cordoned off, he said.

Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX, says ARES members are active in the three hardest-hit counties -- Harrison, Hancock and Jackson. Amateurs there have been using HF, VHF and UHF resources to support emergency management as well as the Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the Baptist Men's Kitchen. They've also been handling considerable health-and-welfare traffic, Keown said.

In combination with his role as an ARES member, Alabama SM Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, this week volunteered at a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Organization encampment in Mobile on his state's hurricane-stricken Gulf Coast -- and he's using his vacation time to do it. He supported communication for the Red Cross, The Salvation Army and Southern Baptist relief organizations helping to feed flood victims and supply them with necessities.

"There's still a lot of power outages, still a lot of damage -- trees down, roads blocked, a lot of streets under water in the downtown Mobile area, and a lot of people who don't have food, electricity or phones here," Sarratt told ARRL. "Until I got down here, I didn't know the magnitude of the Mobile situation." He said Amateur Radio volunteers at the encampment are coordinating on HF with Alabama SEC Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, and providing logistical communication support for Red Cross emergency response vehicles on VHF FM simplex.

Sarratt will head to Mississippi and Louisiana's ravaged coastal areas over the holiday weekend to help out ARES volunteers already there. "Those guys down there have found massive devastation -- no power, no cell phones."

The West Gulf ARES Emergency Net remains active on 7.285 MHz days and 3.873 MHz nights, handling emergency and priority traffic only. Health-and-welfare traffic is being handled on 7.290 MHz days and 3.935 MHz nights. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) on 14.265 MHz has begun concentrating on emergency and priority traffic and shuttling health-and-welfare requests to its Web site <http://www.satarn.org>. The Salvation Army also is using Amateur Radio for its tactical communications.

Radio amateurs not involved in emergency communication are being asked to keep the West Gulf Emergency Net and SATERN frequencies clear, plus or minus 5 KHz. ARRL advises that stations not initiate any additional traffic into the storm-affected areas at this time.

The ARRL ARES E-Letter

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/> has posted a special edition that contains additional details on Amateur Radio's Katrina response efforts. For more information, including links to report or locate missing individuals, visit the FirstGov.gov Hurricane Katrina Recovery Web page [http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/PublicSafety/Hurricane\\_Katrina\\_Recovery.shtml](http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/PublicSafety/Hurricane_Katrina_Recovery.shtml).

## AARC Public Service Schedule

August 6	Mountain Mama Bike Race
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## Area Hamfests

<b>August 7</b> Virginia Beach	<b>Roanoke Division Convention</b> (Virginia Beach Hamfest/ Electronics Flea Market) Tidewater Radio Conventions <a href="http://www.vahamfest.com">http://www.vahamfest.com</a> Talk-In: 146.97 Contact: Lynn Lilla, W9DJQ 848 Stacey Place Virginia Beach, VA 23464 Phone: 757-479-1597 Fax: 757-673-7426 Email: hamfest@exis.net Location: Virginia Wesleyan College 1584 Wesleyan Drive
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## FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
KI4DJT	Our VP, John Turchi – to GENERAL
Vanity Calls	
None Reported	

## VE Session Schedule - 2004

Date Location (ARRL VEC)	For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the <a href="#">ARRL Exam Session Search</a> web page.
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## For Sale Items

None reported	
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## AARC Club Officers

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

## Contest Calendars

<a href="#">ARRL Contest Calendar 2004</a>	ARRL sponsored contests
<a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2004</a>	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
<a href="#">Contesting Online</a>	Just about everything contests!

**Albemarle Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 6833**  
**Charlottesville, VA 22906**

<http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/aarc/index.htm>



**THE AARC BEACON**  
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**ISSUE DEADLINE - 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month**

**Contact Information**  
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 (434) 990-2659  
[W4RQ@yahoo.com](mailto:W4RQ@yahoo.com)

**Next Club Meeting : September 13 - 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
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
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Please sign up at meetings as the SIGN UP CLIPBOARD is passed around. Contact Greg N4PGS indicating your interest in working particular events.

Membership application available in PDF format at [http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/aarc/images/AARC\\_Application.pdf](http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ejd4e/aarc/images/AARC_Application.pdf)