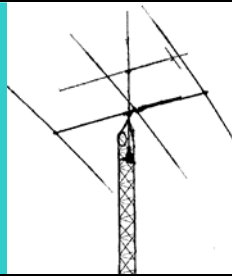


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2006, No. 6



June 2006

Inside this Issue

1	Meeting Notice
1	The President's Letter
2	Veep Peeps
2	Club Business
3	Contest Highlights - Upcoming
3	Who Discovered Radio? (Part 3)
3	Solar Update de K7RA
4	Treasurer/s Report
5	AARC Public Service Schedule
5	Area Hamfests
5	FCC Database Updates
5	VE Session Schedule - 2006
5	For Sale Items
5	AARC Club Officers
5	Contest Calendars

Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 13 at 7:30 PM** at **the NRAO Building on the UVA campus**. **The program** will be Field Day. See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Howdy folks and welcome to summertime. School's out, E-skip is in do you know where your 6 meter radio is? More on that later.

On the agenda for June is the **MS 150 Bike Tour which will be held on June 10th and 11th**. We also have **Field Day on June 24th and 25th**. Field Day promises to be an absolute blast this year with more efforts towards food and hopefully less effort towards hanging antennas. Set up for Field Day will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday. Operations will begin promptly at 2:00 PM and will run for 24 hours (should anyone be brave enough to keep their eyes open that long). Coffee will be a necessity! **Field Day will be held at Walnut Creek Park which is roughly 7 miles south of Charlottesville in North Garden**. Everybody is invited whether a club member or not so please consider inviting a friend or perspective HAM to join in the fun.

Of the public service events that our club is involved with, the MS 150 Bike Tour is the event which relies most on amateur radio communications. For this type of event our services are very much needed. The other important event was the Jefferson Cup Bike Race. Anytime an event is held in an area where cell phones may not cover or out along rural roads amateur radio may be the only means of communication. So, to make a long story longer it is important to volunteer for these types of events which demand our services. **We have begun and will continue to decline participation in events where cell phones and other two way radios can provide adequate communications and where there is little risk if we do not participate**. This will hopefully avoid public service

burnout and **keep interests high... where it is truly needed.**

Now back to the 6 meter thing. The week before Dayton we started hearing that old familiar sound ----- voices, yes actual people talking --- on 6 meters. We hadn't logged anything since the end of December of last year. While at Dayton one of the Kenwood factory reps called out, "six meters is open, six meters is open" at which point a line began to form of people wanting to work 6 meters on the active display radios. Since then we have worked a fair number of stateside calls. DX stations we have worked this month include a couple of new ones for us, these being French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Steph's first and my second European contact; the Azores. Other stations worked were Martinique, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Grand Cayman Island and the Bahamas. All this on either a pair of stacked loops or a four element cubicle quad with 170 watts. You too can work DX on 6 meters with a modest station. This perhaps is the most fun a Technician class licensee can enjoy. 6 meters will be active until about the 4th of July. It will then begin to fall silent until the time surrounding the winter solstice.

Some of the HF stations worked this month include: Taiwan, Israel, Sao Tome, American Samoa, Russia, New Guinea, Crete, Slovakia and Japan.

MOCAD - make (at least) one contact a day!!

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Veep Peeps is unavailable this month...

73 de KI4DJT

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes May 9, 2006

Members present: Jay, K4AZV (Pres.); John, KI4DJT (VP); Bob, K4DU (Treas.); Marty, AG4DN, (Sec'y); Stephanie, K4BMM; John, N4SYH; Dennis, K4THE; Bill, AD6JV; Tim, KG4HOT.

Jay opened the Board meeting a 6:38 PM.

He announced that at the General Meeting (to follow) there would be a "show and tell" after the business portion of the meeting whereby members can demonstrate some of their recent activities in construction of antennas, radios, etc.

Bill indicated he would cover the activities planned by the club to support the MS 150, 11 and 12 May. He will need many volunteers to cover a very complicated route.

Jay distributed a questionnaire that he planned to use at the general meeting. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather ideas from the membership that would enhance the image of the club, attract new people into the hobby, make the club web site a more attractive and eye catching site to attract those surfing the net. (A copy of the questionnaire is available upon request). Suggestions were made to use the web site in conjunction with the Beacon to publicize club activities and accomplishment. Bob recommended a meeting be held with the web site manager, the Beacon manager and the Media Committee to review suggestions and develop a plan of action. May 22 at 6:30 PM at NROA was agreed upon. Josh will make arrangements for an appropriate meeting room.

Jay announced that a sign up sheet for Field Day volunteers would be distributed during the general meeting.

Bob reviewed the budget and financial status of the club. The club shows a balance of \$5571.34 in general funds. (Detailed budget available upon request).

