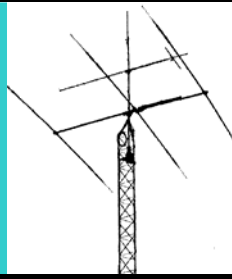


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2007, No. 12



December 2007

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 11 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA campus.**

The program will be the first annual AARC Holiday Party --- deli style!! It should be very interesting. See you there!!

Dues are Due!!!

2008 membership dues are now due. Please make payment to the AARC Secretary. **There is no increase since last year.** Club members who are renewing membership please use the short form. **Checks are requested.**

Club Property Inventory

All AARC members having club property in their possession are requested to provide an inventory list to the club Secretary. Please describe item(s) and location. **A complete club property inventory is being made. Your cooperation is requested!!!!**

The President's Letter

Jay, K4AZV

Hello folks and welcome to my last letter as President of the AARC.

I would like to thank all of the board members, committee chair people and elected officers who served during my tenure. A special thanks to Marty AG4DN for being a tremendous right hand man and to Bob K4DU for his wonderful advice and support. At the time I became

President, the club was in the process of an upswing in membership numbers after a period of dwindling support for the club. There were 50 some club members when I was elected 3 years ago. That number now stands at 82 which is a significant increase and a sign that amateur radio is still a viable, healthy hobby. The club now being 40-something years old has seen a lot of changes throughout the course of time. People's lives and lifestyles have also changed in the last 40 years, drastically. The world has become fast-paced, hectic and expensive. Most people it seems feel lucky now days to be able to pay their bills and put food on the table. The club will respond perhaps on its own without any push for change but simply as a response to surrounding conditions. As we enter a new stage of leadership my hope is that the club will continue to grow and attract people, will continue to be a fun, low pressure atmosphere and will encourage all aspects of the hobby equally. Initially when I was elected I didn't relish the idea of writing President's letters. I'm not a particularly good writer and I utilize the hunt and peck method of typing but as time went on I began to enjoy the process of writing these letters. Don't get me wrong, I'm glad this is my last President's letter.... maybe I'll put that energy towards some sort of propagation "who we worked" column as that seems to be a most appealing subject to me. Here's what we worked last month. Six meters for us has been quiet with just a few beacons heard towards the end of November. HF was much more productive with lots of good contacts including several new ones.... Greenland, Dominica, Reunion Island (a jumper), Jordan (another jumper), Mozambique (yet another jumper!!), St. Helena, Chad (another jumper) and Japan.

It's been a true joy to serve the AARC. Best wishes to everyone and their families for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2008. Happy holidays and ...

73, Jay K4AZV --- *clear* ...

Veep Peeps

John, KI4DJT

Dear Friends --- This will be the last Veep Peeps you will get from me for a while. It's been three years now I've been VP of our club and it's time for someone else with some fresh new ideas to take over. I wish Mike Begonis a lot of luck in his new position of VP and hope he has fun with the responsibility. I have tried to support public events and service, learned a lot and after a few frustrating moments managed to be useful and have a great time. I'm very proud of AARC's support of the Science Fair and hope it will be something that we will always continue to do in the future. I'm also very happy and proud of the way the friends have been coming to field day and our picnic and really enjoying the chow and company. I guess it's my Italian/Catholic nature that just loves to cook and feed family and friends

and I will continue to do this as long as I'm in AARC and am needed in this capacity. I thank all the friends who bailed me out by giving presentations and hope Mike can come up with some new ideas for presentations at meetings. Mike, you can't go wrong with a technical presentation!

Finally, I would not have been able to do very much without the help, advice and support of my wonderful Elmers and wish to thank Joe W2PVY, Harry W2HD, Dave K4DND, Bill AD6JV, Jay K4AZV and Steph K4BMM. Thank you so much - I love you guys and I think you're great.

For our December meeting we will be having our first annual (I hope) Holiday party. The club will provide a deli type supper with cold cuts, pickles and cheese and probably a pie or two so bring along your appetite. Remember to bring along a few bucks as I think we'll be having a raffle too and bring your spouse too.

Thank you for giving me the honor of being VP the last three years; it was good for me to try to serve the club.

A very Merry Christmas and happy Hanukah to all. Take care and ...

73 de John, KI4DJT

Club Business

Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary

AARC Board Minutes November 13, 2007

Members present: John, KI4DJT (Veep); Marty, AG4DN (Sec'y); Bill, AD6JV; Josh, KG4NGV; Gordon, WW4GW. Members absent: Jay, K4AZV (Pres.); Steph, K4BMM; Bob, K4DU (Treas.); Kevin, K4BDR.

With a quorum present John opened the Board meeting at 6:40 PM.

Marty reported having received a check in the mail for \$450 from the Charlottesville Racing Club. After a number of inquires as to why the club received it, he learned from Dave K4DND that this check was a contribution to the club for having provided radio support for the Blue Ridge Extreme. Club members and friends who contributed to the effort were:

Dave	K4DND
Elmer	KF4UCI
Greg	N3PGS
John	KI4DJT
Wes	(K14SIQ) W8WES
Linda	KI5LLB
Jimmy	K4JMY
Stan	K2SSB

Josh raised the nagging issue of combining on one web site the club activities and lists that are now kept on a number of sites --- none owned by the club. After a discussion of the issue the Board voted to allocate \$214 for a two year site that will contain more than enough storage for all the needs of the club.

Gordon reminded the Board that last winter he had called for an inventory of all club property, its location and who had custodianship thereof. The minutes of that meeting reflected that Jay directed all individuals with club property to prepare a list to be turned into the club secretary. The secretary noted that no lists had been received as yet. John inquired of the Board and membership present who they believed had such property.

John developed the list and will make contact directly with these individual and others whose names come up requiring they submit their lists to the secretary.

With no further business for the Board, John called for a motion to close the Board meeting at 7:00 PM. A motion was made, second and passed with no discussion.

Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary

Regular Meeting November 13, 2007

John called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Members and guest introduced themselves.

Two ex-members applied for membership to the club: Elmer Scott KF4UCI and Greg Faust N4PGS. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment. Welcome back to the AARC!

The minutes from the October 2007 meeting as they appeared in the November 2007 Beacon were approved with no changes or comment.

The membership was informed of the \$450 donation to the club by the Charlottesville Racing Club. (See Board Meeting Minutes).

Ron Richey K4RKA informed the membership of the passing of John Roder KC4ZZP. He became a silent key on November 10, 2007. He was quite active in amateur radio and was known quite well by many of our membership.

Harry W2HD is recuperating in the University Of Virginia Hospital after some very serious heart surgery. Hopefully he will have a speedy recovery and we can again hear his familiar voice on the Info Net Monday nights. Hopefully, he will be able to join us next month at our December meeting.

Gordon presented a follow up to his presentation on quad and Yagi antennas. He again made the point that quads are better than yagis and presented a scaled down model.

Josh reported to the membership the plans for a new web site for the AARC. (See Board Minutes).

The presentation for the evening was given by Bill. He demonstrated functioning and building of a direct conversion

receiver. He pointed out that this receiver with proper software integrates a narrow band receiver with a computer using the superior sound board of the computer for audio. He noted that the kits were very inexpensive, as low as \$10 for a basic unit. There are more expensive units that have greater capabilities. They are easy to make and if the kit gets too confusing for the builder, the investment is rather limited. The essentials of this type equipment and other pertinent information will be placed on the club web site.

With no further business, John called for a motion to close the meeting at 8:35 PM. A motion was made, seconded and approved with no comment.

Submitted by: Marty Mait AG4DN, Secretary

ARRL Propagation de K7RA

ARRL Bulletin ARLP050

Sunspots appeared over several days in the past week. November 24-27 had daily sunspot numbers of 15, 12 and 11. Otherwise, the Sun has been blank. In the previous reporting period, November 15-21, there were only two days with sunspots, and the daily sunspot numbers on both days were 13. The result is the average daily sunspot number from the previous reporting period to the current (November 22-28) reporting period rose from 3.7 to 5.4.

There were no days with geomagnetic storms, and geomagnetic conditions should be quiet over the near term. The next recurring solar wind stream is expected December 17. Expect more weeks of no sunspots, with occasional appearances for a few days at a time. The U.S. Air Force predicts a planetary A index of 5 for the next ten days. For the week, Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet geomagnetic conditions for today, November 30, quiet to unsettled December 1, and back to quiet conditions for December 2-6.

This weekend is the ARRL 160 Meter Contest, which begins today at 2200z. This is a CW only contest, and you can study the rules at, <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/160-meters.html>. Check out a resource for 160 meter propagation in the Northern Hemisphere at, <http://solar.spacew.com/www/160pred.html>. This is from the same folks who publish the Proplab-Pro HF Radio Propagation Laboratory software. They say version 3.0 is radically updated, and will be released this week, on Monday, December 3. Unlike W6ELprop and some other propagation software, this one is not free, and in fact is likely the most expensive propagation software that hams will run across. But it looks like a powerful program.

Another one that is quite powerful is ACE-HF, with info at, <http://acehf.com>. ACE stands for "Animated Communications Effectiveness," and it was originally

developed for the military by a non-ham, who was able to obtain licensing for it upon retirement. Tomas Hood, NW7US, who writes the monthly propagation column for CQ Magazine has a page devoted to it on his personal web site at, <http://hfradio.org/ace-hf>.

There were more reports of interesting 10 meter propagation. In the CQ World Wide DX Contest on November 25, Doug Charette, W5GA of Wagoner, Oklahoma reported that he worked V51AS in Namibia around 1700z. Doug uses a very modest commercial multiband vertical antenna, and heard the African station at S-5. He was surprised that he didn't hear many South American stations on 10 meters in the contest.

Also in the contest, Phil Finkle, K6EID of Marietta, Georgia worked 6W1RW (Senegal) on 10 meters at 1409z on Saturday. On the same band on Sunday around 1630z he worked V51AS, D4C (Cape Verde) and 3X5A (Guinea). Walt Knodle, W7TTE of Bend, Oregon heard V51AS very clearly on Sunday morning on 10 meters (he didn't say what time), but the opening only lasted about three minutes. Around the same time he heard LW5EE in Argentina, which also disappeared shortly.

Fabrizio Valdirosa, an Italian shortwave listener in Rome, reports he also observed the 12 meter opening on November 21 reported in our extra post-Thanksgiving Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP049. Fabrizio reported that this was the first time he's heard Mozambique on 12 meters, and could hear C91R working North American stations. He wrote, "This opening happened just at the onset of some geomagnetic activity, as I have seen other times. When the Kp index starts to go up, we have good openings on the higher bands, usually from Europe to Africa and South America."

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin see, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k9la-prop.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at, <http://www.arrl.org/qst/propcharts/>.

Sunspot numbers for November 22 through 28 were 0, 0, 15, 12, 11, 0 and 0 with a mean of 5.4. 10.7 cm flux was 69.7, 70, 71.3, 70.7, 71.5, 71.4, and 71.2 with a mean of 70.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 13, 10, 12, 11, 8, 4 and 3 with a mean of 8.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 8, 8, 8, 6, 5 and 3, with a mean of 6.3.



Happy Holidays To all The AARC family!!!

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Dec 1-2	ARRL160 Meter Contest - CW
Dec 8-9	ARRL 10 Meter Contest – CW & SSB

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

Other Contests of Interest

Dec 8-9	28 MHz SWL Contest
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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 ARRL Exam Session Search web page.
Location	
(ARRL VEC)	

For Sale Items	
Wanted – Tube Stereo	Wanted: tube stereo equipment, particularly Fisher. Carter, WD4AYS, (434) 979 7383, celliott14@earthlink.net

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!

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



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 27th 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 : December 11 - 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

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

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
December 11	Regular Club Meeting
January 6	Annual AARC Winter Dinner
February 12	Regular Club Meeting
March 11	Regular Club Meeting
April 8	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.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf