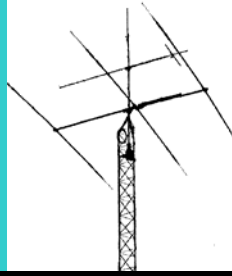


# The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2008, No. 12



December 2008

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## Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **December 9 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA Grounds.** The program will be xxx.

## AARC Annual Awards Dinner

Your presence is sincerely requested to attend the

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club's  
Annual Awards Banquet  
The evening of Tuesday  
January 13, 2009  
at  
Six O'clock

The Elks Lodge  
Charlottesville

Cash Bar - 6 p.m. Dinner - 6:30 p.m.  
Tickets \$18 and will be available at  
the December Meeting

RSVP by 1/6/08 to me:  
Jim Crosby - K4JEC  
434 823 2277

or  
by email [jecrosby@comcast.net](mailto:jecrosby@comcast.net)

## Special Notice for AARC Award Dinner Payments!!

Jim, K4JEC

Greetings --- **Please read your treasurer's request below and be sensitive to his needs. We do not want to ruin his entire evening by having to deal with financial details. I urge you to purchase your tickets in advance** and will make that possible by sending them to you if you mail me a check to: 5571 Brookwood Road, Crozet, VA 22932. **If your check arrives too late for me to mail the tickets back to you, they will be placed in the "Will Call" ticket box at the door.**

Jim,

Thanks for all the work you are doing for the dinner. Last year, I believe Alan and I were the only ones with a coat and tie!! Please, when you send out the invitations; **ask people to pay only for their dinner with a check and use a separate check and form for the annual club dues.**

Last year I had people giving me checks and cash for the dinner and dues and it was very difficult to keep it straight. Actually, **I spent most of my time at the annual dinner handling money.**

Regards, Don

**[Editor's Note: The Elks Lodge is located on Route 20 North, just north of Rte. 250 at Pantops. It is located just across from Darden Towe Park. There is a traffic signal at the intersection where the lodge is located.]**

## The President's Letter

Dave, K4DND

Happy December to everyone. I hope each of you receive a special ham radio gift this holiday season. From a new difficult entity on your DX list, to a new rig with a difficult manual for the shack --- everyone has something they need and more importantly, something they want. As certain as that is true, it is also true that everyone has things around the shack that are good but no longer used or needed. Please consider donating some of these items to the AARC for raffle items, or for future auctions. We should have our non-profit status cleared up soon, and donated items will be tax deductible. Don N4UVA has been working on this since he took over in January, 2008. Who knew how complicated and convoluted this would turn out to be? No wonder we didn't get it done before. Many thanks, Don, for all your efforts on the club's behalf.

Last month in this column, I listed AARC member and area non-member Volunteer Examiners, and apologized in advance if I left anyone out of the list. So let me personally apologize to Marty AG4DN for listing him in the AARC non-member list, when we all know that Marty is and has been a

member of the AARC since he was first licensed as KF4FRO. Next I apologize to Bruce Budinger, AB3BB, who is also a VE and an AARC member. Now I think I have the list complete and correct, and it will be included on the AARC web site.

**Notices will soon be going out to remind everyone to renew their membership for 2009.** If you have done so already, you can ignore the reminder. I will get the 2009 membership roster on the web site in the near future so you can check your status. It has been such a pleasure to see the AARC membership break the 100 mark; we currently stand at 103. Congratulations to everyone for making this happen; we should be proud of our club and the number of local amateurs that it represents. Of course since there is no rest for the weary, the goal has now moved to 120 for 2009 and I hope we will be able to reach that new goal early in the year. So keep beating the bushes for new members, or for old members who haven't returned. Lest we be too cocky about our success on the one hand, or too dismal about our chances on the other, let me remind everyone that in 1992, the AARC had a membership of 137!!

**When you renew, please go to the AARC web site and download a new application form. Fill it out and send it in with your dues and any additional contribution you can make to help support the AARC.** A newly filled-out application form will assure that we have the correct information in our membership list. If you are a Life Member or Honorary Member, please send in the application as well. That will assure that we have your current and correct information as well.

