



preparedness is of utmost importance. Our club has room for some of the newer club members to take on some volunteer responsibility of their choosing. There is no mystery behind why the Beacon gets published or why the repeaters get taken care of or why we have a nice place to meet other, other than the fact that someone or some group has taken the responsibility to see that something gets taken care of. Many of our club members have been volunteering their services for years. Volunteering your time is often thankless yet thanks should not be the driving force in the desire to volunteer. Sometimes we volunteer to do things we don't necessarily want to do because we feel that we are fairly well suited to take on the task at hand. So I encourage you to keep an eye open for things that you feel you can contribute to in the club, even if they are already being done. I'm sure the people currently doing the job would be glad to have the help and possibly train the next person. To keep our club viable we need the support of our members. There are many hams around central Virginia who are not associated with our club. Joining the club means simply to support amateur radio on a local level.

Our club has been in existence since the mid 1960's. Many people have gotten licensed at our club's testing sessions. Many people have enjoyed Field Days, club picnics, public service events and the basic opportunity to meet new hams. That's what a club is for ----that's something worth supporting. If you know a ham who is not involved in our club, please think about asking him or her to join. If you know of someone who is no longer a club member, invite them back as the club is always evolving.

Thank you all for being there. See you at the next meeting.

**73, Jay K4AZV**

## Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

*Veep Peeps is unavailable this month...*

**73 de KI4DJT**

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes April 11, 2006

Members present: Pres. Jay K4AZV, Dennis K4THE, Bill AD6JV, John N4SYH, John KI4DJT, Steph K4BMM, Tim KG4HOT.

Jay called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. The first item of business was Field Day 2006 which will be held on June 24 and 25 at Walnut Creek Park. A discussion ensued which included ideas for improving the working conditions inside

the tents making them more user friendly. Last year there were 3 radio stations set up inside the tent which was ok but there was not a good divider between the stations and at times it was difficult to work because of noise coming from the other stations. This year we will either put a different type of divider between the stations or perhaps erect more than one tent. It was also suggested that there be headsets provided for each station which will be done. The plan for Field Day is to set up beginning around 9:00 a.m. There will be a sign up sheet at the next two AARC meetings for people to volunteer for set up for the event, working a radio station and take down for the event. Those interested may also call Jay and let him know what your interests are.

Bill Phillips, AD6JV reported that the presence of our club members at the Jefferson Cup Bike Race in March was greatly appreciated. He related that the club received a thank you letter from the organizers for the race along with a check for \$300.00. There was some discussion concerning how this money would be spent and well as the need for our club to send out thank you letters to those organizations and individuals who donate money.

A question also arose regarding our club's tax exempt status. The club treasurer, Bob Pattison will be asked about the status prior to the next meeting.

Jay spoke about the need for more publicity, advertising ourselves as a club, the ARRL, utilizing press releases, etc. He stated that he felt it would be wise to advertise throughout the year so there was regular information about the AARC for the public to view. He requested that the AARC media action committee look into how that can best be done and start getting things rolling along those lines. There were suggestions from some of the members regarding putting ads into local newspapers which is often free of charge and utilizing community calendars on TV stations.

Bob Pattison, the chairman of the media action committee will be apprised of the discussion so he can begin working with his committee on formulating a plan.

The board meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

*Submitted by: Stephanie Rostow K4BMM, Acting SECY*

### Regular Meeting April 11, 2006

Jay opened the meeting to the members at 7:37 p.m. Jay asked the members present to introduce themselves and to share a little something with the group regarding themselves. It seemed that everyone enjoyed learning a bit more about their fellow club members.

Jay asked for approval of last month's minutes. There was one correction needed: Sam N4WJK is actually N4WJQ. The minutes were approved with this one correction.

Jay made the first presentation of the Dummy Load award which is an award to "honor" someone who has done something "memorable." Tom Rae did an excellent job of constructing this illustrious award and the first recipient was Tim KG4HOT. This award is to be passed on from one recipient to another when someone does something to deserve it. (As you will recall this award is given to the individual that performs the goofiest ham act during the month. Any one can qualify, just do something silly, i.e., putting a rotor for your antenna mast on upside down or run your rig with the antenna cable disconnected.).

