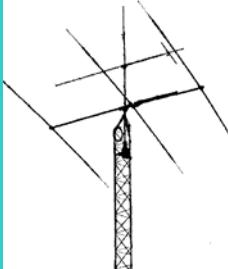


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2007, No. 10

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October 2007

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## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 9 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA campus.** The program will be presented by Jay K4AZV and Steph K4BMM. They will speak on DX'ing and bring along many of their prized QSL cards. It should be very interesting. See you there!!

## The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello and welcome to another exciting edition of the Beacon. Well, September evaporated rather quickly. The 220 repeater at Heard's Mountain is performing quite well. Thanks again to Gordon WW4W and Tim KG4HOT for their fine efforts. Also, thanks to Ron K4RKA and Sam N4WJQ for their work on the 440 repeater at the Martha Jefferson site. The 440 machine seems to be functioning well at this point.

A few of us offered communication assistance at the Virginia 4-Wheel Drive Association event at the Oak Ridge Estates. Two participants who are hams and Linda KI5LLB provided communications along trail rides through net control, Tim KG4HOT. This was our first year of involvement with this group. It was easy to see, with some of the inherent dangers involved, how ham radio can be of great assistance at this event.

**October brings a few things of note. There is an ARES SET on schedule for October 6. American Military History weekend is October 6 and 7 and is at the Old Farm Days in Fluvanna County. These events are supported by demonstrations/displays of ham radio and radio gear.** The end of the month brings the well known and quite fun CQWW SSB contest.

From the head of the nominating committee we hear there are some fine candidates to fill positions in our club which are being vacated.

Here's what we worked last month. Six meters was pretty dead except for the VHF/UHF contest which brought the

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activity level up just a bit. HF was a fair bit more fruitful; however with a fairly busy work schedule we did not get a chance to play very much. Our contacts on HF were: Great Britain, American Samoa, Argentina, St. Brandon, New Zealand, Marshall Island, Australia, Brazil and Grand Cayman Island.

That's all for this month. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

73, Jay K4AZV

## **Veep Peeps**

*John, KI4DJT*

Dear Friends --- I've been so busy with personal matters that I haven't been on the air or doing any building. I have two great projects to work on and am a little eager to play: a 40 meter SSB and CW rig and a K-2. I may have to wait until winter.

I conducted the Northern Piedmont emergency net for the first time on Sept. 20. It was a night of great propagation as I was getting stations from southern Virginia and Maryland as well as ours but it was a challenge running the net. I had a great experience with it and look forward to trying it again.

**On October 6 there is a statewide emergency drill. Please contact Bill AD6JV or Dave K4DND to volunteer for this important event.** This is how we learn to do service when there is no pressure and we're practicing. Imagine trying to figure out what to do when we're already up to our knees in water. It would be a heck or a time to try to buy a battery or antenna so being prepared and knowing what to do may be of critical importance to our friends and families if the worst things happen. Try to help out if you can.

**The presentation for the October meeting will be on DXing. Jay and Steph K4AZV and K4BMM will bring in some of the rewards of their paper chase.** All of the great DXers are good at CW. I don't think they know it yet but I think Jay will ask Bob W4RQ and Bob K4DU to contribute to the topic as they are both great DX'ers and telegraphers.

See you at the drill and the meeting. Take care and ...

73 de John, KI4DJT

## **Virginia State-wide Exercise on October 6, 2007**

*Bill Phillips, AD6JV*

On Saturday, Oct 6 Albemarle County ARES will be participating in a statewide emergency exercise. The exercise scenario will simulate, on a compressed time scale, the arrival of a tsunami triggered by an earthquake off the coast of W. Africa. Evacuation of ~1.5 million people from coastal Virginia in less than 10 hours will be required, and extensive flooding will take place.

Albemarle County ARES will activate three sites: the Emergency Communications Center, the Red Cross office, and the East Rivanna Volunteer Fire Company. We will use the fixed dual band antenna that is permanently installed at each site and emergency battery power. In addition to the VHF-UHF stations, Dave, K4DND will provide HF and digital liaison with the State EOC and the NTS.

A team of hams will man each VHF-UHF site from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM. If you are would like to participate, my email address is [billp1048@earthlink.net](mailto:billp1048@earthlink.net).



