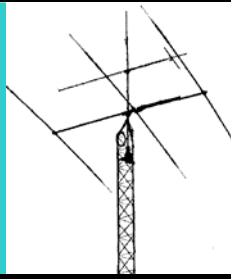


# The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2007, No. 11



November 2007

## Inside this Issue

<b>1</b>	Meeting Notice
<b>1</b>	The President's Letter
<b>2</b>	Veep Peeps
<b>2</b>	AARC – What We Are About!!
<b>2</b>	Club Business
<b>4</b>	Amateur Radio Named Volunteer Group of the Year by Marine Corps Marathon
<b>4</b>	Contest Highlights - Upcoming
<b>5</b>	AARC Public Service Schedule
<b>5</b>	Area Hamfests
<b>5</b>	FCC Database Updates
<b>5</b>	VE Session Schedule - 2007
<b>5</b>	For Sale Items
<b>5</b>	AARC Club Officers
<b>5</b>	Contest Calendars

## Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 13 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA campus.**

**The program will be presented by Bill AD6JV and John KI4DJT. They will speak on software defined radio projects.** It should be very interesting. See you there!!

## The President's Letter

*Jay, K4AZV*

Hello and welcome to another fine edition of the Beacon. Congratulations to the newly elected AARC officers and board members for 2008.

October was a relatively quiet month. The CQWW contest (international DXers) happened at the end of the month and it yielded some good DX. Even if you are not into contesting the CQWW is a great way to land a few rare QSL cards. We managed to work a few new entities during the days prior to the contest. More on that later.

**Harry Dannals, W2HD, had bypass surgery and is now in the process of recovery. Please keep him in your good thoughts.**

I'm looking for suggestions regarding awards to be presented at the January AARC dinner. Please let me know who you feel deserves recognition through their actions with the club and individually. There will be Ham of the Year award(s) and Certificates of Recognition.

Here's what we worked last month. Six meters yielded nothing for us but that is to be expected. Tim KG4HOT said there were a few good days of ducting still.

On HF we had a bit more of an exciting ride. We talked to operators in: Burundi, St. Lucia, Equatorial Guinea, Algeria, Guyana, Chatham Island, Liberia, The Gambia, Madagascar, Juan de Nova/Europa, Martinique, New Zealand, Galapagos

and Grenada. We worked many of these entities as they prepared to participate in the CQWW contest.

See you at the next meeting.

73, Jay K4AZV

## Veep Peeps

John, K14DJT

Dear Friends --- I'm leaving the state for a few days to bring my daughter a car. She left to take care of her grandmother and they need a dependable car so off I go.

**For the meeting topic Bill AD6JV and I will come up with a software-defined radio project** and see if there is any interest in the club for a group project like this. The kits are only about \$25 but you need a good sound card in your computer. I hope a bunch of us feel like participating.

**In December we'll have our first annual Holiday party** with deli and stuff like that and I encourage all to bring their projects for a show and tell.

That's all for now. Take care and ...

73 de John, K14DJT

## AARC - What We Are About!!

Bob Pattison, K4DU

*AARC Trustee, Treasurer, Past President and Former Director*

Amateur Radio is a great and diverse hobby. Inside our great hobby are people whose main interest is to work DX, operate contests, restore old gear, build new gear, experiment with antenna's, explore digital modes, build kits, use satellites, go to hamfests, paper chase, operate VHF/UHF, work QRP, perform public service and rag chew. There are county hunters, island seekers, Skywarn and 10-10 operators, APRS'ers, Dxpeditioners, low banders, CW ops, FM'ers, mobile HF'ers and the list goes on. Did I mention slow scan TV? We have traffic handlers, net controllers, folks involved in MARS and people who enjoy sharing amateur radio through activities in schools and with Scouts like JOTA and merit badge counseling. We have people who enjoy working on repeaters and people who enjoy using them. For each of the interests named above I'll bet there is someone in the club who is involved in and enjoys working in that specific area.

For those of you who may be new to the club and for those who may have been around for a while and may have forgotten, I thought it might be useful to review the role of the AARC in our hobby and in our community. **The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club (AARC) is the gateway**

**to amateur radio for people in Central Virginia.** It is our job to promote amateur radio to the public. It is the Club's job to be a resource for new people coming into the hobby through classes, examination sessions and through elmering. It is our job to help people within the hobby when needed with something that is new to them. It is our job to keep the local amateur community fully informed on new developments and issues that concern amateur radio. If we don't do it, it won't get done.

