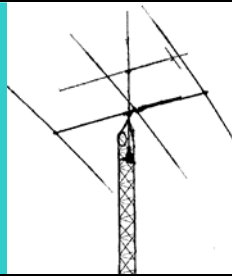


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2006, No. 10



October 2006

Inside this Issue

1	Meeting Notice
1	The President's Letter
2	Veep Peeps
2	Club Business
3	Contest Highlights - Upcoming
4	ARES/RACES Emergency Drill on October 14, 2006
4	AARC Web Site Updated
4	AARC VEC Exam Session Results
5	AARC Special Event Station – Military Appreciation Day
6	Solar Update de K7RA
6	Katrina Relief
7	AARC Public Service Schedule
7	Area Hamfests
7	FCC Database Updates
7	VE Session Schedule - 2006
7	For Sale Items
7	AARC Club Officers
7	Contest Calendars

Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 10 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA campus. The presentation for the October meeting will be by Eddie Medeiros on the subject of generators.** See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello friends. Well, another month has gone by quickly and my president's column is coming in late again but such is the case when burning the candle at both ends.

Here's what we worked last month. With regards to 6 meters: zero, zip, nada. On HF the bands were fairly dead, high and low most of the time. However, through all of these bottom of the sunspot season doldrums we managed to work: Germany, Slovenia, South Africa, Italy, Costa Rica, Bulgaria, a few European islands in the Greek chain, Ukraine, Czech Republic and Croatia. It seems as though there is more activity in the 75 meter DX window. We managed to make a few mobile contacts on 75 meters to England and France coming home from the night shift. 80 meter mobile is not an easy accomplishment. I can only imagine how difficult it must be to set up a mobile station for those who have worked 160 meter mobile!

I must say the nominations committee is doing a wonderful job and it is possible that for the first time in quite awhile there is enough interest in being on the board or holding office. We may not have to railroad somebody into position who does not necessarily want to be there. This to me represents great success in encouraging a higher number of members to step forward and contribute their abilities.

One of my desires upon taking office was that the club acquire a "clubhouse." In my short involvement with amateur radio I have seen some serious barriers which hamper one's ability to participate in the hobby. When there are issues such as antenna restrictions, apartment/condo

living or the movement from a home to an assisted living facility, there are far too many people who may be excluded from the possibility of being involved with radio because of their individual circumstances. There had been some suggestions of sharing space on the UVA campus and at one point we had a radio station at a firehouse which due to personality conflicts we were evicted. My desire is to have some type of a place of our own. Even a long term lease that would be affordable to us or a gift from someone who's able. We need a place to get together as a club and do radio things together.

Aside from public events and field day there is little that the club does together involving radio. I'm not going to list all of the reasons why I think this a good idea. I believe if you give it some thought your self you'll see how very important this idea can be to keep people involved, get new people involved and have something permanent for our club. So I'm asking everyone to keep their eyes open for some sort of little place that we can call our own.

Until next month....

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear friends: At the September meeting Sheriff Ed Robb explained their needs for search and rescue volunteers. Those who want to participate should receive training at the sheriffs department. They are having trouble with communications and need our help. After Ed left to attend a wake, Bob Villwock N4RHV answered questions and told about being an auxiliary deputy. He also explained how recently they were searching for an old couple that got lost in the park and all the trouble they had trying to be in contact with each other. Cell phones didn't work and their 900 MHz system wasn't working either. They feel the search would have taken less time and would have been more organized if a few hams could have helped with HT's. We'll be discussing this further in the very near future.

Club business: We organized a nominating committee for officers for 2007. It consists of Cayman KG4OVD, Gordon WW4GW, Stephanie K4BMM, Dennis K4THE and Tim KG4HOT. They should be ready for the October meeting.

Tim KG4HOT wants to organize a clean up and build a small building at the Heards Mountain repeater site, he will let us know when he's ready to get it done.

Bill AD6JV would like to get everyone to register on line for ARES and receive ARES training. Gordon is fixing the 220 repeater that was struck by lightning and a conversation started about even keeping the 220 repeater! I feel even though many hams including myself don't have 220 rigs, our club bought the repeater and we should do anything to keep

all of our spectrum going. I guess what I'm saying is when my mom realized I no longer used some of my toys, models and such she probably felt it was a storage problem and threw them out when I wasn't looking. I remember being very upset when I realized all my models were gone. I would be very upset if the FCC threw out 220 because they thought we were no longer interested in it! What do you think?

The presentation for the October meeting will be by Eddie Medeiros on the subject of generators.

Eddie is not a ham but runs Never Dark with his brother and is willing to talk about the subject. The first talk I tried to organize was on the same subject but the fellow forgot about it and Dave Damon K4DND pulled me out of the fire and gave a presentation on the emergency system in Richmond; boy was I glad!

