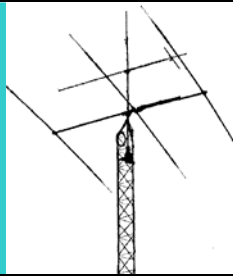


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2005, No. 11



November 2005

Inside this Issue

1	Meeting Notice
1	The President's Letter
2	Veep Peeps
2	Club Business
4	Contest Highlights - Upcoming
5	AARC Public Service Schedule
5	Area Hamfests
5	FCC Database Updates
5	VE Session Schedule - 2004
5	For Sale Items
5	AARC Club Officers
5	Contest Calendars

Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 8 at 7:30 PM** at the **Astronomy Building on the UVA campus**. The program will be **Joe, W2PVY giving a presentation on test equipment used by sighted persons**. See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello and welcome to another fine edition of the Beacon. Fall is upon us and radio propagation has changed some for the better and some for the worse. VHF and UHF sideband contacts were particularly sparse during October with me making no contacts and Steph (K4BMM) making only 3 six meter contacts into New England. On the HF side 10 & 12 meters have awakened a bit, 15 meters has seen more action, 17 & 20 meters are holding strong as usual. I made a few contacts on 40 meters but for me I view 40 meters as more of a contest band for now. 80 meter DX has been fun lately in the early morning and after dark. I haven't heard any DX recently on 160 meters but from what I know about 160 meters so far it seems that DX on that band is a wintertime thing. Somebody please correct me if I'm wrong (I'd like to work more on 160 meters). DX contacts in October included: South Africa, lots of England, Malta, Algeria, Nigeria, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Uruguay, Paraguay, Luxembourg, Azores, Ascension Island, Liechtenstein and Armenia. All in all October was a good month for DX.

With the natural disasters that we have recently experienced, now is the time to be ever so prepared as amateur radio operators for emergency communications. We are making inroads with some of the local authorities to facilitate an open line of communication between us. I am proposing to Nelson county and Albemarle county authorities that amateur radio operators be included in emergency drills for the purpose of, as true as possible to life - emergency situations.

Emergency communications have many facets. These include but are not limited to:

- 1). assistance with emergency tactical communications when normal police/fire/rescue, etc. communications are disrupted,
- 2). the passing of NTS health and welfare messages,
- 3). help in communications with Red Cross damage assessments teams,
- 4). any other number of communication related duties right down to directing traffic with your HT.

Multifaceted preparedness is absolutely essential. As soon as I know more from the authorities regarding participation in emergency communications I will inform you. One more thing about preparedness. Do you have a solar panel yet? If not, why not? It is the only way in many instances to provide power for yourself to keep up emergency communications. How many batteries do you have for your HT? If you have one, go out and buy two more. Make one of the two you buy a pack which can handle disposable batteries (probably AA or AAA). The piddly battery that an HT uses will most certainly die with a few hours of serious communications.

A small group of folks participated in the CQWW SSB contest which we ran from our QTH on our solar power system. We were running a 500 watt amplifier about 50% of the time all weekend. We still had plenty of reserve power left by the time we passed out each evening. Contesting is fun but it is also a way to better your communications skills. Maybe we can get a little interest stirred up to run the club call (W4DO) during one of the upcoming ARRL SSB contests (or CW if you're really daring).

That's all the QRM from this side.

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear Friends -- It seems that all I have to do to get lightning to strike near my home is to fix up a computer. The little laptop I got at Frostfest is now the latest victim. One day last week about 3 AM I heard a special peal of thunder that woke up the whole household. Later that morning when Gina tried to use the computer for a school assignment no soap, dead as a wedge, blank screen, completely defunct! So, what else is new? I took the very old and slow computer I was using in the shack for code practice and have it in the house. It's so slow it takes about 10 minutes to download e-mail and makes it very frustrating to use the old rig for any work. If the kids didn't need one for school I'd never replace it as I feel they are just too expensive for what you really get

for your money and I'm entirely too busy to goof off on line or even spend much time with it at all but with kids needing one for school I hear someone telling me, " hey dude your getting a Dell".

We had a great time at the NRAO open house with several of the folks from Charlottesville Astronomical Society setting up scopes for solar viewing. I'm sorry none of the folks from our club attended except AD6JV who is in CAS also and had a scope set up for the public. John Avellone from CAS set up his radio telescopes and agreed to give a presentation at the December meeting. We had a scope with an h-alpha filter that allows one to see prominences that was really a hit with the public.

Our own W2PVY, Joe, will be giving the presentation at the November meeting on testing equipment used by folks who can see. I find this very interesting as I built an L-C meter that gives the values in code and was thinking about Joe the whole time I was building it. I have built a NORCAL 40 which also gives the freq. in code too. Personally I feel studying code is an important part of being a ham as it is useful for so much besides CW mode of operation. Furthermore, whenever you learn something new and challenging your mind is more powerful than before and a new kind of self confidence is built up too. Believe me ole' dumb bunny KI4DJT needs all the power and confidence he can get, Hi Hi. I will be sad if FCC eliminates it.

Oh well folks that's all for me this time, I hope to see all at the November meeting. Take care and...

73 de KI4DJT, John

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes October 11, 2005

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

Jay called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. A quorum was present.

Jay called for reports. Marty notified the Board that the Letters of Incorporation for the AARC were in the process of reinstatement by the State Corporation Commission. Final notification should be in our possession shortly. He also notified the Board of the invitation by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory has invited the AARC and family members to an open house on 23 October 2005 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Their remodeled facility will be open to the public. There will be presentations, demonstrations, exhibits and hands on activities for all ages. The Board was

reminded that the club held its monthly meetings at NRAO prior to remodeling.

