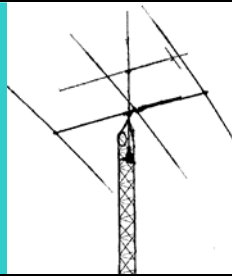


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2007, No. 4



April 2007

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 PM** at **the NRAO building on the UVA campus**. The program for the evening will be announced on the weekly nets. See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello to all. I hope people are finding the change into spring a comfortable change from some very cold winter weather. There are many things blooming and flying in the air here at the Rostow ranch in Nelson County.

I checked 6 meters just before writing this letter to make certain I wasn't going to miss out on an opening. Sure enough just static from a thunderstorm coming our way. Aside from that.....nothing, el zippo. On the HF side we did pretty well. We got some nice QSL cards this month from Caledonia, Thailand, Burkina Faso and Revilla Gigedo. We made some nice contacts, mostly into Europe, during the ARRL International DX Contest. In addition we worked: Morocco, Sudan, Guernsey Island, Jersey Island, Hawaii, New Zealand, Antigua, Uruguay, Poland, Paraguay, Dominica, Surinam, Australia, Sardinia, Kazakhstan, Greenland, Cape Verde and Slovenia.

The Virginia QSO Party was a ton of fun as always. Kevin K4BDR and I went mobile on Saturday. We had a lot of fun and made lots of contacts ... 470+. On Sunday, Steph and I worked the contest. Our totals were almost 22,000 points. These are both 80 meter only entries. Thanks to all who gave us points.

The 224.760 repeater is operating on Sugarloaf for the time being but will be moved to Heards Mountain shortly. Give it a tickle if you're 220 capable. The 146.925 machine should be back on the air shortly with tone so as to not cause any grief or aggravation in the HAM radio community.

The Jefferson Cup bike race was quite a bit of fun with lots of good volunteer service and cooperation. We provided

help in several situations. Once again it is obvious that this is an event in which our presence is definitely needed. Speaking of needed presence, it is important to volunteer some time throughout the course of the year for public service events. Now you might not be a public service type of person which is fine; however when we do public service we put a good face on amateur radio for the public to see. Also, these people occasionally make nice donations to our club. So in the spirit of doing something every once in a while that you don't necessarily want to do, public service is an important thing to which you can lend a hand.

At our next meeting I will ask for a volunteer to bring refreshments to our meetings for the remainder of the year. If we cannot get a volunteer to bring refreshments, there will be no refreshments. We have more or less struggled with the process of getting refreshments to the meetings by taking turns at doing the job and it is not working smoothly or sometimes not at all.

Enjoy the spring. See you soon. 73 to all ...

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, K14DJT

Dear Friends --- The 146.925 has a new home. I had the honor of helping out on the day we set it up on Heard's Mountain and I can't remember when I had so much fun at a work party. From getting the building off the trailer to erecting the antenna was a very special group effort one rarely sees nowadays. Thanks so much to all who helped get this show on the road. The 925 is still a little buggy but Gordon WW4GW will get it fixed up soon, I hope.

Last Thursday Dave K4DND, Gordon, WW4GW and I had a work party at Martha Jefferson installing the new repeater 145.450. We carried all our stuff to the roof of the building where Dave and Gordon set up the cans and the antenna wire. Then we had to get the antenna higher up on the tower. Gordon climbed the tower and guided the antenna while Dave and I hauled it up with block and tackle. I finally got to climb a little getting on the last few ties tying the coax to the tower. I think the 145.450 will be a very useful tool in Charlottesville during an emergency. We then collected our gear and took the elevator to the ground level. When we got down and went outside it was pouring rain! I guess we were blessed by the antenna angel this time.

Now I'm going to open up a can of worms but I feel this must be said. At the March meeting we needed volunteers for the Jefferson Cup bike race. A paper was passed around and only one member signed it. I must say I was very disappointed. I guess I'm beginning to take my part in the club too seriously. We are supposed to be a public service club. If no one cares to do public service why fake it. Half

the hams volunteering for the race are not even in AARC. This tells me our club is not interested in participating in these events and if so we should stop doing them. For I don't know how long silent key Steve Clements, KD4HBX brought the refreshments for the meetings. A couple years ago Steve could no longer do this chore and we agreed as a club that each month a different member would bring the snacks and drinks. This has failed miserably. A few of the friends always do this chore and it's not fair to them. At the last meeting we asked for a volunteer to provide the refreshments and all we got was silence. This upset me as well. If it's so much trouble for the members of the club to help out in this we will simply stop having the refreshments.