## Public Service and AARC

Bill Phillips, AD6JV

*"The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is a dues paying, non-stock, non-profit incorporated organization dedicated to the advancement of Amateur Radio and public service."* That's Article 1 of the bylaws of AARC. Elsewhere in the bylaws it says: *"An Activities Committee ... shall be appointed by the Board at the January Board meeting. This committee shall be responsible for organizing volunteers for Public Service events, acting as a liaison with ARES and RACES organizations ..."* (etc)

So there you go. Public Service is built into the bylaws of the club, as is an appointed position for what I've been calling a Public Service Coordinator and the bylaws call the Chairperson of the Activities Committee. I'm willing to hold down this job a little while longer, until the end of December, but that's when my 'term' ends. We need somebody to take hold of this job for 2008 and be the point man or woman for organizing our participation in public events like the MS150, the Scottsville Parade, the Jefferson Cup bike races, and whatever else comes along that Activities Committee deems appropriate.

Club members who are also ARES members turn out in large numbers to man the public service events. It's impressive that 18 AARC members participated in the 2007 MS150, 11 in the Jefferson Cup Bike Race, 18 in the 2006 MS150, and so on. That tells me that we enjoy getting out there to have fun with our radios. In my ARES capacity I can see that these events are the best possible training for communicating effectively in an emergency.

You may ask, "Aren't the Public Service job and the Emergency Coordinator job really the same thing?" No, they're not. The EC has to act as an intermediary between ARES and the agencies that ARES serves when it is activated. The Public Service Coordinator has to act as intermediary between the AARC membership and the agencies, such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society, that ask for our help providing communications for their events. In some cases there is overlap, and it is certainly the same bunch of hams that go out into the field in both cases, but they are two different coordination jobs requiring two different coordinators.

Now you know the job function, its position in the club bylaws, and how it relates to the EC's job. The next step is for someone to step forward and take the job on for 2008.

## Club Business

### AARC Board Minutes September 11, 2007

Members Present: Jay, K4AZV (Pres.); Marty , AG4DN (Sec'y.); Steph, K4BMM; Bill, AD6JV; Josh, KG4NGV; Kevin,

K4BDR; Gordon, WW4GW. Members Absent: John, KI4DJT; Bob, K4DU.

With a quorum present, Jay opened the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Jay made some general comments concerning the status of the 925 repeater and the need to form a nominating committee for the officers and Board for 2008. He commented that the current slate of officers have chosen not to run again in 2008. There will be a need for a new president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. There will also be a need for some new Board members.

A number of members have shown interest in the vacancies. Josh KG4NGV has shown interest in the president's position; Mike KI4RIX indicated an interest in the vice president's vacancy; Alan K9MBQ in the secretary's vacancy; and Don K4USA has shown an interest in the treasurer's vacancy.

As for the other members of the Board, Steph K4BMM, Josh KG4NGV and Gordon WW4GW do not chose to run. Bill AD6JV and Kevin K4BDR have agreed to run for the Board again.

Jay also indicated the need to form a nominating committee of five members to make recommendations for the Officers and Board at the October meeting. Elections will be held at the October meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

In another key position, Tim KG4HOT agreed to stay on as chair of the Tech Committee. Since Bill is giving up the responsibility of chair of the Public Service Committee a new chair will have to be chosen. Jay noted that if no one comes forward to fill the position, he will make a recommendation to the membership to give up public service until some one comes forward to fill this critical slot. All members are encouraged to step forward and maintain the club tradition of long standing, to provide service to the community. Remember the old saying, "No guts, no glory."

Tim noted the hard and long work Gordon has put in to the 925 repeater to get it operational at the Heard Mountain site. There is still a need for more carpentry work on the shack, there is a need to complete work on the cans and receiver. It is obvious that there are the skills in the club to complete this work; however there seems to be a lack of proper testing equipment or time available from the membership. The cans will be handled by Tim. The receiver presents a problem. A new item of equipment can cost in the neighborhood of \$1800. Since this is beyond the treasury of the club, Jay requested a motion from the Board to send the existing equipment to the manufacturer for rebuild. The Board approved this course of action.

There was further discussion concerning the antennas to be used on the Heard site and the capability for linkage between the 220, 440 and 2 meter repeaters. The type of antennas and their set up will be determined by the capability of the tower to carry the weight.

