



The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club is over 40 years old at this point. Our club has continued throughout its years to do as it is doing today, which is providing a service to members of our community and to amateur radio licensees. The club also provides a strong base for camaraderie, fellowship and networking. The fact that no man is an island shows the importance of having a club such as ours. We have no guarantees as individuals but the club has strength. So let us continue to support our club as we have in the past. On that note I'd like to remind those who haven't paid their dues for this year to please do so.

Josh (KG4NGV) has forwarded the first completed controller kit to Ben (N4CV) and Bubba (WW4GW) for installation to the 444.250 repeater at Martha Jefferson Hospital. The 444.250 machine will be taken down for a period of time, refitted with the controller and placed back into service soon.

Here's what we worked this month. On VHF/UHF, we didn't find much propagation except for a bit of ducting on 2 meters during a couple of our warm days. Sad to say that the 6 meter E-skip season is quite disappointing. There were but a few openings on 6 meters. Those openings generally were stateside and Canada. On HF there were several nice stations to be worked with two DXpeditions activating VU7-Lakshadweep. We worked them on 20 meters as well as E. Kiribati and Outer Hebrides. On 80 meters we worked lots of Western Europe. We worked Cuba on 160 meters with a little Slovenia, Suriname and Hawaii thrown in on 17 meters for good luck.

In closing I'd like to wish everyone a healthy, happy and peaceful 2007.

*73, Jay K4AZV*

## Veep Peeps

*John, KI4DJT*

--- Veep Peeps are not available this month. ---

*73 de John, KI4DJT*

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes December 12, 2006

Members Present:

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

Jay opened the meeting at 6:45 PM. A quorum was present.

The first item Jay addressed was a shelter for the repeater on Heard Mountain. John KI4DJT is compiling a list of

materials necessary to build the shelter. Once the list is developed, Jay will provide what he has as surplus at his home. The balance will be paid through the club treasury. In January 2007 a work group of club volunteers will clear the area and expose a concrete slab that will serve as the shed foundation. The area is surrounded by chain linked fence and will be reasonably secure. We are looking forward to a very useful, functional home for the repeater,

Jay expressed the need for at least eight guest speakers for the coming year. John as VEEP for 2006 has had the responsibility to provide the guest speakers. He has taxed the limits of his net work of appropriate guest speakers. The Board and the membership are urged to explore their net work of acquaintances, and professional contacts for appropriate guest speakers.

Although, John was not present, currently he is arranging for a site on Fan Mountain for a Field Day site for 2007. Field Day for 2007 will be 23-24 June. Tim volunteered to contact John for a progress report.

Jay informed the Board that the club had placed an ad in World Radio for the AARC. As a result, the magazine awarded a number of one year subscriptions. Some will go to Board members who have been active in club affairs, the balance will be given to the membership at the meeting to follow.

The repeater control kits authorized for purchase by the membership have been received. The two kits will be assembled by club members and put into use shortly.

**Jay noted that 2007 dues are currently due.** Marty had the applications and they can be down loaded from the AARC web site.

There being no further business, Jay called for a motion to close the Board meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment at 7:00 PM.

*Submitted by: Marty AG4DN*

### Regular Meeting December 12, 2006

Jay opened the meeting promptly at 7:30 PM. Jay called for the introduction of friends and members, as well as any activities in Ham radio that the membership may have been involved with recently.

The approval of the November 2006 AARC Board and Membership minutes as they appeared in the December 2007 Beacon was called for. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment.

The membership approved Greg Mika KI4PXU and Ben Trefsgar KI4PVD for club membership. The new members were greeted with a round of applause.

Gordon WW4GW reported on the 9 December VE session. The results were very encouraging. As a result of the testing

there a two new Techs, one with HF privileges, one new General class and a Tech passed Element 3, needing only the code to complete the requirements for General. Gordon was quite pleased with the results.

Bill AD6JV reported that there was no activity in the public service area; however he reminded those members that participate in ARES if they have not as yet registered with the State ARES to do so.

Gordon made a recommendation from the floor that handouts covering AARC involvement in ARES and other activities be distributed to new club members as a routine matter. Jay will follow up.

Tim KG4HOT reported that Gordon had repaired the 220 repeater and it was up and would be running shortly if not already. As background to this situation, lightning had "fried" the interior of the repeater. Recommendations from commercial vendors were to junk the repeater a buy a new one. Gordon took it upon himself to rebuild the repeater and refused to accept any funding from the club for parts.

Jay announced the purchase of the two repeated control kits and displayed the kits. Josh KG4NGV and Dennis K4THE volunteered to build the kits. Once in place the repeaters will have the capability for remote control, taking measurements and linkage with other repeaters. The membership is looking forward to these additional functions from our repeaters.

John KI4DJT has not as yet reported on the availability of the Fan Mountain site for Field Day in 2007. Tim is following up. (See Board meeting notes).

Jay noted that John needed assistance in obtaining guest speakers for the coming year. There is a need for eight guest speakers, since four meeting are covered by other regularly scheduled club events, i.e., Field Day, August picnic, January holiday dinner and the "meet your fellow ham' meeting.

The 147.075 Repeater Association in Waynesboro is seeking associate members. This repeater serves a very wide area of central Virginia and provides excellent communications for many localities outside of Waynesboro. By becoming an associate member of the club your dues help maintain the facility. If interested contact Dave K4DND.

John is currently doing an estimate of costs for the materials necessary to build a shelter on Heard Mountain for our repeater. Jay has volunteered materials as well. A clean up of the site is planned for January 2007. Volunteers will be needed. Stay posted on this detail. (See Board minutes).

Jay informed the membership that since the club ad had been put in "World Radio" a number of one year subscriptions had been awarded to the club. The Board members and Gordon have been given the subscriptions.

Joe W2PVY wanted to know if the club had made its semi-annual contribution to "News Line." Bob K4DU not being present, no information was available. Jay will make the necessary inquires and see that the contribution is made.

Dave raised the question of the scope of the club liability policy. The policy will be re-examined for details to see if the policy is adequate for current needs.

With no further business and no guest speaker, Jay called for a motion to close the general Membership Meeting. The motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment at 8:05 PM.

The membership owes a vote of appreciation to Kevin K4BDR for providing a pot of excellent home made chili for the meeting!!!!

*Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, SECY*

## FCC Eliminates Morse Code as Exam Requirement

*From the ARRL Bulletin, Dec. 22, 2006*

Early this year, the US will join the growing list of countries that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test as the entry ticket to HF. Announcement of the pending historic rule change arrived with no fanfare December 15 in an FCC public notice. A full-blown Report and Order (R&O) in the proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, followed December 19. The best estimate of when the Morse code requirement will go away officially is sometime in February -- 30 days after the R&O appears in the Federal Register.

"We . . . believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging messages," the FCC said in its R&O. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from other Amateur Service communications techniques."

The FCC says it deems the current regime of written examinations "sufficient to determine whether a person is qualified to be issued an Amateur Radio operator license."

The FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergencies, concluding that most emergency communication is handled using voice, data, or video techniques. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse requirement would help keep out the bad apples. "The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed. It concurred with one commenter's observation that "maintaining the code

requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does."

The FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees present and future -- whether or not they've passed a Morse code test, will get privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters identical to those of Novice licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

The FCC took advantage of the occasion to act on the League's Petition for Partial Reconsideration in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, calling on the Commission to retain 3620 to 3635 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations by moving the Extra class phone band edge to 3635 kHz. The FCC decided instead to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, and leave the newly expanded phone band intact.

The Commission further amended Part 97 "to authorize Amateur Extra class privileges to all individuals who have been issued a CEPT radio-amateur license by their country of citizenship, and who satisfy other requirements in the Commission's rules."

Although the FCC's Morse code decision came as no surprise, it nonetheless revived debate on the issue. The FCC had proposed more than a year ago to drop the Morse code requirement for all license classes. The record in the proceeding, the FCC said, "reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community." After reviewing the more than 3500 comments and counter-proposals radio amateurs had filed, the Commission stuck with its initial proposal.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, had this reaction: "While the Commission's decision to delete the Morse code requirement for an Amateur Extra Class license departs from the ARRL's recommendation, it is helpful to have the matter resolved so we can move forward."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed a similar viewpoint. "Now that the debate is over, we can focus on learning Morse code simply for its own sake," he said. Sumner pledged that the League would maintain its traditional support of Morse code as an operating mode and would continue to offer Morse training materials as well as such incentives as bonus credit for CW contacts in ARRL-sponsored operating events. ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will keep its schedule of Morse code practice and bulletin transmissions.

Since World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, the UK, Canada, Germany and other countries have dropped their Morse requirements. Sumner said other countries have successfully made the transition to a codeless testing regime, and he doesn't anticipate problems in the US.

The pending disappearance of the Morse code requirement seems to have rejuvenated the urge to upgrade. ARRL Sales

and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, says distribution of General Class license training materials have skyrocketed in the week after the FCC announcement.

The ARRL has posted information relevant to the FCC action in WT Docket 05-235, including an FAQ, on its Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>>.

**Happy New Year  
2007!!**

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Jan 6-7 Kid's Day - Phone

Jan 20-21 January VHF Sweepstakes

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

### Other Contests of Interest

Jan 13-14 Lions on the Air

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	
February 18 Richmond	Virginia State Convention <b>(Richmond FrostFest)</b> Sponsor: Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society <a href="http://www.frostfest.com">http://www.frostfest.com</a> Talk-In: 146.880 (PL 74.4)
February 25 Annandale	Winterfest 07 Vienna Wireless Society <a href="http://www.viennawireless.org">http://www.viennawireless.org</a> Talk-In: 146.91

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

VE Session Schedule - 2007	
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			
President	Jay Rostow	K4AZV	<a href="mailto:k4azv@turing.org">k4azv@turing.org</a> 434-263-5795
Vice President	John Turchi	KI4DJT	<a href="mailto:m51John@juno.com">m51John@juno.com</a> 540-543-2037
Secretary	Marty Mait	AG4DN	<a href="mailto:ag4dn@earthlink.net">ag4dn@earthlink.net</a> 434-589-2825
Treasurer	Bob Pattison	K4DU	<a href="mailto:rep4@aol.com">rep4@aol.com</a> 434-960-3344
Director	Josh	KG4NGV	<a href="mailto:jmalone@ubergeeks.com">jmalone@ubergeeks.com</a> 434-760-1678 (cell)
Director	Gordon Winn	WW4GW	<a href="mailto:ki4ity@arrl.net">ki4ity@arrl.net</a> 434-581-3744
Director	Stephanie Rostow	K4BMM	434-263-5795
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	<a href="mailto:billp1048@earthlink.net">billp1048@earthlink.net</a> 434 872-0686
Director	Stephanie Rostow	K4BMM	<a href="mailto:steph@turing.org">steph@turing.org</a> 434-263-5795

Contest Calendars	
<a href="#">ARRL Contest Calendar 2007</a>	ARRL sponsored contests
<a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2007</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  
P.O. Box 6833  
Charlottesville, VA 22906  
<http://www.wa4tfz.org/index.htm>



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

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

**Next Club Meeting : Jan. 7 - 6:00 PM Ponderosa - Pantops**

**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**
- 145.17 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone -- **W4FCO (Fluvanna)**
- 146.79 (-) 167.9 Hz Tone -- (Buckingham)

**AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

DATE	EVENT
<b>January 7</b>	<b>Annual Club Winter Dinner – Ponderosa - Pantops</b>
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>