Some members of the Board were surprised at the sound financial condition of the club. Discussion followed on anticipated expenditures. T-Shirts, pins and other items for distribution on Field Day for participants was one item noted. Improvements in the capability of the club repeaters and repeater maintenance were another anticipated item of expenditure.

Dennis requested information on the corporate status of the club. Bob responded that the club is registered with the State Corporation Commission as a "not-for-profit" organization. He also noted that since we traditionally did not have any great flow of funds we had never applied for a tax-exempt status. He indicated he would start work on this shortly.

Jay noted that the 440 and 220 repeaters were working well on solar power. How long the 76 repeater could operate on emergency power is of course a question of usage in any emergency.

The Club Directory will be available on the web site shortly for down loading.

Bill noted that there has been a request for club support for the Triathlon on three dates. The first request cannot be met. It coincides with Field Day. The other two requests will be considered.

Bob raised the question of one more VE session prior to 1 July when the new tests will become effective. It was agreed that the club would have a session on Saturday 17 June to accommodate those who are ready prior to the change over. With no further business the Board meeting closed at 7:15 PM

Submitted by: Marty Mait, AG4DN, SECY

Regular Meeting May 9, 2006

Jay opened the meeting at 7:33 PM.

He distributed the questionnaire noted in the Board Meeting and requested where possible they be completed during the evening and returned to him. Following this, the membership went through introduction of members and guests. Those present were requested to make a comment about what they were currently doing regarding amateur radio.

Jay called for the approval of the April Board and General Membership Meeting Minutes as they appeared in the May issue of the Beacon. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no changes or comments.

Bob made a treasurer's report. (See Board Minutes)

Tim made a Tech Committee report indication the purchase of a 220 antenna. This purchase was previously approved by the membership.

Jay called attention to the Field Day sign up sheet and requested volunteers for the event.

Bill made a presentation covering the preparations for the support of the MS 150 on 10 and 11 June. He noted that a minimum of 18 amateur volunteers would be required to support the program each day. He reviewed a map of the various routes for the event. He requested those with vehicles that could carry disabled bikes were urgently needed. A sign up sheet was provided.

Bill as the new EC for Albemarle/Charlottesville noted that there was an urgent need to update the emergency notification telephone tree. He requested that individuals provide their names and telephone numbers in order to revise and up date the tree. A sign up sheet was distributed.

With no further formal business, a motion was made to close the meeting, seconded and approved without comment at 8:15 PM.

Members and guests were invited to take part in devouring delicious hot dogs grilled by our VEEP with TLC and view the various exhibits displayed by members.

Submitted by: Marty Mait, AG4DN, Acting SECY

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

June 24-25 Field Day

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar 2004](http://www.arrl.org/contests/2004) webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

Jun 17-18 All Asian DX Contest (CW)

Jun 17-18 Kids Day Operating Event

The [SM3CER Contest Service - Contest Calendars](http://www.sm3cer.com) has info and rules for these contests and just about every contest that exists.

73, Bob W4RQ

Who Discovered Radio? (Part 3)

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

[... To be continued next month...]

Solar Update de K7RA

From ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP022

Thanks to Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA for writing an excellent propagation bulletin last week while your regular reporter was traveling.

Solar activity continues to be low as we head toward the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Still, we haven't seen weeks on end with no sunspots, so I suspect the minimum is not quite here.

Let's take a look at the monthly averages of sunspot numbers and solar flux for May, compared with the past year.

The average daily sunspot numbers for the months May 2005 through May 2006 were 65.4, 59.8, 68.7, 65.6, 39.2, 13, 32.2, 62.6, 26.7, 5.3, 21.3, 55.2 and 39.6. Average daily solar flux for the same months was 99.5, 93.7, 96.5, 92.4, 91.9, 76.6, 86.3, 90.8, 83.4, 76.5, 75.5, 88.9 and 80.9.

With fewer sunspots, the higher frequencies aren't as useful. There is a direct correlation between MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) and the number of sunspots. That's why at the peak of a solar cycle 10 meters is much more usable than at the bottom of the cycle.

We received several emails this week about sporadic-E propagation. This is when unpredictable ionized clouds form in the lower E-layer of the ionosphere and provide interesting and exciting long range propagation. June is a very good month for this in the Northern Hemisphere. Broadcast television DXers such as Mike Shaffer, KA3JAW in Tampa report regularly receiving TV broadcasts from stations in Mexico and Central America. Paul Gray, NOJAA in east-central Florida reports working 12 meter sporadic-E from time to time into Virginia and New York

6 meters also can be exciting. Bill Van Alstyne, W5WVO of Rio Rancho, New Mexico writes, "Sporadic-E season is upon us, and yesterday (Sunday, May 28) saw one of the best 6-meter North American sporadic-E openings of the past few years. At one point late Sunday morning, 6 meters was open coast-to-coast, with QSOs between CA and the east coast via long double-hop propagation (or maybe triple-hop in some cases) taking place frequently. Here in New Mexico, I was hearing and working both coasts and pretty much everything in between with S9+ signals."

