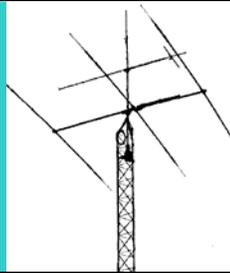


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2007, No. 8



August 2007

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 14 at 5:00 PM** at **Shelter 1 at McIntire Park. This is the annual AARC picnic and Tailgate Fest!** There will be no regular club meeting in August. See you there!!

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Greetings and welcome to yet another exciting issue of the Beacon. July flew by and before you know it, it will be Labor Day. July has been a fairly unexciting month as far as radio is concerned.

The repeater work is continuing with the 224.760 on the air and performing well aside from a muddy audio problem which has yet to be solved. The 146.925 machine will be back on the air some time in August. We're looking forward to that machine's redeployment. The 146.760 machine is and has been doing well for the last several years although at any time, with very short notice we could be asked to move it. At the last meeting Mike K14R1X offered to work with Bob W4RQ for the purpose of propagation studies at different sites north of Charlottesville as it is our hope to locate a new repeater site somewhere to the north of town.

The Berryville Hamfest was fun as always with a respectable turnout of vendors and attendees.

Here's what we worked this past month. On 6 Meters: the Azores, Canada, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Belize and Bermuda. On HF: Denmark, Pitcairn Island (a new one!), St. Maarten, Cuba, San Marino, Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Great Britain, French Polynesia and Ecuador.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the club's picnic!!

73, Jay K4AZV

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear Friends ... It's picnic time! **We'll be having the annual club picnic at the usual spot, pavilion 1 at McIntire Park, at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August, 14.** I plan to be there by 3. Because of health and family issues I wasn't able to attend the July meeting. I guess the officers figured I had forgotten about reserving the picnic spot and asked Don Eason, N4UVA to do it. Well, when I went to the parks and recreation office to rent the space they told me it was already rented. I asked if it was rented to AARC and they said it was rented to a private party; so naturally I rented pavilion 2 and went over to check it out. It was a little smaller but needed a few more tables and I arranged to get some more tables and chairs.

Dawn and the kids have been out of state for several weeks and feeding time for my critters comes at net time so I haven't been on many nets for month. I was finally able to get on the info net and announced the time and place for the picnic. Thursday I spent the day at the VA med center in WV. When I got home there was a message from Don telling me he had rented the picnic spot and I just flipped. I called Don and made a complete ass of myself launching a tirade at poor Don for doing something he was asked to do. Boy, did I feel lower than a snakes belly in a wheel rut. I called Don back and offered my apology; he graciously accepted, we had a good chat and I think Don wants to be the hot dog man at the grill.

Last year we ran out of burgers, I'll make sure that doesn't happen this time. We'll have burgers, hot dogs and Italian sausage and I'll have some vegetarian dishes for our meatless hams. I would like to ask the friends to bring a salad or dessert and I still need a drink and ice volunteer.

I finally ate my first tomato on July 23. I'll bet Dave had some earlier. I would have had some a few days earlier but my chickens were getting in the garden and eating the ripe tomatoes. I went and got some steel T-posts and some chicken wire and put up a fence around the garden. After a few minutes of admiring my work, satisfied the birds couldn't do any more damage I went in the house and discovered while driving in one of the posts I lost my right hearing aid. I spent hours on the ground crawling around looking for it but no soap. Probably one of the chickens had already eaten it.

I was going to get another HF rig for the trailer at the Nelson place and was looking for a used Kenwood. After thinking it over I decided to save a few more bucks and get a 100 watt Elecraft K-2 kit. I'll be able to order this week and I'll be in for a lot of fun over the next few weeks building it. I'll take pictures through construction so I can give a presentation on it in the future.

It's almost 5 AM and time to get some chores done so that's all for now. See you at the picnic!! Bring your appetite. Take care and ...

73 de John, KI4DJT

Club Business

AARC Board Minutes June 12, 2007

Board Members Present: Jay, K4AZV (Prez); Bob, K4DU (Treas.); Marty, AG4DN (Sec'y); Bill, AD6JV, Gordon WW4GW; Josh, KG4NGV. Members Absent: John, KI4DJT (Veep); Kevin, K4BDR.

Jay opened the meeting at 6:35 PM. Jay called for reports from committee chairs.

