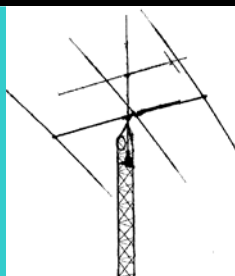


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2006, No. 2



February 2006

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 14 at 7:30 PM** at **the NRAO Building on the UVA campus**. The program will be a presentation by **Bud, KB4JNI** showing us how to use a program to build antennas. See you there!!

Dues are Due!!!

It is club dues time again!! Marty, AG4DN, has developed a new short renewal form. The new form can be obtained from the web site or members can request one from Marty via Email or at any meeting. **There are no changes in membership fees.**

AARC Exam Session February 18

The AARC VEC team will conduct an amateur radio license exam session on **Saturday, February 18, 2006 at 9:00 AM at the Astronomy Building on the UVA campus**. Please be sure to bring **photo identification as well as a copy of your current license and/or any current CSCE's, if applicable**. There will also be a review session on Feb. 11.

Parking Etiquette at NRAO

There are some parking spaces topside near the door at NRAO. **Do not park in the circle in front of the door.** **There are many parking spaces behind the building.** Use the front door to enter the building. It will be unlocked. The door down by the lower parking lot will remain locked.

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hi folks and thanks for being there. We had a wonderful club dinner at the Ponderosa restaurant. It was very well attended and I didn't see any sad faces among the group. We were able to hand out certificates and awards this year due to volunteer participation of our club members. Without volunteer assistance we will not be able to accomplish the goals that many of us have in common. A big thank you to Kevin (K4BDR) and Steph (K4BMM) for preparing the certificates.

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club (AARC) still needs someone to handle point person duties for public service events in the central Virginia area. The fact that emergency service and public service are very different necessitates the need to have separate volunteers for each duty. The qualifications needed for public service point person are as follows:

- initiate and maintain contact with organizations interested in our services
- organize the event with all responsible parties including police/rescue personnel
- recruit volunteers within the club to participate in the event.

Bill Phillips (AD6JV) has agreed to take the job of point person for emergency communications in the club and quite possibly Albemarle County.

There has been, for whatever reason(s), a disconnect between ARES/RACES and the AARC. This disconnect put us in a potentially perilous situation in that if there were an emergency, a chain of notification had been broken. There were potentially many less amateurs than would be normally available if this disconnect had not happened. Being a rather new member of our club and not knowing the reasons behind the problem has given me the opportunity to view things from a rather unbiased standpoint. In addition, I don't even want to begin to sort out the difference or problems between ARES/RACES in Virginia. That being said, I think that it would be of great value for our club members to participate in as much ARES/RACES training as possible in order to educate oneself and be ready. ARES/RACES are the organizations which are called out in times of emergency. I also believe that putting all of your eggs in one basket is a very, very bad thing.

The solution I believe is to connect with our local emergency service providers and organizations making them aware of the fact that regardless of affiliations in ARES/RACES the AARC has 43 years worth of being a club providing communications to as many as 20 public service events per year as well as emergency communication services in times of need. There is nowhere near enough ARES/RACES

training in this general area to make it easy for our club members to participate or gain experience. My desire in connecting with our emergency service providers is to involve our AARC in as many local emergency training events as allowed. In times of emergency my goal would be to have the AARC be number 2 on the call out list under ARES/RACES. The AARC would be subordinate to ARES/RACES if present, otherwise the AARC should be prepared to stand on its own and Albemarle county should recognize the club as being able to do so. Right now Albemarle County recognizes only ARES/RACES for emergency communications backup. We have a lot to offer our county as the AARC however we need much more direct contact with our local officials in order to be well-known, educated and efficient. That is my major goal for 2006 along with a few others that I am not telling you about yet because with no promises, surprises are lots of fun.

VHF/UHF radio work this month was quite sparse. The only major activity was the contest which several of us worked from the mountaintop QTH of Brian (K4LTX). In attendance were Tim (KG4HOT), Jason (N4DSL), Kevin (K4BDR), Steph (K4BMM), Jay (K4AZV) and of course, Brian (K4LTX). Tim may have a quick summary of the contest score and activity at the next meeting.

On the HF bands it was a good month with a fair bit of European Russia and of course many European stations. Some interesting stations worked were: a Hungarian working /6W Senegal, (CE0Z) Juan Fernandez Island by some of the Peter I DXpedition team, a German working /FO in the Marquesas Islands and finally 7Q7VB in Malawi.

See you all at the meeting and have a fantastic February!!

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Bob and all the Friends, It was good to see you and everyone who turned out for the club dinner. I especially enjoyed our conversation about your QRP contesting and the passion you have for CW. I think you'll find a great ally in Bill AD6JV; he loves CW and QRP and really enjoys building all his stuff too. Bill also likes to operate in QRP contests where you go someplace and get extra points if you set up in a certain place, like a railroad or a giant boulder or a battlefield. It would be fun to get something going for the next one and see if there is any interest in the club for such activities. Being a beginner, my CW copying skills are very poor but I keep trying and would like to get good at it.