We do not have a program for the next meeting as of yet so listen to the info net for the speaker and program for April. Take care and ...

73 de John, K14DJT

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes March 13, 2007

Board Members Present: John, K14DJT (Veep); Bob, K4DU (Treas.); Marty, AG4DN (Sec'y); Josh, KG4NGV; Kevin, K4BDR; Gordon WW4GW.

John opened the meeting at 6:45 PM. He indicated that Jay K4AZV (Pres) would be late.

The first item of business to be addressed was the coordination papers for the 925 Repeater recently moved. Gordon indicated that there were complaints from operators in the Lynchburg area that the repeater was interfering with an existing repeater in Danville that had been on the air for quite a long period of time. Gordon raised the issue asking if the repeater movement had been coordinated with SERA. Coordination for the club is handled by Ron K4RKA. Bob indicated he would insure that Ron takes the appropriate action to coordinate the repeater with SERA. The Danville repeater has been coordinated. If we are interfering with its operation with the move, there is the possibility of problems with the FCC.

The next item was presented by Gordon in regard to Field Day. Gordon proposed that since the general public rarely comes to Field Day and the individuals that show up are Amateurs interested in the operation, perhaps if we set up a Hamfest it would help attendance. He proposed that we charge \$5.00 per table for those that desire to display. If an individual is willing to operate for an hour or more the fee is waved. There was some discussion as to whether "the powers that be" would approve a money making operation in conjunction with Field Day. John will check with the UVA authorities to see if there are any objections and report back to the Board.

With no further business John closed the meeting at 7:08 PM.

Submitted by: Marty AG4DN, Secretary

Regular Meeting March 13, 2007

John called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Administrative matters were put off until the end of the meeting due to the length of the guest speaker's presentation. However, a few items were covered.

The 4 Wheel Drive Association will be holding its rally in Nelson County on 28 September and requested amateur radio support for the event. The matter was referred to Tim KG4HOT since he is the EC for Nelson County and Bill AD6JV was not present.

John announced the winners of the Regional Science Fair. The award in the Senior Division went to Anthony Gulotta for his work on Electro Magnets. The award in the Junior Division went to Steve Cooke for his project "How Strong Is Your Signal?"

The membership observed a moment of silence in memory of our "Silent Key" Steve Clements KD4HBX who recently passed away. The Beacon will carry an obituary on Steve in the April issue. Photos of Steve and/or written items were encouraged.

There will be a bike race on 25 March. Those interested in supporting the event were told to contact Bill AD6JV.

Further announcements were put aside and our one and only Bubba Ham, Gordy, WW4GW was our guest speaker for the evening. His subject was Yagi Antennas. The presentation covered the development of a Yagi from the starting point of a dipole antenna. He covered gain, F/B, SWR, the effect of adding elements and the importance of the antenna feed. He went on to show the difference between a Yagi and a Quad Feed. He clearly pointed out the advantages of a Quad over a Yagi.

I cannot hope to capture the depth of Bubba's presentation here, but for those of us that needed a refresher or an introduction to antennas, it was an hour very well spent. His summary was clear and concise. In order to get the most out of your antenna you must:

- Understand the difference between antenna types- both physical and performance.
- You must establish a reference point for your testing, initially.
- You must test and verify.
- Antenna testing leads to---- rewarding and educational results.

It is recommended that Bubba write up his presentation for publication in the Beacon as a valuable contribution to those that could not attend.

The questions asked from the membership indicated the effectiveness of the presentation. John thanked Bubba for an excellent presentation.

John called for approval of the February Minutes of the Board and General Membership Meeting as they appeared in the March Beacon. The motion was made and approved with no comments or changes.

John volunteered to provide the refreshments for the April meeting.

Bob submitted a financial report showing a club balance in the general club account of \$44212.79. (Detailed accounting figures available upon request).

With no further business John called for a motion to close the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment.

Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary

Steve Clements, KD4HBX - SK

It is with the greatest regret that we must report that Steve Clements, KD4HBX, became a Silent Key on March 2, 2007. We will miss you, Steve!