Bill informed the Board that he will no longer be able to perform the duties of Emergency Coordinator and chair public service events. Effective the end of August he will give up the duties of chair of public service events. Jay thanked Bill for his past service and asked Bill and the Board to look for a public service events coordinator. There were no immediate nominations but all agreed to look for an appropriate candidate.

Jay noted that the NOAA Weather Service Station on 163.45 MHz has been off the air for the past week or so. It is believed that lightning or another mishap has occurred at the station. The station at Manassas, 162.45 MHz is coming in quite strong in this area. With the hurricane season upon us Jay felt it was important to check on the reason for the 163.45 station being off the air considering that all of Central Virginia may not be able to pick up the Manassas station. Bill will check on the situation.

Jay reported that the coordination for the 925 repeater on Heard MTN is nearing approval. The holdup has been corrected. Tim KG4HOT reported that he will need new cables for the 925 repeater. There are also some modifications and additions that are necessary for the shed to become operational. The cables have to be made to match the equipment layout in the shed. The layout will be worked on by Tim. Location for the 2 meter and 440 repeaters have to be decided on. This will determine the cable lengths necessary for hook up of the various components of the system. Some technical questions still need to be resolved as well in regard to tone access. The Tech Committee will meet and resolve the problems.

Gordon informed the Board that the club cannot submit the Field Day results for this year. The club violated the rules covering set up time by setting up too early; therefore the results cannot be accepted.

There followed a general discussion on the privileges of being a member of the club. The possibility of limited

membership for repeater use only was discussed among many other related issues.

Another item of general discussion at the Board was "is there a need for formal classes for the three levels of Amateur Operator?" The ten-week classes, one night a week, are a thing of the past. The weekend classes where the students come to class already having covered the material and have a question and answer session followed by a testing session has been tried in the past and did not work out. The use of Elmer's on an individual basis was also covered. No hard and fast decisions were made, however the use of Elmer's or the one day weekend approach seemed the best way to approach the issue.

With no further business, Jay called for a motion to close the board meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment

Submitted by: Marty AG4DN, Secretary

Regular Meeting June 12, 2007

Jay opened the meeting at 7:40 PM. The introduction of members and guests followed.

Jay called for a motion to approve the June 2007 meeting minutes as they appeared in the July Beacon. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment or changes.

Jay went on to discuss the NOAA weather radio problems we are currently encountering. (See Board Minutes).

Bob gave a financial report. There is currently \$4422.31 in the club checking account. This month the club paid for its annual liability insurance (in excess of \$600).

Bill addressed the membership about the ARES training session scheduled for Saturday 21 July at Martha Jefferson Hospital. This training is for all ARES members in District 3. He went on to describe the 4 July public service event parade in Scottsville. Four members of the club were requested to provide radio communication. The County Police radio system has very poor to no coverage in this location. The club performed a very vital function. Bill announced that he will be giving up the position of public service coordinator in August. Jay noted that the club had many skilled individuals that are familiar with the procedures for all our recurring public service events. This should make the job of the replacement for Bill relatively easy. A volunteer was called for. This is a great opportunity to organize and plan a public service event and is excellent experience for emergency situations. The membership was requested to review and recommend candidates for the position.

Gordon announced that the next VE session will be held on 15 September. Time and place TBA.

Tim reported on the progress being made on the 925 repeater and the need for cables to suit the situation. (See Board Minutes) There was a general discussion following

that dealt with the possibility of having two repeater antennas on one mast and the potential problems technically as well as with the property owners. The Tech Committee will meet and come up with a workable plan of action to accommodate the two repeaters.

Jay reminded the membership that the **annual picnic and Tail Gate fest will be on Tuesday 14 August 6:30 PM at Shelter 1 at McIntire Park**. There will be no regular scheduled meeting in August.

Programs for the balance of the year were covered.

In September a nominating committee will be appointed to select nominees for club officers for 2008. Elections will be held at the October club meeting.

Also at the October meeting we will have a presentation on DX'ing. In November we will have a presentation covering general radio and antenna safety.

With no further business Jay called for a motion to close the meeting at 8:20 PM. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comments.

Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary

Public Service Coordinator Job Opening

Bill AD6JV

The time has come to pass on my responsibilities as Public Service Coordinator to another member of AARC. I took this job on two seasons ago, along with Albemarle County Emergency Coordinator, because both jobs were vacant. Now I have increased responsibilities in other areas that make it very difficult for me to do both jobs well, so the time has come for someone else to step up to take on the public service job.