My point is we are not simply a repeater club. Several years ago we were recognized by the ARRL as a "Special Services Club". In a sense, since our inception, that has been our charter. To be anything less would be to shrink from our charge.

We have a new administration coming on board. The new team will need your help meeting this challenge. Volunteers will be needed to serve and to head up committees like education, someone to serve as a public information officer and more. In the coming weeks and months I am certain that the new team will have more to say on specific opportunities to help. If there is something you have interest in, let Dave know. I am certain that he will be pleased to have your help.

To be successful we will all need to pitch in and do our part. For many of us that will involve learning something new, or learning a new way to do something old. Don't stand on the side of the pool and watch. Jump in --- the water's fine!!

## Club Business

*Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary*

### **AARC Board Minutes October 9, 2007**

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

Jay called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Tim KG4HOT brought to the attention of the Board an error in the minutes of the Board meeting for 11 September 2007. Tim did not agree to stay on as chair of the Tech Committee. The correction will be brought up at the General Membership meeting and the minutes adjusted.

John addressed the Board and suggested a pre holiday party at the December 2007 General Membership meeting. The Board thought that this was a fine idea and approved a sum not to exceed \$100.00 for food and drinks for the event.

Tim indicated that the club radio equipment at the hospital was not operating properly. After discussion of a number of approaches to solving the problem, the board voted a sum not to exceed \$200 to repair or purchase equipment to correct the problem.

Dennis K4THE chair of the nominating committee presented the recommended slate of candidates for the Board as follows:

Josh	KG4NGV	PRES
Mike	KI4RIX	VEEP
Alan	K9MBQ	SECY
Don	N4UVA	TREAS

Board members:

Bill	AD6JV
Dennis	K4THE
Jay	K4AZV
Kevin	K4BDR
Linda	KI5LLB

The slate will be presented to the membership at the General meeting to follow.

Since we do not as yet have a "Hold Harmless Agreement" drawn up for the Heard Mountain repeater site, Jay raised the issue of paying for a local lawyer to perform the service. Discussion followed centering on whether we should wait until asked by the property owners for such a document or present an agreement up front. No firm action was taken at this point. The issue will be raised again if thought necessary.

With no further business for the Board, Jay asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM. The motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment.

*Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary*

### Regular Meeting October 9, 2007

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

Jay received an application for membership from Jimmy Walker K4JMY an old friend and supporter of the AARC. A motion was made for approval, second and approved by the membership welcoming Jimmy back to the club.

There being a number of corrections to the September 2007 Minutes as they appeared in the October Beacon they were addressed by the membership.

October Beacon page 3, paragraph 6. Change to read, "Tim did not agree to stay on as chair of the Tech Committee."

October Beacon page 5, first line. Change to read ..... "Regular Meeting July 10, 2007"

Due to a printing error, the August 2007 Beacon reprinted the June 2007 Minutes rather than the July Minutes. A copy of the July Minutes was printed in the October Beacon. The September Meeting Minutes also appeared in the October edition.

After presenting these changes to the July and September Minutes the membership approved the minutes as they appeared in the October Beacon as revised.

Jay asked for committee reports. Gordon had nothing to report from the VE group.

Bob was not present. There was no report from the Treasurer. For Tim's report from the Tech Committee: see Board Minutes above.

Jay reported that the 925 repeater had been shipped to Washington State for repairs.

Bill reported on the state wide SET that took place on 6 October. Albemarle ARES had activated four radio sites, while Dave and Gordon operated packet.

Jay called upon Dennis, chair of the nomination's committee, to present the slate of candidates for 2008. (See Board Minutes). A call was made for any nominations from the floor. Gordon nominated Dave for the position of President. No further floor nominations were forthcoming. All nominees for offices, with the exception of the PRES were approved by unanimous acclamation, the AARC SECY casting the approving vote. There followed a secret ballot for the position of President between Josh and David.

David won the election and was declared President Elect for 2008.

With no further official business Jay called for a motion to close the meeting at 8:00 PM. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment.

The guest speakers for the evening Al Swinger K9MBQ presented a very interesting and informative presentation on the how, when and where's of DXing.

Items covered were where to look for information on DXing, who publishes such information, methods of receiving such, the role of the Northern California DX Foundation, their funding of DX-EXPEDITIONS as well as other quite interesting facts on the subject. Al is a great resource on the subject and those interested in entering this aspect of the hobby are encouraged to contact him.

