



May 2007

**Field Day** will be coming up soon and after the Heard Mountain work party on the 5th of May a group of delegates will be traveling across the street to Fan Mountain to scope out possible antenna sites. It seems as though this year we may very well take advantage of AC power and some of the other comforts of home which will be available.

Best wishes to all and may you have many fine contacts with BS7H as they are precariously perched upon the rocks of Scarborough Reef off the coast of China.

*73, Jay K4AZV*

## Veep Peeps

*John, K14DJT*

Dear Friends --- Here we are, May already and I'm loving it. For the next six or eight weeks I'll have to mow the grass twice a week. It's okay --- I enjoy doing it. I wasn't going to put in much of a garden this year but wound up tilling a fairly large spot so we'll have plenty of veggies this summer and will have a lot to can. I have a race each year with my old buddy John Monto to see who would get a ripe tomato by Independence Day; this has gone on for thirty years. A few years ago John and Cathy moved to Saint Paul, Minnesota. That far north they don't even get and fruit until the middle of August and the first week in September they get a frost that stops it all in its tracks. I always call John on the fourth of July and let him know I'm eating a tomato sandwich on Italian bread but after all these years of winning the thrill is gone. Let's see now, who has a garden? Dave K4DND usually has a wonderful garden. Steph K4BMM and Jay K4AZV have a beautiful garden too! I think I'll challenge them to the tomato race to make it fun again and no matter who wins in 4-land, Minnesota Monto will be dead last. I think all us should call John when each of us are having our first tomato sandwich just to remind him how much fun we have here in the Old Dominion.

Gordon the Bubba WW4GW has inspired me! I have never gotten very good FM reception on any stations I care to listen too here in Madison. I can usually tune 89.3 and 91.1 but the signal would not be too great and would only work in mono mode. Just for an experiment I fashioned a three element Yagi and placed in on the ceiling so it could be rotated. I used 1/4 inch copper tubing and a pine 1x2. The length is about 68 inches. The reflecting element is 54 inches. The driven element is 52 inches and is a dipole. The director is 50 inches. Wow, what a difference the Yagi made! I can now receive some nice classical and jazz music and in stereo too. Just for fun I tried it with just the dipole and it didn't do as well. Then with the reflector and it improved greatly. When I tested it with the director it did not make as much difference as adding the reflector. If I had more room and could add a couple more directors I'll bet it would improve further.

**The presentation for the May meeting will by Vic, N3DFS. Vic will explain what is going on with the Red Cross and how we should be involved.** Bill AD6JV needs some time to describe what is going on at the MS 150 Bike Tour. I'm concerned about participation since there is a VE session on Saturday and a contest all weekend that many of the friends really enjoy and wouldn't miss for anything. I think before I was involved in radio AARC used to team up with other clubs for this event. Hopefully we can get something going with some of the other clubs in the area.

Ken Kellerman of the NRAO and member of the club will be giving the presentation in June and the subject will be "Grote Reber --- the father of radio astronomy". I'm sure it will be a very interesting meeting.

One more thing to mention: my E-mail address is now m51john@hughesnet.com Take care and 73 de ...

*73 de John, K14DJT*

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes April 10, 2007

Board Members Present: Jay, K4AZV (Prez); John, K14DJT (Veep); Bob, K4DU (Treas.); Marty, AG4DN (Sec'y); Josh, KG4NGV; Bill, AD6JV, Gordon WW4GW. Members Absent: Steph, K4BMM; Kevin, K4BDR.

With a quorum present, Jay opened the meeting at 6:50 PM.

The first item of business was the status of the 925 Repeater. Tim KG4HOT reported that the soft ware for the controller was on order. A discussion followed as to, should we put the repeater on the air prior to coordination. Gordon WW4GW expressed concern that if the repeater were put on the air prior to coordination and it continued to interfere with the Danville repeater, we will be asking for trouble. A problem could arise if a complaint or two were made to SERA prior to coordination, we would never get coordination out of SERA under these circumstances. In addition, a complaint could be made directly to the FCC by amateurs in the Danville or Lynchburg area. This too would have a very definite negative impact on getting coordination. It was decided to keep the 925 off the air until we have coordination from SERA.

Tim now addressed the problems with the 224.76 repeater. It is not responding very well. But, on the other hand since it does not get much use, should investment be made to upgrade? It was decided that a large investment should not be made, however a 220 receiver could be added to the repeater at moderate cost to improve its operations. Tim will follow this type of solution to improve the repeater.

Tim brought to the attention of the Board that the site of the 76 repeater on Kluge property at present is solely being used by our repeater. Kluge has ceased all radio operations from

this site. Their plan is to tear down the site and put a commercial operation in place. The question being: what will the impact of this action be on the repeater? Will we have permission to put our repeater on the commercial structure? Tim went on to inform us that the plan is to put up a single mono pole structure. The options for the club are at present, stay in close coordination with Kluge and request we be considered in their plans, research if there is some way we can get the repeater back on Carter's mountain. Tim will maintain close watch on this problem as it develops and once more information is available he will report back to the Board,

With no further business Jay requested a motion to close the Board meeting. A motion was made, second and approved with no comment at 7:40 PM

*Submitted by: Marty AG4DN, Secretary*

### Regular Meeting April 10, 2007

Jay opened the meeting at 7:45 PM and called for introduction of members and guests.