Let me be the first to say that coordinating public service events, by itself, doesn't take that much time. There are two or three major bicycle events each year that make up the bulk of the job responsibility, plus a few others that are easy to cover with just a few hams. What is needed is a year or two of experience participating in these events so you understand the resources required. The benefits we deliver to these events by providing ham radio communications are very real and measurable, and well recognized by the organizers. And ham radio in general and AARC in particular get tremendous visibility to everybody involved in the event, riders, organizers, and spectators alike. We need that positive exposure as we fight to protect spectrum, defend

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against BPL and other nasties, and put our antennas in the air.

Another aspect of public service events is that they provide excellent tactical training for emergency communications. No amount of drilling can equal the experience of hams getting out into the field and solving communications problems on the spot. In this respect participation in public service events is a requirement for learning and maintaining emergency communications skills needed to have an effective ARES/RACES group.

So there you have it. Somebody please come forward to take on the public service job for AARC. You will get plenty of cooperation from me as Albemarle County EC, and you might even have fun.

Volunteers Needed - Blue Ridge Extreme Bike Race - August 26

Bill AD6JV

The Blue Ridge Extreme bike ride starts and ends at the Afton Mountain Inn Aug 26. Hams are needed for both fixed and mobile duty along mountainous routes extending south in and out of the Shenandoah and Rockfish valleys and back up to the Blue Ridge Pkwy. Route maps are available at <http://www.blueridgeextreme.com>. The primary repeater for this event will be the Wintergreen repeater K4CQ: 444.550 MHz, positive offset. 136.5 Hz tone. You will need a mobile rig capable of operating on 70 cm, and a good antenna.

Please contact Dave Damon K4DND if you can help. E-mail DND@virginia.edu

Tony Valente, KD4WFX - SK

Tony Valente, KD4WFX, became a Silent Key on July 25, 2007. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| Aug 4-5 | ARRL UHF Contest |
| June 23-24 | ARRL Field Day |

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

Other Contests of Interest

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| Aug 4-5 | European HF Championship |
| Aug 9-12 | Worked All Europe DX Contest |
| Aug 25-26 | Hawaii 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

| | |
|---|---|
| August 5 Berryville | <p>57th Annual Berryville Hamfest The Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club Location: Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds - Business Route 7 http://www.svarc.us/hamfest Talk-In: 146.820 -</p> <p>Contact: Laura Stewart, N4LLS HC 61 Box 159T Capon Bridge, WV 26711 Phone: 540-533-2626 Fax: 540-869-7067 Email: n4lls@starband.net</p> |
| September 15-16 Virginia Beach | <p>Roanoke Division Convention Tidewater Radio Conventions Location: Virginia Wesleyan College 1584 Wesleyan Drive http://www.vahamfest.com Talk-In: 146.97</p> <p>Contact: Lynn Lilla, W9DJQ 848 Stacey Place Virginia Beach, VA 23464 Phone: 757-479-1597 Fax: 757-673-7426 Email: hamfest@exis.net</p> |

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@embarqmail.com 434-589-2825 |
| Treasurer | Bob Pattison | K4DU | rep4@aol.com 434-960-3344 |
| 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! |

FCC Database Updates

New Calls

None Reported

Upgrades

None Reported

Vanity Calls

None Reported

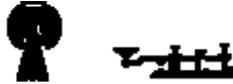
VE Session Schedule - 2007

| | |
|--|---|
| 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

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6833
Charlottesville, VA 22906
<http://www.albemarleradio.org/>



THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2007 No. 8
August 2007



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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 : August 14 - 5:00 PM Shelter 1 - McIntire Park

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 |

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 |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| August 14 | Annual Club Picnic and Hamfest |
| September 11 | Regular Club Meeting |
| October 9 | Regular Club Meeting |
| November 13 | Regular Club Meeting |
| December 11 | Regular Club Meeting |

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

| DATE | EVENT |
|-------------|--------------|
|-------------|--------------|

Bill, AD6JV is the primary contact for Public Service events and Emergency Communications. Contact Bill for info on particular events.

Membership application available in PDF format at <http://www.wa4tfz.org/images/AARCrenewalform2006.pdf>