Last summer after completing a construction project at the home of a friend he gave me a NorCal 20 kit for a present. This is very cool since you can no longer get one and they are a very nice little transceiver. I had been saving it for

winter and when my family went to Florida for the holidays I built it. When I start building something I usually cannot stop working on it until it's done. I'll do my chores, eat, sleep a little and work on a project for 16 or 18 hours a day. Well, after a long day at it, near 10 PM, I should have stopped working on it but I really wanted to build the receiver. I even unplugged the soldering pencil and turned off the lights on the bench, got myself a drink and sat down to listen to the radio. While sitting there a few minutes I started looking over the receiver directions and before I knew it I had the iron plugged back in and was building away. I completed the receiver around 1:00 AM and really wanted to test it. I hooked up the battery and a small speaker and NOTHING! What gives? I went back and tested the audio-amp and pre-amp and they were working perfectly. Now I'm really stumped! I got the voltage chart and started testing and was getting tired but wanted to get to the bottom of it. Finally about 2:30 AM I was looking at the rig and thought how interesting that there are no resistors in the receiver circuit! Ha ha ha ha, hi hi hi hi!!! I neglected to put in the 40 or so resistors the receiver needed to complete the circuit. I was laughing out loud and realized I really should have left the pencil unplugged at 10 PM. Next morning after chores I got the resistors in and the receiver worked perfectly. At the next club dinner I wouldn't be surprised if there is a dummy load award presentation in it for me. I'll have to ask Tim KG4HOT, but I think it was even worse than putting in your rotator on upside down. What do you think, Tim? You realize K4AZV and K4BDR are hiding around every corner ready to pounce and bestow the new award on the deserving hams.

At the February meeting our own Bud KB4JNI will be doing the presentation where he'll show us how to use a program to build antennas. Also, we are going to **try to get the sheriff to explain to us their needs locally for emergency communication** as Jay and others want to get us on track in this matter. We'll try to keep club business short and let's not forget about the upcoming Piedmont Regional Science Fair.

The meeting which is now held at the NRAO being on the second Tuesday of the month will this month be on February 14 --- Saint Valentine's Day.... don't forget cards and candy for your XYL or OM or your dinner for the next few days may consist of cold shoulder and hot tongue. Take care and ...

73 de KI4DJT, John

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes January 15, 2006

No BOD meeting in January due to the AARC winter dinner.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

Regular Meeting November 8, 2005

No regular meeting in January due to the AARC winter dinner.

Submitted by Marty Mait AG4DN, Secy.

The Annual AARC Dinner - 2006

Tnx to Marty, AG4DN

The AARC Annual Dinner was held at the Ponderosa Steak House at Pantops on Sunday January 15, 2006. This year there was a great turn out with amateurs and their friends and family members filling the room to capacity. The turnout can be credited to a revitalized Board with forward-looking ideas, supported by an active membership. The accomplishments of the past year and the plans for the future dominated the minds and discussion around the tables.

Jay K4AZV distributed a number of Certificates of Recognition and Ham of the Year awards to members who have contributed so much to the success of the club.

Certificates of Recognition:

- Harry W2HD for his work on the Monday night INFO NET
- Joe W2PVY for his work in providing NewsLine on the INFO NET
- Cayman KG4OVD for his work setting up Echolink on the club repeater
- Ben Mills, N4CV, for continuing the ham tradition at Virginia Tech and being the VTARA Vice President

Ham of the Year Awards:

- Ed Deasy, KF4UTD for his work on the club web site
- Bob, W4RQ for his work on the AARC Beacon
- Steve Clements, KD4HBX for his work on picnics and club refreshments
- Tom, W4RAE for his work putting together and running the Tech license classes for many years

Our able and cheery VEEP John KI4DJT was the moving force this year for our August picnic and the numerous spontaneous cook-ins at the Astronomy Building. He did it again at the Ponderosa on Sunday. We really do not believe the hosts in our current meeting place will take as liberal a view to our indoor cook-ins!!

The annual dinner by tradition has been a place and time for making new friends and renewing old relationships. Numerous individuals, due to employment pressures, etc., that cannot make the regular monthly meeting have an

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opportunity for seeing, meeting and enjoying a good dinner and sharing so many of their ideas and thoughts. It is optimistically anticipated that this event as well as our picnic will be retained in the club's schedule of "must does".

Since this event was not a formal meeting, some of the membership left early. However, the management of the Ponderosa was forced to give brooms to others that could not break away to clean up the place, since the regular help had already gone home.

A great time was had by all!!!!!!

73's to all

Marty Mait, AG4DN, SEC'Y.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Feb 13-17 School Club Roundup

Feb 18-19 ARRL Int'l DX Contest CW

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

Other Contests of Interest

Feb 25-26 REF French Contest - CW

Feb 25-26 UBA Belgian Contest - SSB

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

73, Bob W4RQ

AARC Public Service Schedule

None reported

Area Hamfests

Frostfest 2006
February 19
Richmond

Times: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Held at The Showplace, 3000 Mechanicsville Turnpike (near the intersection of I-64 and Route 360. For more details go to <http://www.frostfest.com>

FCC Database Updates

New Calls

None Reported

Upgrades

None Reported

Vanity Calls

None Reported

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.

For Sale Items

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Quantum Rechargeable Battery | Quantum Ham Radio rechargeable battery. 13.8 volts with a wall wart for charging and two Outputs. This will run your handy talky all day and then some. Asking \$100.00. Call Rick, KO4WQ, at 245-1128. |
| 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 2006 No. 2
February 2006



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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 : February 14 - 7:30 PM NRAO - UVA Campus

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 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| February 14 | Regular Club Meeting |
| March 14 | Regular Club Meeting |
| April 11 | Regular Club Meeting |
| May 9 | Regular Club Meeting |
| June 13 | Regular Club Meeting |
| July 11 | Regular Club Meeting |
| August 8 | Annual Club Picnic and Hamfest |
| September 12 | Regular Club Meeting |
| October 10 | Regular Club Meeting |
| November 14 | 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