The output tone is back on the 146.760 repeater. The club has also submitted coordination papers to SERA for the 440 machine.

Bill Phillips AD6JV spoke about public service events. He told the members that the Jefferson Cup Bike Race was a huge success with 13 HAMS participating. The efforts of the hams were appreciated; in fact he received a thank you letter from the organizers of the event along with a check for \$300.00 for the club.

On April 8 the MS walk was held. It was a small event and 5 hams were involved with that event.

Coming up on June 10 and 11 is the MS 150 Bike Ride which is scheduled to start and end at St. Anne's in Charlottesville. 18 hams will be needed for both days. Those interested in participating in this event are asked to contact Bill Phillips to let him know.

Stan K2SSB mentioned that ever since CH 19 has been on the air he has noticed a persistent buzz. He asked how we could go about investigating this noise. He was also interested in hearing if anyone else has noticed the buzzing noise? It was suggested that Bob McCracken N4JGO might be able to give some advice on finding the source of the problem.

The remainder of the meeting was comprised of an interesting talk by Harry Dannals W2HD on "Amateur Radio - Where are we going?". A round of applause was given to Harry after his talk by the appreciative group.

Harry donated a door prize to be given away at this meeting. It was the book on "Emergency Power." A drawing was held and Gordon WW4GW was the happy winner.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

*Submitted by: Stephanie Rostow K4BMM, Acting SECY*

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

None

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

### Other Contests of Interest

May 6-7 7<sup>th</sup> Area QSO Party

May 6-7 Int'l Police Ass'n Contest

May 13-14 Armed Forces Test

May 20-21 US Counties 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*

## Who Discovered Radio? (Part 2)

*From the QCWA Journal, Spring 2006. These gems are reprinted by permission of the author, John Johnston, W3BE.*

### Q. What was the first-ever amateur radio club?

**A.** You are correct! Organized by K and W in 1902, WHAT (Wireless High-frequency Amateur Transmitters) was the first amateur radio club. The organizational meeting agenda covered dues increases, walk-a-thon plans and Field Day. Unfortunately, K and W could not agree on anything and the club suspended operation.

By then, W held two QSL cards, including one from Canada. He needed only 98 more countries to qualify for DXCC! He was hooked. He went on to become just another DX'er always searching for another country to work.

K, on the other hand, was dedicated to getting his WAS before the number of states increased beyond the 45 then having gained admission to the Union. "Will it never end?" he cried in anguish after three more states were admitted in order to round out our 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> call sign regions (Oklahoma 1907, Arizona and New Mexico 1912). Despondent, K went on to become a county hunter, always searching for another county to work.

WHAT held its second meeting the following year when station "N" came along, located, obviously, on the South side of the Mad River. The organizational meeting agenda covered dues increases, walk-a-thon plans and Field Day. But N, K and W could not agree on anything and the club suspended operation once again.

It was about this time that Congress came to realize amateur radio was not going to go away. Someday there would be more amateur operators than there were letters of the alphabet. It decided it would be less disruptive to form call signs from combinations of letters and numerals than it would be to add more letters to the alphabet. So it created the FCC to administer our sequential call sign system. The

alphabet, thankfully, was not changed, thus saving generations of school children from having to learn much longer versions of alphabet songs.

The FCC went on, reluctantly, to become just another hopeless, pathetic Federal agency searching, always searching for yet something else to deregulate.

**Q. Someone has been transmitting on my brain. Could it be an amateur station?**

**A.** That would depend upon the specific channel to which your brain is tuned. Our amateur stations are authorized to transmit only on small frequency segments throughout the radio spectrum. The odds are, therefore, that the signal you are receiving is coming from some other type of station.

There have been reports that attaching a 2" copper strap between your forehead and your ankle can reduce or eliminate BPL (brain proximity leakage). You should also contact your local, state and federal representatives repeatedly and protest the deployment of BPL.

For very severe cases, you might try attaching your body-grounding strap directly to a metal rod driven at least ten meters into the ground. Your tether should be no more than 3.414 meters long.

**Q. Do hams still use the Morris code?**

**A.** No. We have switched to the international Morse (manually operated radio sending environment) code for our telegraphy communications and we use it extensively.

**Q. Why do hams use the Morse code?**

**A.** Telegraphy is an excellent hand movement exercise that helps burn off excess calories. It also makes us cut back on the number of sodas and chips that we would consume if our food-shoveling hands were not otherwise occupied in manipulating our code keys. This explains why CW aficionados are so thin.

**Q. Can I use an electronic code reader when I take the CW test?**

**A.** No. Were you to do that, the license grant should go to the code reader, not to you.

[..... More next month.....]

## Solar Update de K7RA

*From ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP017*

Geomagnetic conditions were quiet this week in most places, but on April 22 there was a geomagnetic storm at high latitudes caused by solar wind and a south-pointing IMF. The college A index in Fairbanks Alaska reached 38, and the K index was 7 at its highest. The mid-latitude A index for the day was only 10, just slightly unsettled.

On April 27 there was a strong but brief solar flare from sunspot 875, but this is not expected to cause major geomagnetic activity. At the time of the flare, around 1552Z, X-rays caused a short radio blackout of nearly a quarter hour.

Sunspot numbers and solar flux have been rising, and solar flux is expected to remain around 100 over the next week. Geomagnetic conditions may become active again around May 2 and May 6, with a big increase in activity around May 10-13 expected because of similar activity during the previous solar rotation.

Steve Lybarger, NU7T of Reno, Nevada wrote asking about sunspot polarity, and where he could get information on the actual polarity of currently visible spots. I told him I didn't know, but did find this interesting page from "Mr. Sunspot's Answer Book" at the National Solar Observatory web site, <http://eo.nso.edu/MrSunspot/answerbook/polarity.html>

Ron Wright, ZL1AMO (and others, including AE6RR) wrote in to say that ZK1JD, mentioned in last week's bulletin as worked by VA7GO, is not actually in the South Solomon Islands, an area of great civil unrest currently. Jim Ditchburn, ZK1JD is actually in Rarotonga in the South Cook Islands. Craig Bradley, AE6RR worked ZK1JD a few days ago on 20 meters, and when told about his call appearing in the bulletin, Jim commented that he "would not want to be in the Solomon Islands at this time!"

Greg Andracke, W2BEE of Pine Plains, New York tells about some unexpected propagation from a couple of weeks back. On Saturday, April 15 at 1123z he heard VQ9LA of Chagos calling CQ on 30 meters with no takers. Greg scrambled to tune his 20-meter vertical to 30 meters, and reached VQ9LA, neither station having strong signals. Afterward Greg could hear no other stations calling the DX station. Odd propagation for that time, but it would have been normal about 10-14 hours later.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

For more information concerning radio propagation and an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see the ARRL Technical Information Service propagation page at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

Sunspot numbers for April 20 through 26 were 30, 14, 15, 24, 38, 33 and 60 with a mean of 30.6. 10.7 cm flux was 78.7, 76.4, 82.4, 86.7, 92.8, 95.1, and 100, with a mean of 87.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 8, 18, 8, 7, 5 and 5 with a mean of 8. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 6, 10, 8, 4, 1 and 2, with a mean of 4.9.

AARC Public Service Schedule	
June 11-12	MS 150 Bike Tour

Area Hamfests	
June 4 Manassas	Ole Virginia Hams ARC <a href="http://www.w4ovh.com/">http://www.w4ovh.com/</a> Talk-In: 146.970 Contact: Arthur Whittum, W1CRO 12212 Woodlark Court Manassas, VA 20112 Phone: 703-791-4330 Email: <a href="mailto:opsboss721@earthlink.net">opsboss721@earthlink.net</a>

FCC Database Updates	
New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	
Vanity Calls	
None Reported	

VE Session Schedule - 2006	
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.

For Sale Items	
None reported	

AARC Club Officers			
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Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	<a href="mailto:ag4dn@earthlink.net">ag4dn@earthlink.net</a> 434-589-2825
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Director	Tim	KG4HOT	
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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**  
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<http://www.wa4tfz.org/index.htm>



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

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**Next Club Meeting : May 9 - 7:30 PM NRAO 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 NRAO building on Edgemont 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 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
June 11-12	MS 150 Bike Tour

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.wa4tfz.org/images/AARCrenewalform2006.pdf>