**We have a new EC in our ARES District. Bob Mulleins AA3BM (formerly KF4MHT) was recommended as the new EC for Cumberland County,** and after a series of email exchanges required to prod the section leadership into action, that appointment has finally been recommended on to the ARRL. Now we need to get Bob to join the AARC. Our current roster of ARES leadership is as follows: Dave K4DND DEC District 03, Bill AD6JV EC for Charlottesville/Albemarle, Vic N3DFS EC for Greene, Manny K4MSR EC for Fluvanna, Gordon WW4GW EC for Buckingham, and now Bob AA3BM EC for Cumberland. If you are interested in participating in ARES/RACES please contact the EC of your local jurisdiction and make sure he knows about your interest.

I hope to see you all at the next AARC meeting on December 9 at NRAO Auditorium.

73 de K4DND

## Veep Peeps

Mike, K14RIX

*Veep Peeps is not available this month...*

## Club Business

*Submitted by: Alan Swinger K9MBQ, Secretary*

### AARC Board Minutes – November 11, 2008

President Dave Damon opened the meeting at the NRAO Building on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 6:30 PM. Board members present: Dave – K4DND (President), Don – N4UVA (Treasurer), Gordon – WW4GW (Dir), Dennis – K4THE (Dir), Greg – N4PGS (Dir), Linda – K15LLB (Dir), Bill – AD6JV (Dir), Jeff – N4LFJ (Dir), and Jim – K4JEC (Acting Secretary).

The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$3,670.94, deposits included \$220, and checks issued amounted to \$300 for a closing balance on October 31, 2008 of \$3,590.94.

The Treasurer stated that a bill from Blodinger was submitted to the club of \$750 for legal fees incurred in the processing of our Tax Exempt Status with the IRS. An IRS Filing Fee of \$300 has been paid and the paper work has been filed with the IRS. He stated it is hoped we will have our Letter of Determination before the end of the year but due to the current workload of the IRS, it cannot be guaranteed.

A bill presented by Jeff – N4LFJ for a club rubber stamp was approved for payment in the amount of \$24.75.

#### The Richmond Frost Fest will be held on February 7

and our desire to have a table there was discussed. Gordon pointed out that they have changed the rules this year and that a table for display only is free but if you plan to sell from the table they were \$50 each. It was decided to recommend to the membership that we reserve two tables from which club members can sell their items with the understanding that those club members who agree to staff the table would not be charged but those who only sent items to be sold would be charged 10 percent of the sale price of their items.

Gordon suggested the club consider an annual auction where donated items could be sold as a fundraiser for the club. He said it is a very successful operation for the Lynchburg club. It was discussed and tabled for further consideration.

The President reported that both of our antennas on the tower at Bucks Elbow were destroyed and must be replaced. The tower company working on the tower acknowledged damaging one of the antennas and will reimburse the club for it but denied damaging the other. Currently the digipeater is off the air because the antenna has been transferred to the 895 machine. A work party planned for next Sunday plans to replace the broken antennas and restore service on both machines.

Jeff – N4LFJ – Chairman of the Publications Committee reported he had a prospective club brochure featuring a suggested logo submitted by Jim Crosby and wanted to pass it through the Publications Committee before presenting it to the membership.

President Dave adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

### Regular Meeting – November 11, 2008

The General Membership Meeting of November 11, 2008 was called to order by President Dave Damon – K4DND – at 7:30 p.m. at the NRAO Building on The Grounds of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. The President called for all members present to introduce themselves offering the date they obtained their first or original ham license. He acknowledged the presence of Life Members, Harry (W2HD) and Joe (W2PVY).

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the October 2008 meeting as printed in the newsletter. The minutes were approved without change by unanimous vote of the membership.

The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$3,670.94, deposits included \$220, and checks issued amounted to \$300 for a closing balance on October 31, 2008 of \$3,590.94.

**Following a discussion, the membership approved reserving two tables at the Richmond Frost Fest for 2009.** The President pointed out that the ham fest was held at the Richmond Raceway last year and it was a much better facility than The Show Place of yesteryear. It will again this year be held at the Richmond Raceway.