Jay and Steph presented another interesting aspect of DXing, namely how to send and receive QSL cards. What may seem like a very simple procedure can become quite complicated when dealing with foreign postal systems. Some countries will not participate. The danger of sending cash for return postage and its vulnerability to theft were covered. The advantages of using international postage certificates and where to obtain them in the Charlottesville area was addressed. The use of ARRL in the process was noted. They also brought to the presentation numerous QSL cards that they have collected over the years.

The membership showed their interest and appreciation for the presentation through the numerous questions asked.

Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary

## Amateur Radio Named Volunteer Group of the Year by Marine Corps Marathon

From the ARRL Letter, October 26, 2007

On October 19, the Marine Corps Marathon announced that the Amateur Radio Service is its Volunteer Group of the Year in light of the 30 years of service and support hams have provided for the annual event. Amateur Radio volunteers began assisting with the Marine Corps Marathon in 1978 and have provided essential, mission critical communications to the medical staff on race day. The Volunteer Group of the Year Award will be presented October 26 as part of a special ceremony.

"The ham radio operators play a vital role in medical operations of the race. The knowledge and expertise of their dedicated volunteers enables the Marine Corps Marathon to provide all participants the highest level of emergency care and I am deeply appreciative of the hams' continued support," said Rick Nealis, Director of the Marine Corps Marathon.

Initially, ham radio served as a simple means of communications at both aid stations and mile markers. In the early 1990s, this support expanded to include digital communications with the aid stations and tracking of the pace car. Eventually, the aid station support evolved to automated digital communications that includes 115 ham operations located at mile markers, water points, aid stations, two finish area medical locations and as shadows to the division commanders. More than 100 Amateur Radio operators volunteer for the Marine Corps Marathon.

The award also recognizes two specific individuals, Rick Bunn, N4ASX, and Tom Azlin, N4ZPT, for their contribution to Amateur Radio participation at the Marine Corps Marathon. Bunn was first licensed in 1971 while in high school. He began volunteering for the Marine Corps Marathon in 1983 and served as the Marine Corps Marathon Amateur Radio liaison from 1997-2001. From 2001-2005, he served as the lead Amateur Radio operator, coordinating all aspects of ham radio support to the marathon. Azlin has been licensed since 1990. He first volunteered with the Marine Corps Marathon in 2001 and, since 2004, has been the Amateur Radio operator responsible for coordinating all aspects of aid station ham radio support.

Voted "Best Marathon for Families," the Marine Corps Marathon continues a combined tradition of dedication, sportsmanship and patriotism. Runners from all walks of life have participated in the world's largest marathon to not offer

prize money, deservedly earning the nickname "The People's Marathon." The 32nd Marine Corps Marathon was held on Sunday, October 28, 2007 in Arlington, Virginia and Washington, DC.



## Happy Thanksgiving!!

### Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

#### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Nov 3-4	ARRL November Sweepstakes - CW
Nov 3-4	ARRL November Sweepstakes - SSB
Nov 24-25	ARRL EME Contest

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

#### Other Contests of Interest

Nov 24-25	CQ WW DX Contest - CW
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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	None reported
Location	

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

VE Session Schedule - 2007	
Date	For other exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the <a href="#">ARRL Exam Session Search</a> web page.
Location	
(ARRL VEC)	

For Sale Items	
Yaesu G-800S Rotator	<b>Yaesu G-800S rotator capable of supporting a 10 sq.ft. wind load</b> in very good condition. Includes rotator, control box, manual and approx. 75 feet of rotor cable. I am putting up a yagi with a higher wind load rating and hence requiring a bit more rotator. Asking \$175. Contact Bob, W4RQ at (434) 990-2659 or email <a href="mailto:w4rq@yahoo.com">w4rq@yahoo.com</a> .
Wanted – Tube Stereo	Wanted: tube stereo equipment, particularly Fisher. Carter, WD4AYS, (434) 979 7383, <a href="mailto:celliot14@earthlink.net">celliot14@earthlink.net</a>

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

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

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**Next Club Meeting : November 13 - 7:30 PM NRAO Bldg - 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**

<b>INPUT/OUTPUT</b>	<b>Tone Access (If needed)</b>
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 (-) 110.9 Hz Tone - **WW4GW (Buckingham)**
- 145.450 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **K4DND (Martha Jefferson Hospital)**

**AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
November 13	Regular Club Meeting
December 11	Regular Club Meeting

**AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
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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.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC\\_member\\_application.pdf](http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf)