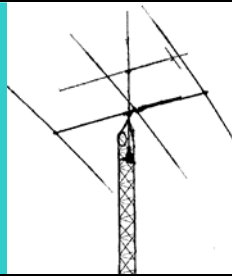


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2008, No. 9



September 2008

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Meeting Notice

The next regular AARC meeting will be held on **September 9 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO building on the UVA campus. Our presentation will be by Alan Swinger, K9MBQ on the CY0X DXpedition.**

It should be very interesting. See you there!!

The President's Letter

Dave, K4DND

Hello all from K4DND. By the time you read this the September AARC meeting will be coming up fast. Please plan to attend; we have been having great success with turnout at club activities and I hope to see that trend continue. **The September meeting will be important as that is the meeting at which the nominating committee is formed.** I have asked Mike KI4R1X to chair this group and I hope that it will be already for work after the meeting on September 9th. If Mike asks you to serve on the nominating committee, please volunteer. We need representation of the wide interests of the club on this committee, it is short duration, has only a single task, and by volunteering to serve, you are in the best possible position to assure that you don't get nominated HI.

We had excellent turnouts for August events. First was the AARC picnic and I think I can speak for all who attended when I say that it was a very good time. Good food, and plenty of it. Thanks to John KI4DJT for his usual artistry on the Weber, and to the total of 44 members and guests who attended and provided their superb pot-luck contributions. Also, thanks to Kay Dannals for spending her birthday with us at the picnic.

Second, **12 club members showed up for the airport exercise on August 16th.** While we didn't do a lot for this exercise, we were ready to go with our equipment, ID vests and deployed as requested. Thanks to all who gave of their time and effort for this exercise. Bill AD6JV and I have discussed the fact that this really didn't give us an opportunity to put ourselves to an adequate test; consequently Bill has plans for an October SET exercise that should do the trick.

Finally, **on August 24th 12 club volunteers assisted with the Blue Ridge Extreme Century Challenge.**

Thanks to all those individuals as well. I know that the club will be receiving a letter of thanks from the event organizers, and I suspect a small donation for the club as well. At the September meeting certificates will be awarded to all who participated in the airport drill and the Blue Ridge Extreme.



Elmer KF4UCI and Gordon WW4GW arrive to help out in the race... photos by John, son of Elmer



Cyclists with a shadow vehicle in the Blue Ridge Extreme Century Challenge race

That about wraps up the Public Service calendar for 2008 unless we are asked to provide help for anything that is out of our area. I have heard talk about a 100 mile – 24 hour run taking place in October, and the need for volunteers is large. More on that as I get further details.

At the September meeting, **Gordon WW4GW will discuss upcoming repeater site work that is on the schedule.**

Without going into too many details here, in the coming weeks you look for a new controller on the 146.760 repeater and a new 440 repeater at the same site. You should look for a new receiver on the 146.895 repeater and a dual port packet node back up at Buck's Elbow. All this is exciting stuff and greatly expands the communication capabilities available in this area.

For the time being, the IRLP node remains on the 146.760 repeater. Several members have been able to use it on the 76 repeater that would not be able to do so when in the link is on the 145.450 Martha Jefferson repeater. Once again, let me go over what constitutes good operating practices, and follows the FCC rules and regulations. If you want to access IRLP, when you key up to send the DTMF tones, precede your tones by announcing your presence and intention to access IRLP, and give your call sign. For example, I would say "This is K4DND accessing IRLP." If you connect to another repeater, listen briefly to see that you are not interrupting an ongoing QSO, and announce yourself on the other repeater. For example, I would say, "This is K4DND in Charlottesville, VA on IRLP." Not too difficult to do, and as long as everyone is willing to do that little bit, we can keep the IRLP open and active. However, if people continue to key up the 76 repeater, send a DTMF string with no connection, and then leave the frequency, without ever giving their call sign, then we can't have an open VoIP system, whether IRLP, Echolink or WIRES. Please use what is available, but do it in a way that follows the rules and conforms to good operating practices.