Tim KG4HOT reported for the Tech Committee. Tim and Jay planned to raise the 76 repeater height by about 40 feet to enhance its effective range. They planned to go on site Saturday 15 October. Tim and Jay have been in contact with the EC for Nelson County. The EC remarked that there had been no contact with the amateurs of Nelson County for about two years. He was quite encouraged that the amateurs in the vicinity were planning to become active in the County's emergency efforts. The discussion followed with the possibility of sites in Nelson County for the 76 repeater and our other repeaters as well. Also the discussion went on to the possibility of links to other club repeaters. Tim will shortly attend a meeting of the Lynchburg Club to check their views on this issue.

Another item for discussion with the Lynchburg Club will be the possibility of Nelson County becoming a part of ARES District 8, rather than where they are at present linked to the south. The rationale for this action is the natural flow of commerce and communication for Nelson is to the Charlottesville/Albemarle area north rather than south to Lynchburg. During the discussion, Harry W2HD noted that the 76 repeater was at one time located on Bucks Elbow and that was another possibility to be considered for relocation. Tim stated that the club had approved the expenditure of funds for a 220 antenna at the last meeting. The Board fixed the expenditure to be no more than \$250.00. Tim also noted the need for a power supply as well. Harry volunteered a 35-amp power supply for club use.

This concluded the Board meeting at 7:20 PM.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting October 11, 2005

Jay called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. As is the custom there followed the introduction of members and guests.

Jay reviewed the discussion of the 220 antenna, power supply and relationships between Nelson County and Lynchburg that took place during the Board meeting.

The Minutes were approved for the month of September meetings as they appeared in the October Beacon without change or comment.

Marty notified the membership of the invitation by NRAO to their open house 23 October.

Bob reported that the club at present had 73 members and a bank balance of \$4254.70 in the general account.

Tim and Jay noted that they were going to raise the antenna on the 76 repeater this coming Saturday and asked for volunteers to assist. The need to move the 440 repeater to a useable location was discussed. A recommendation was made to move to the Martha Jefferson Hospital.

Tom W4RAE reported that he is currently working with Bill AD6JV to transfer the responsibilities for the Education Committee. Bill stated that no one person can do it alone and would be making contact with other club members who have instructed in the past. The use of weekend courses was again discussed. Jay indicated he would like to have one class prior to Christmas with an exam following immediately after. Pete informed the membership that if the current meeting room were to be used he would have to reserve the room shortly.

Harry made a motion that the club establish a Media Action Committee. The motion was second and discussion followed. Harry stated that the mission of this committee would be to tell amateur radio's story to the media. The committee would take a proactive stand to inform the community of club activities as well as respond to issues of vital importance impacting amateur radio that appear in the media. The group should consist of three to four individuals with media contact experience. The motion was passed. Jay and Harry planned to meet at the Wednesday club lunch to solidify the membership and plans for the committee.

Marty thanked the club for its support of the Fluvanna amateurs at their display and operations during Old Farm Day at Pleasant Grove on 1 October. With out the assistance of Jay, Pete, Stephanie and other club members the Fluvanna amateurs could not have had the equipment or personnel to put on the event. The sincere thanks of all the Fluvanna amateurs were conveyed to the club.

The next item on the agenda was the election of new officers for 2006. John chaired the nominations committee and reported to the membership the following endorsement of officers and other Board members:

Officers

PRES	Jay	K4AZV
VEEP	John	KI4DJT
SECY	Marty	AG4DN
TREAS	Bob	K4DU

Board Members

Stephanie	K4BMM
Bill	AD6JV
Dennis	K4THE
Tim	KG4HOT
John	N4SYH

Pete and Mike chose not to run for office in 2006 due to personal commitments.

John called for any nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming. Joe W2PVY called for approval of the committee recommendations by acclamation. The

November 2005

membership approved the action and the Secretary cast the vote to finalize the action. This closed the election process.

Bob volunteered to bring refreshments for the November meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved with no comment at 8:40 PM.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Nov 5-7	ARRL Sweepstakes - CW
Nov 19-21	ARRL Sweepstakes – Phone
Nov 12-14	ARRL EME 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

Nov 6	High Speed Club CW Contest
Nov 12-13	Japan Int'l DX Contest Phone
Nov 19-20	NA Collegiate Championships
Nov 26-27	CQWW CW DX Contest

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

73, Bob W4RQ

Happy Thanksgiving!!



AARC Public Service Schedule

None reported

Area Hamfests

None reported

FCC Database Updates

New Calls

None Reported

Upgrades

None Reported

Vanity Calls

None Reported

VE Session Schedule - 2004

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

For Sale Items

Dual Band VHF Transceiver and Antennas	ICOM, Model IC-T7H transceiver, 2 meter and 440, with external mike and 12 VDC adapter. Also included are 2 window mounted 2 meter antennas with 20 ft. of cable for each. Will sell all for \$150.00 or best offer. Contact Ed, KG4ZDO at 434-242-8426.
Antenna, Coax, Mast	Ringo Ranger II ARX-2B 2 Meter antenna w/manual, 10 foot steel mast, 30 feet Belden 9913 RG-8U Coax with PL-259 on each end. Asking \$30, Call Fred, KE4ZNO at (434) 589-5488.

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. 11
November 2005



© Copyright Albemarle Amateur Radio Club 2005. Content in this newsletter may be used if proper credit is given to the AARC Beacon.

ISSUE DEADLINE - 23rd of each month

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

Next Club Meeting : November 8 - 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
November 8	Regular Club Meeting
December 13	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
------	-------

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