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Bill notified that there will be an AREA/RACES drill testing all antenna sites in the Albemarle/Charlottesville area on Saturday 6 Oct. More will be put on at the general membership meeting to follow.

There being no further items for the Board, Jay called for a motion to close the meeting at 7:25 PM. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment.

*Submitted by: Marty AG4DN, Secretary*

### **Regular Meeting September 11, 2007**

Jay opened the meeting at 7:35 PM. The introduction of members and guests followed.

Jay called for approval of July's Minutes as they appeared in the August Beacon. (Note: Due to a printing error, July's minutes did not appear in the August issue of the Beacon. They will appear with the September's Minutes in the October issue. Sorry about that!)

Tim reported on the 925 repeater and its problems. (See Board Meeting Minutes).

Although Bob our Treasurer was not present, Jay reported that the financial situation of the club was sound.

Gordon reminded the membership of the VEC session on Saturday 15 September and wanted assurance from those that volunteered to assist that they would be there.

Apparently, many examiners do not respond to Gordon's E-mails as to if they can participate or not. Gordon therefore does not know if he will have the required number for the testing. All examiners are reminded to respond to Gordon's E-mails whether you can participate or not.

Mike reported on his progress organizing the UVA Amateur Radio Club. He was very optimistic with the progress he is making to date. We should hear more from Mike as he moves along in his project.

Jay informed the membership that a nominating committee will be chosen this evening to make recommendations for 2008 Board officers and Board members.

The membership is reminded that candidates for office will be accepted from the floor. **Elections will be held at the October 9 General Membership Meeting.** You are reminded that it takes a quorum (20 members present) to act on any vote including elections.

The nominating committee was chosen as follows:

|        |        |          |
|--------|--------|----------|
| Dennis | K4THE  | Chairman |
| Bill   | AD6JV  |          |
| Marty  | AG4DN  |          |
| Jim    | K4BAD  |          |
| Josh   | KG4NGV |          |

(See Board Minutes for prospective candidates and other key committee needs.)

Bill notified the membership concerning the 6 October ARES/RACES drill. The object of the drill is to activate all Albemarle/Charlottesville antenna sites. Also, to familiarize members that have not participated in the past to learn the location of at least one site and more if time permits. A sign up sheet was passed around the room for volunteers.

Tim reminded the membership that there will be a public service event on 21 and 22 September. The 4 Wheel Club of Nelson County requested amateur radio support for their annual event. Tim is coordinating this particular event. Amateurs will ride along with the 4 Wheelers and provide communication as needed.

Gordon reminded the membership of the need for an Education Committee. He believes strongly that test preparation is a club responsibility in addition to VEC sessions.

The membership gave Bill around of applause for his excellent work as chairman of the Public Service Committee.

The guest speaker portion of the evening will follow the formal closing of this General Membership meeting.

Jay called for a motion to close the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved with out comment at 8:10 PM.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Jason, KG4FJC made a very informative presentation on the workings of the 2007 Toyota Camry Hybrid automobile. He covered how the various systems in the vehicle operated, their functioning, reliability, replacement cost, etc. He offered those present an opportunity to ride in the Hybrid Crossover Camry wagon he had parked out side of the building. A few members took advantage of the offer. The presentation provided a clear picture of the components of the hybrid and its working systems. Although, this was not in the tradition of our usual guest speaker subject matter, the membership was interested and shot Jason many questions. He received a hearty round of applause for his presentation.

*Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary*

**Due to a printing error, July's minutes did not appear in the August issue of the Beacon. They are presented below.**

### **AARC Board Minutes July 10, 2007**

Members Present: Jay, K4AZV (Pres.); Bob, K4DU (Treas.); Marty, AG4DN (Sec'y); Steph, K4BMM; Bill, AD6JV; Josh, KG4NGV; Gordon, WW4GW.

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 hold up has been corrected. Tim K14HOT reported that he will need new cables for the 925 repeater. There is 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 lay out 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 Mait AG4DN, Secretary*

### Regular Meeting September 11, 2007

Jay opened the meeting at 7:40 PM. Jay called for the introduction of members and guests.

Jay called for a motion to approve the June 2007 meeting minutes as they appeared in the July Beacon. A motion was made, second 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 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.**

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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.

## Solar Update de K7RA

### ARLP040 from ARRL Bulletins

Last week's report stated the possibility that zero-sunspot days were about to end, but no such luck. Instead we've seen no sunspots for three weeks straight, since September 7.

The September 20 forecast from NOAA and the US Air Force showed solar flux values rising to 70 on September 21. (See <http://sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/forecasts/45DF/092045DF.txt>).

The next day's prediction reverted to 67 (<http://sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/forecasts/45DF/092145DF.txt>).

The September 21 prediction had solar flux rising to 70 again, but not until September 29 to October 1, then falling back below 70, then back to 70 again for October 18-28.

Now the September 27 forecast has solar flux staying around 67-68 through November 11. You can see all the latest daily forecasts for solar flux and planetary A index at <http://sec.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/45DF.html>. The possible end to the stretch of zero sunspot days was based on the observation that when the solar flux is 70 or higher, there is at least one visible sunspot. This makes it seem that we are still at the bottom of the cycle, or haven't quite reached it.

Those daily forecasts are posted after 2100z. There is a new sunspot 970 emerging, so perhaps the September 28 forecast will show solar flux back to 70 or higher. There is currently a solar wind hitting earth, and currently the interplanetary magnetic field points south, which leaves earth vulnerable. That same forecast on September 27 predicts a planetary A index for September 28 to October 3 at 15, 25, 12, 8, 8 and 15, so we may see unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions on Saturday, September 29 and again Wednesday, October 3. Already early Friday morning UTC (which is late Thursday on the West Coast) we've seen the planetary K index as high as 6. Lately with quiet conditions the K index has been 1 or 2. Above 3 is considered unsettled or active geomagnetic conditions.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts unsettled conditions for September 28, unsettled to active September 29, unsettled September 30, quiet October 1, unsettled October 2-3, and quiet to unsettled October 4.

Jeff Lackey, K8CQ of Saint Simons Island, Georgia wrote in with an interesting observation. He created a graph (which unfortunately is not on the web for viewing) which plots periods in which the solar flux drops below 80 for extended periods. It shows the longest run at the end of cycle 22 was from January 8 through July 7, 1996, 182 days. The second

longest run from 11 years ago was 112 days from August 2 to November 21, 1996. The latest and also the longest run at the end of the current cycle 23 began on June 9, 2007 and so far runs 112 days through September 28. The September 28 morning reading at Penticton (the noon reading is the official value) has a very low solar flux value of 64.4. The latest forecast from the Air Force shows solar flux below 80 for the next 45 days, so if this turns out to be true, that would put this run up toward the longest one from 11 years ago. We are today already equal to the second longest run of cycle 22, and are in the longest run of the current cycle. The second longest run for the current cycle is 77 days, ending after April 25, 2007.

Note there is nothing magic about a solar flux value of 80, but Jeff is a numbers guy and found this to be an interesting threshold for his analysis of solar minima.

Despite the lack of sunspots, hams are still communicating around the world, and reports of working 3B7C with modest stations are still coming in. WA2VQW worked them on 30 meters from his car at 2115Z on September 18 while sitting at a traffic light in Hawthorne, New York. Mike was on his way to higher ground, but never made it, instead working the DXpedition while stuck in traffic. W4WNT of Oak Island, North Carolina reports a 30 meter 3B7C contact at 0212Z on September 22 using an 80-20 meter fan dipole bent around his deck at 30 feet.

On September 18, Ken Tata, K1KT of Warwick, Rhode Island noticed an online propagation map tracking 2 meter APRS stations showed a path from Rhode Island to Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. Ken was running 50 watts into a dipole, a driven element removed from an 11 element Yagi and mounted on a pole. He reports, "I worked VE1PZ, in FN85, 100 mi north of Halifax; VE1HD, FN95, 100 mi east of Halifax; and VE1AHM, FN76, near Moncton, New Brunswick". He reported that many of the better equipped stations in Southern New England were working into the Maritime Provinces on 432 and 1296 MHz. Ken didn't say what mode he used. Ken sent along web-based VHF propagation sites he likes for checking real-time conditions:

<http://www.mountainlake.k12.mn.us/ham/aprs/>,  
<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>,  
<http://www.vhfdx.net/spots/map.php>, and  
<http://dxworld.com/144prop.html>.

This weekend is the Texas QSO Party (see <http://txqp.net/>), and if I were in California, to work Texas I would try 15 meters 1900-2230z, 20 meters 1500-0230z, 40 meters any time, but best bet probably 0200-1200z, and 80 meters 0230-1230z. From Atlanta to Texas try 20 meters 1830-2030z, 40 meters best 2230-0230z, 80 meters 2200-1330z. From Seattle, 15 meters 1930-2230z, 20 meters 2100-0300z, 40 meters best 0130-1230z and weakest 1630-2100z, 80 meters 0300-1300z. From California, 15 meters 1900-2230z,

20 meters 1500-0230z, 40 meters best 0130-1230z and weakest 1700-2130z. 80 meters best 0300-1200z. From New York, 20 meters 1500-0030z, 40 meters best 2330-1130z and weakest 1530-2000z, 80 meters 0130-1030z. From Ohio, 20 meters 1500-2300z, 40 meters almost around the clock, but 0630-1030z may be questionable and best signals 2200-0400z and 1130-1400z. 80 meters 2230-1300z, with strongest signals 0030-0200z and around 1130z, weakest signals 1600-1930z.

All of these are best guesses worked out with W6ELprop. Look for details on using this tool in back issues of this bulletin. If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto: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 September 20 through 26 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 66.8, 66.9, 66.7, 66.3, 66.1, 66.2, and 66.5 with a mean of 66.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 10, 9, 11, 15, 10, 6 and 3 with a mean of 9.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 7, 10, 11, 7, 5 and 2, with a mean of 6.9.

## Notes from Here and There...

*Excerpts from ARRL Bulletins*

### Redeem Those Soon-to-Expire International Reply Coupons

If you have old US-issued International Reply Coupons (IRC's), they can still be redeemed, but you need to do it very soon. IRC's issued prior to 2002 (the old small ones) can be redeemed for one penny less than the issue (stamped) price, and must be redeemed by October 10. IRC's with an expiration date of December 31, 2006 can also be redeemed for one penny less than the issue price; these must be submitted to the post office by September 1, 2008. All non-US stamped IRC's issued prior to December 31, 2006 are non-redeemable. For more information, please refer to pages 28 and 57 in US <http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/2007/pb22215.pdf>, dated September 13, 2007. Thanks to "The Daily DX" for this information.

### New Name for Space Environment Center

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will rename the Space Environment Center (SEC)

effective Monday, October 1, 2007. The new name will be the **Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC)**. The center is one of the nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) within NOAA's National Weather Service. The center provides real-time monitoring and forecasting of solar and geophysical events, conducts research in solar-terrestrial physics and develops techniques for forecasting solar and geophysical disturbances. According to the SEC Web site, "The new name aligns the space weather center with the other NCEP centers and more clearly conveys its operational nature." The SEC Forecast Center is jointly operated by NOAA and the US Air Force. For more information, please visit the SEC Web site at URL <http://sec.noaa.gov/>.

## ARRL Roanoke Division Director Feted by Radio Club of America

*Excerpts from ARRL Bulletins*

The Radio Club of America (RCA) has named ARRL Roanoke Division Director Dennis Bodson, PhD, PE, W4PWF, of Arlington, Virginia, as the recipient of the Sarnoff Citation. The award is given to recognize significant contributions to the advancement of electronic communications. Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (SK), was the first recipient of the Sarnoff Citation in 1973.

"I was shocked when I heard that I would receive the Sarnoff Citation," Bodson said. "I find it difficult to believe that I'll be on the dais with Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD." Bodson, Cronkite and QST and QEX author John S. "Jack" Belrose, PhD, VE2CV, are to receive the RCA's Armstrong Medal, the RCA's foremost achievement award and named for its first recipient, Major Edwin Armstrong, at the RCA's Annual Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting and Technical Symposium on November 16 in New York City. Andy Rooney of CBS's "60 Minutes" will be the keynote speaker.

Bodson, who is retired -- "Retired means different things to different people. I work, but on different things," he said -- displays an energy level that hardly anyone can match. Bodson is retired as chief of the Technology and Standards Division of the National Communications System (NCS) in 1998. In October 2005, he became a member of the executive staff of the Institute for Defense and Homeland Security where he is director of Telecommunications and Sensor Systems. Bodson is an ARRL Life Member and a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

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"Fifteen years ago, I had the opportunity [to serve on the ARRL Board of Directors]. I knew the former Division Director, and he suggested, 'get involved and run for Vice Director.' I was elected to that, and when he retired, I moved up to Director. I have enjoyed it, but everything comes to a change. I still have this year and two more years, and then I'll decide whether to run for re-election," Bodson said. He also is Vice President of the Arlington (Virginia) Amateur Radio Club (AARC).

Born in Washington, DC, Bodson always wanted to be an electrical engineer. He earned a BEE in 1961 and an MEE in 1963, both from The Catholic University of America in Washington. From 1963-1966, he served as an officer in the US Air Force assigned to the National Security Agency. From 1966-1969, he was with Vitro Laboratories, Atlantic Research Corporation and the US Army Materiel Command where he was engaged in research and development and systems engineering.

In 1970, Bodson began his long career with NCS, an interagency group of 23 federal departments and agencies managed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). While at NCS, Bodson continued his formal education and earned a Master's in public administration in 1976 from the University of Southern California's Washington Center for Public Affairs, and completed his PhD in electrical engineering in 1985 from California Western University. In recognition of his accomplishments in federal service, in 1999 Dennis received the IEEE's Charles Proteus Steinmetz Award. According to the IEEE's Web site, the award is "presented to an individual for exceptional contributions to the development and/or advancement of standards in the field of electrical and electronics engineering."

IEEE has seen a lot of Bodson since his beginning days as a student engineer. "My major professor said, 'Become active in your professional society.' I took him at heart and did so and never regretted it," he said. After retiring from NCS, Bodson increased his IEEE involvement, and by 2000, he was chairman of the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society (VTS) Standards Committee, reflecting his work on standards at NCS. He was a senior editor for the VTS quarterly bulletin, "News Digest," and later became its editor. "I became editor because we needed to do something, but then we got a real editor, Dr James Irvine. We went from a bulletin to a 60 page magazine," he said. Bodson is a Life Fellow of IEEE, where new Fellowships are limited to no more than one-tenth of one percent of the membership per year, making elevation to the status of Fellow in IEEE a particularly high distinction.

Soon after his retirement from NCS, Bodson served as president of the IEEE Engineering Management Society (EMS). For his service to EMS, he was given the EMS Engineering Manager of the Year Award. The IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) bestowed on Bodson the IEEE-SA Distinguished Service Award in 2002. Bodson was then elected President of VTS, where he continues on its board of governors as Junior Past President.

Bodson has written more than 60 technical articles and has published four books. He joined RCA in 1976, became a Fellow in 1981 and became an RCA Life Member in 1996.

The RCA banquet is open to members, non-members and guests. Registration is required; registration forms can be downloaded here <[http://homeeverestkc.net/dbishop13322/registration\\_form/registration\\_form.doc](http://homeeverestkc.net/dbishop13322/registration_form/registration_form.doc)>. To learn more about the Radio Club of America and their awards, please visit the RCA Web site <<http://www.radioclubofamerica.org/>>. The ARRL thanks RCA Fellow and ARRL Life Member Don Bishop, W0WO, for this information.

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

|           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Oct 27-28 | <b>ARRL International EME Contest</b> |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|

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 6-7   | <b>RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest – CW/SSB</b>     |
| Oct 6-7   | <b>California QSO Party</b>                |
| Oct 10-14 | <b>Worked All Britain HF Contest - SSB</b> |
| Oct 20-21 | <b>W/VE Islands QSO Party</b>              |
| Oct 27-28 | <b>CQ WW DX Contest - SSB</b>              |

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

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Date Location | None reported |
|---------------|---------------|

## FCC Database Updates

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

## VE Session Schedule - 2007

|                             |                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date Location<br>(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

|                      |                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wanted – Tube Stereo | Wanted: tube stereo equipment, particularly Fisher. Carter, WD4AYS, (434) 979 7383, <a href="mailto:celliott14@earthlink.net">celliott14@earthlink.net</a> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 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:aq4dn@embargmail.com">aq4dn@embargmail.com</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!                                               |

October 2007

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



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

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(434) 990-2659  
[W4RQ@yahoo.com](mailto:W4RQ@yahoo.com)

**Next Club Meeting :** October 9 - 7:30 PM **NRAO Bldg - UVA Campus**

**CLUB MEETINGS and NETS**

**AREA REPEATERS**

**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**

**WA4TFZ**

**INPUT/OUTPUT**

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

**Tone Access (If needed)**

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

**AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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