See you at the September meeting, or on the air.

73 de K4DND

Veep Peeps

Mike, KI4RIX

Dear Friends --- This summer has gone by quite quickly, especially with half of August feeling like late September. With fall comes a new semester of school for me, which will be my last semester (unless I go to grad school).

We had a wonderful picnic this past month. Thank you to everyone who came out and made this event a success. The food was absolutely wonderful, and the cake very tasty. I think everyone also got a chance to talk to folks they hadn't seen in a while.

This month, we will have a presentation by Alan Swinger, K9MBQ on the CYOX DXpedition. Alan will have lots to tell us about it, but for now this is the overview that is on the website (<http://www.cy0x.com/>):

"CYOX is the first 6-meter focused DXpedition to CYO Sable Island since the June 1996 CY0AA operation by Mike, VE9AA and company. The DXpedition dates (June 25th through July 12th 2008) were chosen to maximize the possibility of transatlantic multihop sporadic-E propagation to Europe, Africa, and the Mideast. We will be on six meters 24 hours a day from the main station in grid FN93 an 8 element custom M2 yagi (40 foot boom courtesy of Robby, VY2SS) and Dick's 800 Watt linear amplifier. Operation will be on both CW and SSB and also look for us on meteor scatter. We will be using either Dick's K3 or Pete's Yaesu FT-650 for the

main 6 meter transceiver plus a 0.3db NF pHEMT low noise 6m preamp".

The October meeting will be the annual club business meeting, with presentations by all of the committee chairs and new officer elections. If you are interested in running for office, please contact me and I will pass your name to the nominating committee.

In other news, I have gotten more into APRS lately, and will be permanently installing an APRS system into my vehicle soon – so stay tuned to hear how that goes.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting!

Best regards,

Mike Benonis KI4RIX

Club Business

Submitted by: Alan Swinger K9MBQ, Secretary

AARC Board Minutes August 12, 2008

No formal meeting --- Annual club picnic.

Regular Meeting August 12, 2008

No formal meeting --- Annual club picnic.

Submitted by Alan Swinger, K9MBQ, Secretary

Amateur Radio and the Media

Advertising out to the public is always a tricky matter, no matter how you do it. Sales executives have to find the right slogan that sells their product to a certain demographic. Politicians have to find a way to connect with their constituents. Above all they have to do so within a 30 second or a minute time span to grab your attention! It is a difficult task indeed. After being pointed in the right direction, I "stumbled" upon the ARRL Public Relations web page (<http://www.arrl.org/pio>). What caught my eye were several 30 second PSAs for use on radio and television. I e-mailed the appropriate contacts and several days later I had the tools needed to make this effort happen. With a little bit of work, the club officially had a 30 second PSA for television and four 30 second PSAs for radio.

Contacts were made with various media outlets in the area and the PSAs were sent out. Granted, working for a television station has its advantages - one being that I can easily have a PSA put to air. At present, the ARRL's "Katrina" PSA for television is airing on WCAV 19 (CBS), WVAW-LP 16 (ABC), WAHU-CA 27 (Fox), and My C'Ville TV. The "Play on Words" radio PSAs are to be regularly airing on WQMZ 95.1, WINA 1070, and WVAX 1450. Bear in mind, however, that the radio PSAs were sent to all possible radio stations in the

Charlottesville market, and the television PSA will hopefully be on the other TV stations in town. In closing, let me say that the publicity for the club does not stop here. You can be a part too! Do you know of a neighbor that has an interest in the hobby? Do you know of other ways that we can put the word out? Let me know. You may e-mail me at n4lfj@yahoo.com with any questions. Thank you for your time and 73!

*Jeffrey D. Seay, N4LFJ
Public Information Coordinator, AARC*

And the Winner Is...

Ron K4RKA

The winner of last month's quiz, provided by Ron K4RKA, is Tom Moore, WB5BNT, who responded with 100% correct answers on the same day the newsletter came out. The only other respondent was W2HD by phone a couple of days later, also 100%. I guess this was too simple. Next month will be a bit more of a challenge & I hope we get more respondents...

The answers are as follows:

- 1 - F
- 2 - I
- 3 - E
- 4 - B
- 5 - D
- 6 - A
- 7 - G
- 8 - H
- 9 - C

MJ Repeater Status Update

Gordon, WW4GW

The Martha Jefferson remote base has had one memory location changed - the Richmond 146.880 repeater has been deleted (memory position 9) and in its place is now 146.520 simplex. Users should be mindful to place the system back into normal mode (code B10*) after they finish using the remote base function. The normal mode allows the remote base 2M to be set to memory location 10 which is 147.540 simplex. This is the **frequency** that would be used for repeater control purposes if needed, and if it is not placed back in the normal mode then the person trying to get into the remote base would not know the frequency.

WA4ZZB - SK

Ron, K4RKA

Bill Harris, WA4ZZB, became a Silent Key on Aug 29, 2008.

September 2008

Bill is the only person I have ever known who held two valid stations licenses for the same address, KN4FKX novice and WA4ZZB technician. He took and passed the novice test, but before the license came, he took and passed the technician exam and the FCC issued him two separate licenses. At that time the novice was one year, non-renewable and Bill used it to the maximum during that period. He was also active on 6 meters with a Swan 250 transceiver and maintained an almost daily CW or SSB schedule with a fellow Air Force MARS member in Pittsburgh, Pa. At an area MARS meeting one time, we listened to a speaker tell why VHF (6 meters in particular) was not satisfactory for interstate traffic handling due to the lack of a reliable RF path. Afterwards, I asked Bill why he didn't speak up with his own first hand experience. His (paraphrased by me) response was "Well, he obviously knows more about the subject than I do and I didn't think it would be polite to disagree with him." I think that summed up Bill's activity. Let others talk about what can or can't be done, but just keep on pursuing what you enjoy yourself.

Bill was a founding member of the Charlottesville Amateur Repeater Society (CEARS) and was treasurer until the small group responsible for putting up the first Charlottesville repeater on Carter Mountain was merged with the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club in the late 1970's. He was also a regular control operator and monitoring station during the time when the repeater had to be actively monitored when it was active. Probably not the most vocal repeater user, he was almost always there whenever anyone called. Although not very active for the last several years due to health problems, he will be remembered by me as a good friend and an energetic amateur radio operator.

73 & 30 --- Ron, K4RKA



A perfect day for a picnic and catching up with old friends...



Ron, K4RKA and XYL, W4RBW

AARC Picnic 2008

Photos tnx Jim, K4BAV

It was a great day for a picnic --- good WX, great food and good fellowship. The picnic was well attended and everyone had a great time. Here are some photos to remember it by.



Stephanie, K4BMM stops by to chat with Joe W2PVY and his lady friend



Come and get it!! Mike, K14RIX (in background), Jeffrey, N4LFJ, Harry, W2HD and others are ready to chow down...



Our Super Chef John, K14DJT says the burgers are and dogs are ready for us!!



Jim, K4BAV chats with Joe, W2PVY and friend while the rest of the crew goes through the line filled with culinary delights...



Harry, W2HD and XYL Kay admire the cake given to Kay by the club on the occasion of her birthday



Looks like Jim, K4BAV found several great treasures in the raffle...

For Sale and Wanted...

Tnx Ron, K4RKA

Please notify K4RKA when an item has been sold or pulled from availability and can be deleted from this list.