There was a call for approval of the minutes of the March meeting. It was pointed out to the membership that a misprint had occurred regarding the AARC balance in the checking account. The correct balance is \$4212.79 not \$44212.79 as appeared on page three of the April Beacon. The correction was made and the minutes were approved by the membership as changed.

The next item of business was the application by Don Eason N4UVA for membership in AARC. A motion was made for approval, second and approved. Don was welcomed into the club.

The Northern California DX Foundation had forward to AARC a DVD covering DXing for use as a presentation to the membership. John accepted the DVD for review and possible presentation at a future meeting.

Josh agreed to review a grant application from a conglomerate of commercial radio stations in the Charlottesville area. While there are no direct funds associated with the grant, the grant recipient is given air time to advertise its organization. The value of the air time is in the thousands of dollars according to the literature.

Jay noted the need for some one to bring refreshments to the next meeting. John has continually performed this function and there is a need for rotation of the responsibilities. Hal K4IHB volunteered to bring the refreshments for the May meeting.

Tim reminded the membership that Field Day this year was to take place at Fan Mountain 23-24 June. The volunteers will have to recon the site, organize their duties. We cannot wait until the last minute to accomplish the tasks.

Bill informed the membership that there will be a SkyWarn class May 22 at the Albemarle County Office Building. Those

interested in attending were told they must call Mike Thomas at County (971-1263), since this was a County activity not an AARC project.

Tim reviewed the conditions impacting the 925 repeater, the 220 repeater and the 76 repeater. See Board Minutes for details.

Ron K4RKA presented Joe W2PVY with a birthday cake for his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday. He then played a recording dating back to 1967. The recording was made in New York when he was interviewing Harry W2HD on a radio program he then hosted. The interview covered all aspects of what amateur radio was all about in a question and answer format. When I asked Harry if the program had been rehearsed or if they were working with a script, Harry informed me it was all spontaneous. The content and presentation were outstanding. Then Harry was presented with a birthday cake on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Happy Birthday was sung to the birthday boys and a cake feast was had by all.

Tim made a final announcement that there still were a number of vendor tickets for Dayton. In order to lock them down he indicated he must be informed ASAP.

A vertical all band antenna had been donated to the club by Frank Sola AE4OW, a former club member. The antenna was raffled off with the proceeds going to the club treasury.

With no further business Jay called for a motion to close the meeting at 8:45 PM. The motion was made, second and approved with no comment.

*Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary*

## Propagation Forecast Bulletin

*ARLP019 de Tad Cook, K7RA*

The string of 0 sunspot days ended April 25, and relative to the bottom of the solar cycle, sunspot numbers over the past few days have been quite an improvement. Average daily sunspot number jumped from the previous week by 23 points to 25.1, and average solar flux increased over 14 points to 84.8.

This modest increase in sunspot activity may noticeably improve propagation compared to weeks with no sunspots. It is our understanding that popular propagation prediction programs are based on a statistical model using predicted smoothed sunspot numbers. It is probably less accurate to vary a path prediction for a particular date using daily sunspot numbers, but taking an average of several days may produce more realistic results.

If we do path predictions from California to Japan for May 4 using the average sunspot number for the past three available readings (34), then compare to a prediction using 0

for the sunspot number, we can get some idea of what the average improvement would be.

Calculating for 0 sunspots, W6ELprop shows us a 50-75% chance of a 17 meter opening from 2130-0600z. Using 34 as a sunspot number, we see a 75-100% chance of a 17 meter opening from 2000-0630z and for the 50-75% chance, that opening extends later, to 0800z.

Similarly, for 20 meters with the sunspot number at 34, the W6 to JA path shows a 25-50% chance of opening at 1230z, 50-75% at 1300z, 75-100% from 1330-1500z, 50-75% at 1530-1600z and 25-50% at 1630z. With no sunspots from 1230-1330z there is less than a 25% chance, 25-50% at 1400z, 50-75% at 1430z and less than a 25% chance from 1530-1630z. Actual on the air results would vary, of course.

Let's look at the average daily sunspot numbers and solar flux for April, compared to previous months, to spot any trends.

Monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers for April 2006 through April 2007 were 55.2, 39.6, 24.4, 22.6, 22.8, 25.2, 14.7, 31.5, 22.2, 28.2, 17.3, 9.8 and 6.9. Monthly averages of daily solar flux for the same period were 88.9, 80.9, 76.5, 75.8, 79, 77.8, 74.3, 86.3, 84.4, 83.5, 77.7, 72.2 and 72.4.

We've also recently been looking at 3-month smoothed sunspot numbers, so knowing the April values; we can combine them with February and March to produce the smoothed sunspot number for March, which turns out to be 11.2. Both series of sunspot numbers clearly illustrate the decline of this sunspot cycle.