Below is an excerpt from Steve's obituary in the *Daily Progress* of March 5, 2007.



Steve D. Clements, 58, also known appropriately by his family as "Happy". A gentle, kind and loving man, died Friday, March 2, 2007, at Martha Jefferson Hospital.

A native of Albemarle County, he was born on October 5, 1948. He is the son of the late Lacy B. and Fannie J. Clements.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Lacy Clements Jr.

Steve attended local schools and then attended the newly opened Blue Ridge Community College where he graduated.

Steve was a long-time employee of Covey's Radio and TV Repair Service, Inc. Steve had a special joy in fixing older radios, and had the ability to fix almost anything.

Steve was a member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church at Hickory Hill, a member of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, and a lover of bowling. He enjoyed the many friendships he

made through these and other business and personal relationships.

Steve was a lover of all animals and took great joy in tending to his herd of spoiled cows.

Steve is survived by his older brother, Gene; a sister, Emma; and a sister-in-law, Bonnie Hanson; and his nieces, Tammy Barber and her husband, David, and Courtney Hanson; and nephews, James Coleman, John Coleman and Ben Hanson; and by a "adopted" nephew, Sam Coleman. Steve is also survived by his great nieces; and nephew, Tara, Dan and Grace.

The family would like to thank Martha Jefferson Hospital for the wonderful care and compassion displayed by both the physicians and staff.

Memorial contributions may be made to an organization of your choice. You may wish to consider the American Heart Association, the American Kidney Foundation, the American Lung Association, Martha Jefferson Hospital or Good Shepherd Episcopal McIlhane Parish.

Published in the Daily Progress on 3/5/2007.

We now include remarks from several club members in remembrance of Steve.

In Memory of Steve Clements

Steve became a silent key this month. It was a shock to all of us but for those that had worked with him it was a terrible reality. He was a big cuddly "Teddy Bear" in appearance and a demon when it came to action. He rarely came on the air and had to be pushed a bit to come up. It was in my opinion, because above all, he was a shy guy. He hauled those ice chests to club meetings so we had our refreshments at the end of each club meeting. When it came to the annual August picnic we could depend upon Steve to bring what ever was necessary to feed, cook and satisfy the membership. He performed these actions with no complaint and a lot of sweat. He was a "trooper thru and thru."

Steve was a friend of mine and I will miss him!!

Marty AG4DN

A BIG MAN AND A BIG HEART

Several weeks ago many of us were saddened to learn that one of our friendliest and most helpful AARC members had become a "Silent Key." Steve, KD4HBX, won't be with us any more. His loss is particularly a loss to my wife Kay and me because he helped us in so many ways as the years began to take their toll on us. Steve was always just a call away with his pleasant smile and iron-like hand shake and his willingness to give a hand where it was truly needed.

As his time permitted, he was available to help at club meetings, Field Days and other club activities. His warm smile indicated to all who knew him that he truly enjoyed working with his fellows. Steve always made me comfortable at club meetings, making certain that anything wanted was available.

A big man with a big heart has left us and the void cannot be easily filled. Let everyone know that he was a friend and, when a friend-in-need was needed, he was always there to meet the call. 73, Steve, we miss you.

/s/ Harry, W2HD

Propagation Forecast Bulletin

ARLP014 de Tad Cook, K7RA

The daily sunspot number ended the stretch of zeroes on March 23, after 10 days of totally blank sun. Since then the daily sunspot number has ranged from 11 to 23. Note that as mentioned in recent bulletins, the daily sunspot number is not the same as the number of sunspots, but represents the number of spots and individual groups of spots. The minimum non-zero sunspot number is 11, when there is one spot visible.

Geomagnetic activity came a little earlier than predicted, with the active day on Saturday, March 24. The latest forecast shows the next period of higher geomagnetic activity on Monday, April 2. The sunspot numbers and solar flux should remain about the same, with no more than one or two spots visible.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet geomagnetic conditions for March 30 and 31, unsettled activity on April 1 and 2, quiet to unsettled on April 3, and quiet again on April 4 and 5.