The last thing I want to mention is a couple weeks ago I was listening of 75 meters around 3.850 and called back to the guys rag chewing. They were very friendly but when they realized I only have a general license they said I really shouldn't be down that far in the band. I told them I thought I was OK as thought I was allowed there but they explained that even though I was on 3,850 I could be heard in the Extra class part of the band. I apologized about my mistake and they moved up to 3.860. Boy O boy, did I ever feel like a complete LID. Take care and ...

73 de KI4DJT

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes September 12, 2006

Members Present: John, KI4DJT, VEEP; Steph, K4BMM, Acting SECY; Tim, KG4HOT; John, N4SYH; Bill, AD6JV; Dennis, K4THE. Members Absent: Jay, K4AZV, PRES; Marty, AG4DN, SECY; Bob, K4DU, TREAS.

John called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

The first order of business was the need to appoint a nominating committee for club officers for 2007. It was agreed that the committee would consist of Tim, Gordon WW4GW, Steph, Dennis and Cayman KG4OVD. **The committee will recommend a slate of officers and Board members for 2007 and present them at the October 10 General Meeting.** Additional nominations will also be accepted from the membership in general at the meeting.

Tim informed the Board that the club had gotten approval to utilize Heard Mountain as a repeater site. The club will have to enter a hold harmless agreement prior to movement. Tim also stated that he would like to get a clean up crew to the site in preparation for the movement. He will announce the date for clean up on the club radio nets and ask for volunteers. Instructions will follow after the net closes.

Also, Gordon continues to work on getting the 220 repeater up and running.

With no further Board business John closed the Board meeting at 7:15 PM.

Submitted by: Stephanie K4BMM, Acting SECY

Regular Meeting September 12, 2006

John called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The introduction of members and guests followed.

With no formal club meeting in the month of August, there was no need to approve any minutes. The annual club picnic was held that day and as usual was a great success and well attended. The membership approved the minutes for July 2006.

John introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Sheriff Ed Robb of Albemarle County. He addressed his desire to have amateur radio support and cooperation for the County Search and Rescue team. His main point was that during such operations the ability to communicate effectively was critical and needed support. He spoke about his Reserve Deputy Program. Bob Willcock N4HRV an amateur operator and a Reserve Deputy who accompanied Sheriff Rob. They discussed the requirements for the program and encouraged those interested to contact his office. Bill interjected that there could be other methods that amateur radio could assist the Sheriff's office. The sheriff made the point that it would be advantageous to the amateurs and the Rescue team if they trained together as a unit. Sheriff Robb departed, however Deputy Willcock handled questions from the membership.

Tim informed the membership that he would like to get a crew together to clean up the Heards Mountain Site in anticipation of moving the repeater to that location. More information will follow on the club radio nets.

The selection of a nominating committee was announced. The slate will be presented to the membership at the October meeting. Anyone interested in serving or who desires to make a recommendation may do so or nominate a candidate from the floor at the meeting. (For members of the committee see Board minutes).

Gordon announced the next VE session will be on Saturday, September 16. Steph announced that our club ad has been placed in World Radio Magazine. Included in the ad will be the club's future testing schedule, quarterly on the third Saturday on the month. The next VE session will be in December.

Mary Ellen Wooten requested club support for a military appreciation day to be held at McIntire Park. She desires an HF station to be set up in order to contact members of the military. The set up will be needed the last weekend in September. More information will be forthcoming on the club radio nets.

Tim discussed Field Day 2007. He desires input from the membership as to how the event should be handled, location, set up, past successful techniques, etc. It would be helpful in the planning phase of the event if the membership would list the tasks that must be accomplished and the role they see for themselves.

The 220 repeater was next for discussion. Gordon is currently repairing the repeater. Tim asked the membership if they believed the club should maintain a 220 repeater. A majority of those present believed it should.

Dave K4DND made a motion that the club reimburse Gordon for the expenses he incurred repairing the 220 repeater. Gordon stated he volunteered to do the repair and desired no reimbursement.

Dennis made the point that he believed it would be beneficial for the Sheriff's Office if they received a presentation on Amateur Radio capabilities. Bill indicated that on the next Thursday net he would ask if there is interest among the membership in the Search and Rescue Team.

Lee K4ISW informed the membership that Fluvanna County now has a repeater in limited operation for testing purposes. The frequency is 145.170 (-), tone 151.4. The repeater is temporarily located on Manny's (K4MSR) property at Lake Monticello. Its final location will be at the County High School once the site is made ready. Call is W4FCO.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by: Stephanie K4BMM, Acting SECY

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Oct 14-15 ARRL Int'l EME Contest

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar 2006](#) webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

Oct 7-8 Oceania DX Contest - SSB

Oct 14-15 Oceania DX Contest - CW

Oct 21-23 Worked All Germany

Oct 28-29 CQ WW DX 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

ARES/RACES Emergency Drill on October 14, 2006

Bill, AD6JV

The Annual Albemarle County **ARES/RACES Simulated Emergency Test will take place Saturday, October 14, 2006 at 10:00 AM.**

The purpose of the drill is to

- Activate the County sites having preinstalled antennas
- Assure that at least one ARES member is familiar with each site and knows how to set up there in an emergency
- Demonstrate our capabilities to County Emergency Response officials

We would like to include the Emergency Operations Centers of neighboring counties in the drill to the extent possible.

The sites to be activated are

- Albemarle County/Charlottesville/UVA EOC on Route 250
- Zehmer Hall
- COB South
- Martha Jefferson Hospital
- Poison Control Center
- Red Cross
- Health Department
- Western Albemarle Rescue Squad
- Scottsville Rescue Squad
- East Rivanna Fire House
- Monticello High School

The last two are designated shelter sites that do not yet have antennas installed. A mobile station parked in the parking lot would be a good substitute. Most of the other sites require that you bring a radio with you. HT's may work in Charlottesville, but all the other sites require a larger radio with up to 50 watt capability. Remember adapters, jumpers and a power supply for your rig.

The drill "event" is a hurricane situation similar to Isabel. We will respond by getting each of these locations on the air by 10 AM October 14. The main frequency will be 146.76 MHz. We will also use the 444.250 MHz repeater on Martha Jefferson. The drill will include tactical message handling and health and welfare traffic, and will last about one hour.

We need an ARES volunteer to lay claim to each of the sites listed above, preferably one close to your home, and get it on the air by 10AM October 14. In addition you will have to make sure that you have access to the location by making contact with the in-charge person between now and October 14. I have the contact information and can give you the location of the antenna. Once you commit to a site we can work out the details by phone or a site visit.

To volunteer please call Bill Phillips AD6JV at 434-872-0686, or email billp1048@earthlink.net

AARC Web Site Updated

Josh, KG4NGV

An updated version of the AARC web site, which has been in the works for quite some time, has finally been launched. The new AARC web site design should allow easier updates and is already reflecting the latest information the club has to offer on events, resources and items of interest to club members and other hams. The new site features an events calendar, a swapfest listing, info for new hams and a clean updated look. Soon to be added is a photo gallery for pictures from public service events, meetings and field days!

Finally, the web site has a new web address at www.albemarleadio.org. This new name proves easier for newcomers to remember. For those of you concerned about the old address, wa4tfz.org, rest assured it will return once some technical details are sorted out.

A big thanks to Cayman, KG4OVD for all his help with the site and the servers, and to all the other club members who have supported this redesign project.

AARC VEC Exam Session Results

Gordon WW4GW – AARC VEC Coordinator

Below are the results of the VEC Exam session given by the AARC VEC Team on September 16.

Number of Candidates	9
Total Elements Taken	9
Total Elements Passed	8
Total Elements Failed	1
New Technicians	6

AARC Special Event Station - Military Appreciation Day

Marty, AG4DN --- Photos Tnx to AG4DN & Ed Deasy, KF4UTD and Ron, K4RKA

The weekend of 30 September - 1 October 2006 marked the **All American History Weekend and Amateur Radio Appreciation Day**. For the occasion the AARC established a Special Event Station to make contact with former and current military personnel. The object of the station is to show thanks for their past and current service to the country.

We must classify the event as a great success with over 60 contacts on HF, 20 and 17 meters, as well as EchoLink. The AARC membership showed its appreciation by the number of members that showed up on Saturday and Sunday to assist in the station operation and to show support for the contribution of the military to the establishment and maintenance of our nation since the early days of American history.



Ben, N4CV and Jay, K4AZV take a break to ragchew with a Civil War officer in the re-enactments

The event was marked by enactors of the military from the first days of Jamestown through the Revolutionary War, the War Between the States, the World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq I and II. Demonstration of weapons from the simple shoulder weapons of Jamestown to the current conflict in Iraq were shown and fired with blanks; however the loading and rapidity of fire was accurate. Cannon from the 1861-1865 conflict were fired as well.

An interesting demonstration of the Homing Pigeon used for carrying messages in World War I was conducted. The pigeon was released and was to fly to Richmond, however

the pigeon thought otherwise and refused to fly, much to the disappointment of the handler and the crowd. The Homing Pigeon is known to fly back to their home nest distances of 1500 miles. When this demonstration was conducted in 2005 the pigeon arrived in Richmond in an hour and a half. (...and you get disgusted with the Amateur Bands at times).



The pigeon decided not to fly to Richmond unless given a first-class upgrade...

The Homing Pigeon does have a very good record of carrying the message through in World War I. Many lives were saved through their actions. Static displays showed uniforms, equipment and personnel in authentic dress. The enactors responded to questions from the many visitors both young and old, vets and non-vets.

Participating in the Amateur Special Events Station were familiar friends and associates, Jay K4AZV, Stephanie K4BMM, Kevin K4BDR, John K14DJT, Vic N3DFS, Cayman KG4OVD, Ben N4CV, John K14NTO, Josh KG4NGV, Ron and Nancy K4RKA, Ed K1EE, Bill AD6JV, Alan KF4NOR and yours truly. This is an annual event and if you did not have the opportunity to operate on our station this year or view the displays, I recommend you put this on your calendar for next year.



Our VP, John, KI4DJT; Cayman, KG4OVD; Kevin, K4BDR and K9-friend and John, KI4NTO



Steph, K4BMM making QSO's on 14280 with a G5RV

Solar Update de K7RA

From ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP040

Average daily sunspot numbers were down again this week, but only by less than one point, to 12.7. Average daily solar flux was down five points from the previous week to 72. Geomagnetic indices were down, also by a small amount.

The Air Force projects that today, September 29, geomagnetic conditions will be quiet, with a planetary A index of 8, rising to 15, then 20 on Sunday, and dropping back to 8 on Monday, October 2. Currently the interplanetary magnetic field is pointed south, which signals that Earth is vulnerable to solar flares or solar wind from coronal holes. Sunspots 913 and 914 are rotating into view, and sunspot number and solar flux should rise slightly by Monday.

Geophysical Institute Prague projects unsettled conditions for September 29, quiet conditions on September 30, unsettled to active conditions on October 1, unsettled October 2, quiet

to unsettled for October 3, then quiet conditions on October 4-5.

Bill Huntimer, KI0CW in Dell Rapids, South Dakota wrote to ask, "Would you explain what sunspots do to radio interference?"

Sunspots can be great for HF radio propagation. The more sunspots we see, the greater the density of charged particles in the ionosphere, which reflect or refract radio waves. Higher densities mean higher frequencies can propagate worldwide, instead of just passing through the ionosphere and off into space. When there are sunspots, there is also the possibility of other solar activity, such as solar flares, and holes in the Sun's corona, which can spew out a solar wind of charged particles. These particles, as well as x-rays from flares, may disturb the Earth's magnetic field, and cause charged particles in the ionosphere to re-combine, canceling the charge. Lower density of charged particles means that the Maximum Usable Frequency is lower. In addition, polar cap absorption occurs, so propagation over the poles becomes poor.

Sometimes in the media, we may hear of interference to broadcast TV or FM radio signals related to sunspots. The interference can be from distant stations, when listeners are accustomed to hearing only local stations. The interference is actually due to improved propagation.

Sunspot numbers for September 21 through 27 were 11, 17, 13, 13, 11, 13 and 11 with a mean of 12.7. 10.7 cm flux was 71.4, 72.3, 70.4, 69.8, 70.2, 70.7, and 72, with a mean of 71. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 3, 9, 23, 6, 6 and 4 with a mean of 7.9. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 1, 7, 15, 6, 5 and 2, with a mean of 5.4.

Katrina Relief

Tnx to Ron, K4RKA

One of the more fortunate Katrina victims in the New Orleans area is an old time ham and a Sperry Marine employee. Fortunate because he only lost his beam, tower, the roof over the ham shack, and suffered damage to ham gear, back bedroom, and bathroom, but did not have to vacate his house. A year later he is finally re-roofed and is starting to clean out the moldy tubes stored deep in the back room, but has no funds available to replace the old tube type ham station. At the AARC picnic, Hein, N4FWA, mentioned that he had an FT747 available for donation to a worthy person. Since it is apparently a good CW rig and Joel, AA5PZ, is/was a CW person, I suggested that he might be interested. Recently the rig was sent to New Orleans where hopefully it will be put on the air soon. Joel has made a small donation to the AARC in return and Hein can be happy that the rig went to a person who seems to truly appreciate it. Thank you Hein!!

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 - 2006	
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	
Triband Yagi, rotator and coax switch	Cushcraft A3S 10/15/20 Meters Triband Yagi, with coax, etc. Asking \$175. Yaesu antenna rotator with control unit. Model G-450 XL, with box, coax, etc. Asking \$200.00. Delta-4 Lightning surge protector. 4-position RF Coax switch.. Asking \$32. All items include original manual. Contact Jimmy at (Home) 434 973-5589 or (Cell) 434 981-8451 or via Email K4JMY@aol.com .

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
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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 : Oct. 10 - 7:30 PM NRAO Building - 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
October 10	Regular Club Meeting
November 14	Regular Club Meeting
December 12	Regular Club Meeting
January ??	Annual Club Winter Dinner
February 13	Regular Club Meeting
March 13	Regular Club Meeting
April 10	Regular Club Meeting
May 8	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.wa4tfz.org/images/AARCrenewalform2006.pdf>