Barry Roseman, W0LHK of Stillwell, Kansas sent us a tip to check <http://www.60meters.info/> for a variety of information for users of the 60 meter band.

For the near term, the US Air Force Space Weather Operation predicts a planetary A index of 5 for May 4-5, 8 for May 6-7 and 5 again for May 8-18, so the expectation is for quiet geomagnetic conditions. Based on the last period of higher geomagnetic activity, April 28-29, the 27.5 day solar rotation probably is what led to a prediction of 25 for the planetary A index on May 25.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet geomagnetic conditions for May 4, quiet to unsettled on May 5, unsettled May 6-7, and quiet to unsettled again on May 8-9.

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

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

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

Sunspot numbers for April 26 through May 2 were 17, 18, 20, 18, 38, 32 and 33 with a mean of 25.1. 10.7 cm flux was 80.5, 82.7 84.9, 84.8, 87, 86.3, and 87.4, with a mean of 84.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 16, 26, 23, 20, 8 and 3 with a mean of 14.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 10, 20, 16, 13, 5 and 1, with a mean of 9.9.

## Albemarleradio.ORG Website

Ron, K4RKA

Due to a change of servers, remote access to administrative services such as updating the "Swapfest" items has been removed. Therefore I have been unable to update, delete, change or modify any listings for the last several weeks. It is unknown whether this ability will be restored. **Therefore it is recommended that people do NOT use the "Swapfest" listings but instead listen to the Thursday night nets to list and/or listen for the latest items.**

We regret any inconvenience this may cause you. You may still send an email of your listing to K4RKA@JUNO.COM and I will read them when appropriate.

73, Ron

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | None Reported |
|--|---------------|

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the [ARRL Contest Calendar 2006](http://www.arrrl.org/contests/) webpage.

### Other Contests of Interest

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| May 12-13 | Mid-Atlantic QSO Party        |
| May 12-13 | CQ-M International DX Contest |
| May 26-27 | CQ WPX Contest                |

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

## AARC Public Service Schedule

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>None Reported</b> |  |
|----------------------|--|

## Area Hamfests

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>June 3<br/>Manassas</b> | Ole Virginia Hams ARC<br><a href="http://www.w4ovh.net">http://www.w4ovh.net</a><br><b>Talk-In:</b> 146.97- /442.200+/224.660-<br><b>Contact:</b> Mary L. Blasdel, KB4EFP<br>9727 Loudoun Avenue<br>Manassas, VA 20109<br>Phone: 703-369-2877<br>Fax: 703-369-2877<br>Email: <a href="mailto:mblasd1638@aol.com">mblasd1638@aol.com</a> |
|----------------------------|---|

## FCC Database Updates

| New Calls     |  |
|---------------|--|
| None Reported |  |
| Upgrades      |  |
| None Reported |  |
| Vanity Calls  |  |
| None Reported |  |

## VE Session Schedule - 2007

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Date</b>       | For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the <a href="#">ARRL Exam Session Search</a> web page. |
| <b>Location</b>   |   |
| <b>(ARRL VEC)</b> |   |

## For Sale Items

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>None reported</b> |  |
|----------------------|--|

## AARC Club Officers

|                |                  |        |   |
|----------------|------------------|--------|---|
| President      | Jay Rostow       | K4AZV  | <a href="mailto:k4azv@turing.org">k4azv@turing.org</a><br>434-263-5795                  |
| Vice President | John Turchi      | KI4DJT | <a href="mailto:m51John@juno.com">m51John@juno.com</a><br>540-543-2037                  |
| Secretary      | Marty Mait       | AG4DN  | <a href="mailto:ag4dn@earthlink.net">ag4dn@earthlink.net</a><br>434-589-2825            |
| Treasurer      | Bob Pattison     | K4DU   | <a href="mailto:rep4@aol.com">rep4@aol.com</a><br>434-960-3344                          |
| Director       | Josh             | KG4NGV | <a href="mailto:jmalone@ubergeeks.com">jmalone@ubergeeks.com</a><br>434-760-1678 (cell) |
| Director       | Gordon Winn      | WW4GW  | <a href="mailto:ww4gw@arrl.net">ww4gw@arrl.net</a><br>434-581-3744                      |
| Director       | Stephanie Rostow | K4BMM  | <a href="mailto:steph@turing.org">steph@turing.org</a><br>434-263-5795                  |
| Director       | Bill Phillips    | AD6JV  | <a href="mailto:billp1048@earthlink.net">billp1048@earthlink.net</a><br>434 872-0686    |
| Director       | Kevin Ward       | K4BDR  | <a href="mailto:k4bdr@aol.com">k4bdr@aol.com</a><br>434-531-7959                        |

## 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  
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<http://www.albemarleradio.org/>



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

**Contact Information**  
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[W4RQ@yahoo.com](mailto:W4RQ@yahoo.com)

**Next Club Meeting : May 8 - 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**

| <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)          |

**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                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| May 8            | Regular Club Meeting                  |
| June 12          | Regular Club Meeting                  |
| July 10          | Regular Club Meeting                  |
| <b>August 14</b> | <b>Annual Club Picnic and Hamfest</b> |
| 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>