Keith O'Brien, N4ZQ of Clearwater, Florida wrote in reminiscing about solar activity from long ago:

"I had just turned 11 years old in February 11, 1958. I was about a year and half away from getting my first, one year -- non renewable -- 5 WPM, Novice License. My family lived on the south shore of Long Island in the town of Merrick. But what I remember about that particular date was a night sky that was as bright an orange as any noon day. I recall climbing the center stairs to the second floor of my Colonial style house to watch the fantastic sight out the north-facing window.

"Little did I understand what I was witnessing, but probably one of the largest auroras of modern time. I recall reading the New York papers the next day where they talked about a large radio blackout due to the storm.

"The light from the auroras was visible all the way south to Mexico. It was a sight to behold and has stuck with me all these years.

"But what I would like to find, if possible, is what the surface of the sun looked like at that time. How many sun spots were there and how large they were?"

I found a drawing for Keith done on that day in Japan. You can see it on the web at, <http://solarwww.mtk.nao.ac.jp/solar/wlfulldisk/drawing/1958/580211s.jpg>. You can see other drawings from <http://solarwww.mtk.nao.ac.jp/database.html> by clicking on Sunspot Drawings in the Index, and then under Drawings click on the year you want, then you will see filenames which are the dates of the drawings.

Don Smith, N6NAX of Phoenix, Arizona writes that he is working the world on 20 meter PSK with only three watts. He observes "KH6CW working stations non-stop in Europe and USA" on 20 meter PSK. Even with 0 or nearly no sunspots, he is still seeing many signals from all over and 20 and 40 meters. He reports using a home built vertical antenna "like the one described in October 1995 edition of QST magazine."

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/>. Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at, <http://www.arrl.org/qst/propcharts/>.

Sunspot numbers for March 22 through 28 were 0, 14, 11, 11, 17, 11 and 23 with a mean of 12.4. 10.7 cm flux was 72.5, 72.5, 72.8, 73.7, 73.8, 73.3, and 74.6, with a mean of 73.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 10, 21, 10, 11, 12 and 7 with a mean of 10.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 7, 16, 8, 7, 9 and 6, with a mean of 7.7.

VA QSO Part 2007 Update

Bob, W4RQ

The Virginia QSO Party this year was the best one I have ever had. I worked 331 stations in Virginia and out of state. Saturday night I started calling CQ on 3890 SSB. I shortly had a sizeable pileup on me to work through. I worked 85 stations in this run before it went dry. Looks like Greene County was popular!! And all that using just 100 watts and a Carolina Windom. I also did work one station down the road in Albemarle County and Steph, K4BMM in Nelson County. I even had a call from Roger, W4EI, also in Greene County!

Kevin, K4BDR and our illustrious President Jay, K4AZV were on the road as mobile/rover. I was able to work them in many of the counties they visited.

Ben, N4CV and other members of the Virginia Tech ARC were quite active using the call K4M. I believe they worked well in excess of 450 QSO's. Ben hopes to have a report on his experiences in the VAQP for the Beacon very soon.

It was a fun contest and I look forward to participating again next year!!

AARC VEC Exam Session Update

Gordon, WW4GW

The AARC VEC Team held a license exam session on March 9. Here are the statistics from that session:

There were 21 applicants and 23 total tests were given resulting in:

- 7 new hams for Technician class
- 2 new hams who earned General class
- 2 hams w/Tech tested and upgraded to General class
- 1 ham w/General tested and upgraded to Extra class
- 8 hams came to get paper only upgrades to General class

Congratulations to all the new hams and upgrades!

Know Your Privileges!!

From the ARRL Letter, March 23, 2007

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT REGARDING TECH HF PRIVILEGES

Some Technician licensees who gained new privileges February 23 remain unaware or uninformed as to what they may and may not do on the HF bands, says ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND. In addition to all Amateur Radio operating privileges above 50 MHz, Technicians who never passed a Morse code test now have CW privileges on certain segments of 80, 40 and 15 meters plus CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on certain segments of 10 meters. And that's it. "**Know your privileges <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>>**," Henderson advises all Amateur Radio licensees. He says some Technicians apparently believe their new HF phone privileges go far beyond what they really have.

"Technicians have no phone privileges on any HF band other than 10 meters, period!" Henderson emphasizes. "That's the bottom line. If you want to operate phone on the other HF bands, you'll have to upgrade to General or Amateur Extra class."

A lot of Technician licensees appear to have done just that, according to statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A <<http://ah0a.org/FCC/Licenses.html>>. So far in March, the number of General class licensees is up by more than 2700 over the February figure to 134,173, after hitting a 5-year low of just under 131,000 in January. The number of Technicians dropped by 4655 in the same period to 318,838. Speroni notes, however, that his mid-month figures tend to underestimate actual totals.

Most Technician license holders face a learning curve to take advantage of their new CW privileges on HF, but they no longer have to pass a Morse code examination. Technicians also may use their new HF privileges without having to apply for them first. No other license class automatically acquired additional privileges February 23. The "omnibus" rule changes effective last December 15 did not give Technician licensees without Morse code credit any additional privileges either.

Henderson further warns new Techs not to extrapolate additional phone privileges by misconstruing the FCC Part 97 rules to mean something they don't.

"Calls I've been getting lately indicate that some misinformed individuals believe Technicians may operate 'digital voice' on 80, 40 and 15, where they have only CW privileges," he says. "Not true. Digital voice is really digitized voice, and it's not permitted in non-phone band segments."

Henderson reiterates that Technicians do not have FM voice privileges on 10 meters -- or on any other HF band, for that matter.

The HF privileges all Technicians now have are equivalent to those that Novice licensees enjoy, Henderson notes. "This also means the 200 W maximum power limit still applies, regardless of where you operate in the HF bands," he says. Technicians may operate at up to the legal limit on VHF and UHF, however.

On 10 meters, Technician and Novice licensees have CW, RTTY and data privileges from 28.000 to 28.300 MHz, and CW and SSB privileges from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz. "We're sorry that the sunspots aren't favoring 10 meters at this point in the sunspot cycle, but they will in a few years," Henderson allowed.

In addition, Technicians and Novices have CW -- and only CW -- privileges on from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz on 80 meters, from 7.025 to 7.125 MHz on 40 meters and 21.025 to 21.200 MHz on 15 meters.

Henderson believes at least some of the confusion may have originated with a few brand-new or inexperienced Technician licensees who heard that the FCC deleted the Morse code requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license, but paid little attention to the fine print.

"And we all know the devil's in the details," Henderson says. "Remember, the FCC requires you to know where you may and may not operate and with what modes. Stick to the privileges your license allows or risk hearing from the FCC."

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

April 1-30	None Reported
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Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar 2006](#) webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

April 7-15	Lighthouse Spring QSO Party
April 14-15	Japan International DX Contest
April 28-29	Florida 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

AARC Public Service Schedule	
None Reported	

Area Hamfests	
February 18 Richmond	Virginia State Convention (Richmond FrostFest) Sponsor: Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society http://www.frostfest.com Talk-In: 146.880 (PL 74.4)
February 25 Annandale	Winterfest 07 Vienna Wireless Society http://www.viennawireless.org Talk-In: 146.91

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

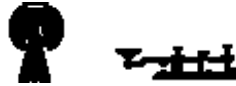
VE Session Schedule - 2007	
Date Location (ARRL VEC)	For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the ARRL Exam Session Search web page.

For Sale Items	
None reported	

AARC Club Officers			
President	Jay Rostow	K4AZV	k4azv@turing.org 434-263-5795
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Director	Josh	KG4NGV	jmalone@ubergeeks.com 434-760-1678 (cell)
Director	Gordon Winn	WW4GW	ww4gw@arrl.net 434-581-3744
Director	Stephanie Rostow	K4BMM	steph@turing.org 434-263-5795
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net 434 872-0686
Director	Kevin Ward	K4BDR	k4bdr@aol.com 434-531-7959

Contest Calendars	
ARRL Contest Calendar 2007	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2007	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 : April 10 - 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 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
Northern Piedmont Emergency Net / Swap Net / Technical Session: Each Thursday at 8:00 PM
All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater

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)

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 - **WW4GW (Buckingham)**
- 145.450 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **K4DND (Martha Jefferson Hospital)**

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
April 10	Regular Club Meeting
May 8	Regular Club Meeting
June 12	Regular Club Meeting
July 10	Regular Club Meeting
August 14	Annual Club Picnic and Hamfest
September 11	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
June 9 – 10	MS 150 Race

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>