Bill continues, "Many stations in the eastern part of the country, and even out west here, worked a lot of DX in the Caribbean and Central America, but my path in that direction is poor, and I didn't hear any of it."

He goes on to say, "I did pick up a number of new grid squares, though, including EL94 (Florida Keys) on a double-hop path and a cool backscatter contact with DM34 in central Arizona. Backscatter is unusual on 6 meter sporadic-E (in my experience). My theory is that a typical sporadic-E cloud is much more planar a refractive medium than the F2 layer, and doesn't scatter energy as much in off-beam directions. Thanks to W7MHW for hearing my weak signal through the pile-up of S9+20 signals from the southeast states."

Bill continues with, "Heard several guys talking about sporadic-E on 2 meters, but I think it was pretty limited. I didn't hear any really super-short skip on 6 meters; my guess, from the minimum skip distances I was hearing, is that the Es MUF was somewhere around 100-120 MHz--at least in these parts."

For the next few days, it looks like solar wind from coronal holes could be mildly disruptive. The planetary A index forecast for June 2-3 is 20, then settling down to quiet conditions a couple of days later. Average daily sunspot

numbers were up this week over last, and are expected to rise slightly over the next few days. Higher sunspot numbers mean higher MUFs, but 20 meters should still be your best band for reliable worldwide propagation.

For instance, California stations can work Japan on 20 meters currently around 0600-1600z, while the best 20 meter opening to Australia should be 0630-1300z. If you are in Georgia, the best 20 meter opening to Europe should be around 2230-0200z and 0430-0830z.

But you can work out your own paths to any location. Just use the suggestions in an earlier Propagation Forecast Bulletin, ARLP014, seen on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/2006-arlp014.html>.

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

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k9la-prop.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

Sunspot numbers for May 25 through 31 were 33, 51, 69, 78, 54, 51 and 44 with a mean of 54.3. 10.7 cm flux was 83.7, 81.6, 83, 84.7, 81.1, 80, and 78.4, with a mean of 81.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 5, 3, 7, 3, 9 and 6 with a mean of 5.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 1, 1, 5, 1, 7 and 4, with a mean of 3.3.

Treasurer/s Report

Transaction Date	Check #	Paid To	Amount of Deposit	Amount Paid	Balance	Category
		Opening Balance 2006			\$4,746.70	
1/13/2006		Deposit	\$40.00		\$4,786.70	
1/18/2006	1026	Richmond Frostfest		(\$132.00)	\$4,654.70	Tables, Chairs and Tickets
		New checks		(\$22.00)	\$4,632.70	New Checks
1/24/2006		Deposit	\$290.00		\$4,922.70	Dues for 2006
2/1/2006	1027	Marty Mait		(\$10.26)	\$4,912.44	Receipt Books
2/1/2006	1028	Marty Mait		(\$21.90)	\$4,890.54	Postage
2/9/2006	1029	Dennis Mills		(\$22.20)	\$4,868.34	Postage AARC Beacon
2/16/2006		Deposit	\$157.00		\$5,025.34	Dues and Raffle money
2/20/2006		Deposit	\$245.00		\$5,270.34	
3/14/2006	1030	Jefferson Engraving		(\$79.00)	\$5,191.34	Science Fair Trophies
4/18/2006		Deposit	\$320.00		\$5,511.34	Dues & Velo Contribution
5/3/2006		Deposit	\$60.00		\$5,571.34	Dues
5/9/2006		Deposit	\$20.00		\$5,591.34	Dues
5/13/2006	1031	Robert E. Pattison		(\$35.82)	\$5,555.52	Copying and Binding

AARC Public Service Schedule

June 11-12	MS 150 Bike Tour
------------	------------------

Area Hamfests

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

FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	
Vanity Calls	
None Reported	

VE Session Schedule - 2006

June 10 Richmond (ARRL VEC)	Sponsor: RICHMOND ARC/RAVE Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: PATRICK WILSON (804) 932-9424 Email: W4PW@COX.NET Location: 8508 FRANCONIA RD NORTH PARK BRANCH LIBRARY RICHMOND, VA 23227
June 17 Charlottesville (ARRL VEC)	Sponsor: Albemarle ARC Time: 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: HARRY J DANNALS (434) 974-7388 Location: University of Virginia 530 MCCORMICK RD ASTRONOMY BLDG - ROOM 201 Corner of MCCORMICK & ALDERMAN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22904
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	
---------------	--

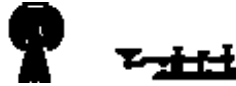
AARC Club Officers

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	John	N4SYH	
Director	Tim	KG4HOT	
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.wa4tfz.org/index.htm>



THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2006 No. 6
June 2006



© 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 : June 13 - 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
INPUT/OUTPUT **Tone Access (If needed)**
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
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
May 9	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>