FOR SALE: OSCAR Satellite antenna assembly consisting of KLM 2M-14C (two 2 meter 7 element circularly polarized yagis) and KLM435-18C (two 435 MC 9 element circularly polarized yagis) turned by a Yaesu G-5600B AZ/EL heavy duty rotator. All for \$225 **Call Harry, W2HD at 434-974-7388.**

Ten-Tec 6M Transverter. Provides 10W out and have used successfully w/ a TS-570. I have all documentation. Simple to use; tunes on the 20M band. Price - \$60. Happy to demo it for you. Contact info: Alan K9MBQ; 434-975-6237, email awswinger@earthlink.net

Scanners for Sale -- 2 Uniden 760 \$50.00 Each. 1 Radio Shack 95 Portable \$100.00. 1 Bearcat 240xlt 40 channel \$25.00. 1 UHF-VHF Radio Shack 16 channel \$25.00. 1 Bearcat 240XL 20 channel 20.00. 1 Bearcat 200 16 channel \$15.00. 1 Uniden 100xlt 100 channel 50.00. 1 Pro 2051 Radio Shack Desktop 1000 channel \$150.00. Thanks, Jerome, KI4DLA

Ameritron AL-800 linear amplifier. Bought new but never used. Provides 1200 watts PEP output from 160 to 15 meters using a 3CX800A7 tube. I am planning to move up to a heftier unit. If interested, call Bob W4RQ at (434) 990-2659 (home), (434) 980-7143 (office) or via email at w4rq@yahoo.com.

Rotator cable - 125 ft of 8-conductor rotor cable. Bought new -- discovered I had more than a 100 ft run to the antenna and would need heavier duty cable. If interested, call Bob W4RQ at (434) 990-2659 (home), (434) 980-7143 (office) or via email at w4rq@yahoo.com.

MFJ-4103 Power Supply for FT-817. New, never used in original packaging. If interested, call Bob W4RQ at (434) 990-2659 (home), (434) 980-7143 (office) or via email at w4rq@yahoo.com.

WANTED: I'm looking for a **2m mobile radio, preferably small** (comparable in size to modern mobile rigs). **Can be commercial VHF as long as it can tune down to 144.39 MHz.** Contact Mike Benonis KI4RIX at mjb8h@virginia.edu or (703) 577-3788.

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Sep 13-15	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
Sep 20 - 21	ARRL EME Contest

Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the ARRL Contest Calendar webpage.

Other Contests of Interest

Ser 13 - 14	Worked All Europe SSB Contest
Sep 20 - 21	QCWA Fall 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	
Date	
Location	

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

VE Session Schedule - 2008	
Date	For exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the ARRL Exam Session Search web page.
Location	
(ARRL VEC)	

For Sale Items	
For Sale	Kenwood TS-520S SSB xvcr, with VFO, RIT and Calrad mike, DM-16-HL and DYMACT-50-HIGH-LOW. Realistic D-160 with SP-150 speaker. Tone box for code oscillator. Heathkit stereo headphones. GE H-14. Equipment being sold for widow of a SK. Call Jimmy, K4JMY at (434) 973-5589.

AARC Club Officers			
President	Dave Damon	K4DND	k4dnd@arrl.net (434) 973-5866
Vice President	Mike Benonis	KI4RIX	mjb8h@virginia.edu (703) 577-3788
Secretary	Alan Swinger	K9MBQ	awswinger@earthlink.net (434) 975-6237
Treasurer	Don Eason	N4UVA	deason@comcast.net (434) 973-9119
Director	Dennis Mennerich	K4THE	k4the@arrl.net (434) 973-5407
Director	Linda Beard	KI5LLB	lindaskyone@earthlink.net (434) 823-2107
Director	Jay Rostow	K4AZV	k4azv@turing.org 434-263-5795
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net 434 872-0686
Director	Jeffrey Seay	N4LFJ	n4lfj@yahoo.com

Contest Calendars	
ARRL Contest Calendar 2008	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2008	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 - 25th 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 : September 9 - 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
September 9	Regular Club Meeting
October 14	Regular Club Meeting
November 11	Regular Club Meeting
December 9	Regular Club Meeting

AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
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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