Dennis, chair of the Education Committee, issued an appeal for members who would be willing to serve on the committee for 2009.

Linda, chair of the Fundraising Committee, reported she was back in town and working on the Club T-Shirt idea, which she would present in detail at a later meeting.

Jeff, chair of the Publications Committee, reported he has a stock of promotional materials from ARRL for members to distribute and would make them available as requested. He also reported he had a proposed club folder and emblem in hand submitted by Jim (K4JEC) a member of the committee that is being considered by the committee that he expects to be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Gordon, chair of the Technical Committee, reported that the **antennas on the tower at Bucks Elbow were destroyed by a work crew working on the tower.** The digipeater antenna is now serving the 895 machine and the digipeater has been taken out of service until the antennas can be replaced. The replacement is planned for this Sunday. The Marshall Manor site of the 760 repeater is in jeopardy and we could be required to shut it down and move it at anytime with the best timetable being by spring of 2009.

Bill (AD6JV) reported on the RACES Albemarle County Emergency Communications test staged last Saturday, November 8. He reported that generally the drill proved the comms capability of the sites within the county/city; however access to several of our antenna/equipment sites was hampered by people who didn't show up as promised ahead of time leaving some of our operators locked out.

Jim (K4JEC) Acting Secretary and Vice President Elect reported that **the date for the Annual Awards Dinner has been set for January 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. with a reservation obtained at the Elks Lodge** – the scene of last year’s event that pleased everyone present. This event will be held on the same date and in place of the regular meeting in January in an effort to save members two trips in January. He urged everyone to put the date on their calendars and plan to attend with the promise that it will be a major highlight of the year that will leave everyone talking about it for the rest of the year.

**The President presented the Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws that has been duly published and is in compliance with the requirements for amendments as set forth in the AARC Bylaws.** The proposed amendment was read as printed in the current issue of the newsletter and a discussion followed. It was unanimously approved that the amendment be amended to include the word “deceased” to the description of “Silent Key” to explain the word to the public who might not know the phrase generally used by the ham community. The amended version of the amendment was moved by Don (N4UVA) and seconded by Dennis (K4THE). The vote for approval of the amended version of the Amendment was unanimously approved by a voice vote of the membership representing a quorum.

**The approved Amendment reads as follows:**

- 1. Under Article VI: Committees, Section 6: Other Committees to be renumbered as:

Article VI: Committees

Section 7: Other Committees

- 2. Under Article VI: Committees, Section 6 to be added as:

Section 6: Estate Committee

An Estate Committee composed of a Chairperson, a Director, the AARC Treasurer, and at least two other members shall be appointed by the Board at the January meeting. The Committee shall act upon notification that an AARC member or local area non-member amateur becomes deceased (Silent Key). The charge to the committee is to assist the family of the Silent Key (with permission of the family or estate executor) in disposing of any amateur radio or related equipment to the best benefit of the family of the Silent Key. If this activity is undertaken by the Estate Committee, a complete inventory of such equipment should be made, with fair current market values assigned, and a subsequent full accounting made to the family or estate, following any action taken with respect to disposal of the inventory. The Committees written report of year activity shall

be submitted to the Club for its approval at the regular meeting in October.

The above represents the entirety of the approved Amendment to the AARC Bylaws. The President thanked the members for their thoughtful consideration of the Amendment and the resulting vote to approve it.

The business meeting was followed by a presentation on the Global Positioning System by Jim Crosby. This was followed by a presentation by Dave Damon on the Navy MARS drill planned for Charlottesville this Saturday, November 15. His presentation covered the scenario planned for the exercise and urged participation by those RACES members that might be available for this event.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Jim Crosby, K4JEC, Acting Secretary*

## Summary Report – Publications Committee

*Jeffrey D. Seay, N4LFJ, Director*

In the short time that I have been director the publications committee, here are a few things that have been done to enhance the club’s outreach to the public through media.

- Interview conducted by Dave Maurer of the Daily Progress with Dave, K4DND, and Harry, W2HD. The report appeared in the Tuesday, July 29, edition of the Daily Progress. Thanks to Vale for making the contact for the club.
- PSA commercial spots based on the relief effort provided by amateur radio during Hurricane Katrina were distributed to all local radio and television outlets.
- Monthly community calendar submissions were started to invite the public to attend club meetings and get involved in amateur radio.
- Due to the approaching Hurricane Ike, Claire O’Brien of WVIR-TV NBC29 did an interview with Dave, K4DND, at Martha Jefferson Hospital concerning the preparedness of local amateurs in the case of a disaster. The report aired throughout the morning on Thursday, September 3.
- Research is currently underway to develop a club brochure. The director of the publications committee has spoken with a local vendor in Louisa County that is interested in helping.

- Finally, a wealth of information has been received from the ARRL publications department for use at club functions such as special events. The subject matter ranges from wireless experimentation, scouting activities, the thrill of amateur radio, and emergency preparedness.

## December Quiz

Ron K4RKA

Ron has another quiz to keep those neurons firing --- and he promises this one is not as easy as his previous quizzes. **It is an attachment to the email you received to tell you the December beacon (this issue) is ready.** Have fun!!!

## ARRL Propagation de K7RA

ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP050

Today's bulletin is going out on Monday instead of Friday, due to last week's holiday. The last Propagation Forecast Bulletin was ARLP049, released on Wednesday, November 26. Starting Friday, December 5, we return to a regular Friday weekly bulletin schedule.

The average sunspot number for the month of November was 6.8, up from 5.2 for October. The three month sunspot number average ending November 30 -- centered on October was 4.5 -- an increase from August and September's 1.1 and 2.5.

Here are the 3-month averages of sunspot numbers since mid-2006.

Jun 06 28.9  
 Jul 06 23.3  
 Aug 06 23.5  
 Sep 06 21.2  
 Oct 06 24.1  
 Nov 06 23.1  
 Dec 06 27.3  
 Jan 07 22.7  
 Feb 07 18.5  
 Mar 07 11.2  
 Apr 07 12.2  
 May 07 15.8  
 Jun 07 18.7  
 Jul 07 15.4  
 Aug 07 10.2  
 Sep 07 5.4  
 Oct 07 3.0  
 Nov 07 6.9  
 Dec 07 8.1  
 Jan 08 8.5

Feb 08 8.4  
 Mar 08 8.4  
 Apr 08 8.9  
 May 08 5.0  
 Jun 08 3.7  
 Jul 08 2.0  
 Aug 08 1.1  
 Sep 08 2.5  
 Oct 08 4.5

It looks like we had a double minimum, ten months apart.

Currently there are no sunspots visible, and solar flux hangs around 68. December 8-9 the predicted solar flux rises to 70. Perhaps then we will see the return of a region which spawned sunspots during the last solar rotation. Geomagnetic indices have been quiet, but are expected to rise this Friday, December 5. Planetary A index for that day is predicted to be 15.

If you check the thrice-daily solar flux readings from the observatory in Penticton, I found the data ending November 20. The updated data is now on the site, [ftp://ftp.geolab.nrcan.gc.ca/data/solar\\_flux/daily\\_flux\\_values/current.txt](ftp://ftp.geolab.nrcan.gc.ca/data/solar_flux/daily_flux_values/current.txt).

A page which references this is at, [http://spaceweather.ca/solarflux\\_e.php](http://spaceweather.ca/solarflux_e.php). From this page you can access a table of monthly solar flux averages back through February 1947. The number you want is the **Observed Flux in the first column.**

Over a week ago Randy Crews, W7TJ of Spokane, WA, wrote, "Reviewing my old logs and operating activity, the frustration many of us HF aficionados feel is due to the extended period between the end of Cycle 23 and the beginning of Cycle 24. I have been on the air 44 years, and never have I seen a cycle with such a long extended bottom. Usually the bottom is brief, maybe 6-9 Months of low Sunspot numbers and Solar Flux Values in the Mid 60s. The rise and fall is and has historically been short. Looking back (depending on where one measures) there is a very long and stretched bottom spanning 1 1/2 to 2 years. Graphically instead of a "V" we have a "U" with a long flat bottom. It would be nice to have a payback similar to Cycle 19 for the dues we have all paid."

Randy refers to Cycle 19 -- the big one peaking in the late 1950s, and it is true that the minimum prior to Cycle 19 was long and low.

Tree Tyree, N6TR of Boring, Oregon sent his thoughts on comments by W5WVO in Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP048 and also an antenna for next weekend's ARRL 160 Meter contest. He writes, "Agree strongly with the concept of being a big station on six meters can be done much easier

than 20 meters.

"A couple of points: E-skip is often high angle and an antenna on six at 30 feet is VERY competitive. When I worked Europe during the June VHF contest, my 45 foot antenna was better than the one I had at 95 feet.

"If someone has a modest tower, say a tribander on a 60 foot tower, they actually have a very competitive antenna system for 160 meters staring them in the face. I recently took a 55 foot tower at N6TW's QTH in Silverton, Oregon, which had a Force-12 40-10 meter beam on it, and with about two hours of work, turned it into an antenna that enabled QSOs with Europe and Japan, even without a kilowatt.

"As it turns out, towers in the 55-80 foot range with a beam acting as a top hat turn out to be very close to a quarter wavelength. Gamma matching this is pretty straight forward. I typically use some old coax as the gamma wire, suspended about 18-24 inches from the tower, going up perhaps two-thirds of the way. You can get good performance with as few as 8 ground wires (the longer the better, but there is no magic length. The wires are detuned when you lay them on the ground).

"Use a variable cap to see if your gamma is working, and if you can, use a transmitter as your SWR meter (AM broadcast stations often interfere with the readings you see using an SWR meter). Don't be surprised if you see a pretty broad SWR curve.

I think Tree means to tune the gamma match with the variable capacitor for best transmitter output, or "maximum smoke," as it is sometimes called. Find details on this kind of feed system for 160 meters at, <http://www.eham.net/forums/Towertalk/5940>, <http://www3.telus.net/ve6fi/160meterantenna.html>, <http://www.eham.net/articles/10631> and <http://www.qsl.net/w9rb/webdoc9.htm>.

Tree continues, "This is basically the antenna I have used for 20 years now to work over 200 countries on 160 meters. Certainly it isn't the best choice for a receive antenna, but if you are in a quiet QTH you would be surprised at what you can hear with good conditions (which we are currently enjoying on Topband)."

An excellent weekend to test this would be the ARRL 160 Meter contest next weekend, December 5-7. See [http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/160\\_meters.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/160_meters.html) for contest rules.

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 web page 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/>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of this bulletin are at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#email>.

Sunspot numbers for November 20 through 26 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 69.6, 68.5, 69, 69, 67.9, 67.7, and 68.3 with a mean of 68.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 1, 1, 3, 0, 10 and 8 with a mean of 3.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 0, 0, 1, 2, 11 and 11 with a mean of 3.7.

## 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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Call Bob W4RQ at (434) 990-2659 (home), (434) 980-7143 (office) or via email at [w4rq@yahoo.com](mailto:w4rq@yahoo.com).

**MFJ-4103 Power Supply** for FT-817. New, never used in original packaging. Call Bob W4RQ at (434) 990-2659

(home), (434) 980-7143 (office) or via email at [w4rq@yahoo.com](mailto:w4rq@yahoo.com).

**Coleman Series 54 Generator**; 4KW 120V/240V. Briggs & Stratton 8HP engine model 190432. Very clean and mounted on cart. Purchased about 1985 and used very little. Has new carburetor, plug, air filter, fuel lines, fuel filter & fuel cutoff valve. However I can't get it started. Has compression, fuel and I believe good spark. Maybe new carburetor just needs adjustment. I'm tired of pulling the rope! And anyway it won't run my heat pump. \$199.00 Jim K4CGY 434-296-3044

#### Radio and Electronic Test Equipment - FOR SALE

All equipment is in good working condition, but not guaranteed John Green, KX4P. **SAMPLE LIST:**

- 1 ALD-22 Aerovox, Decade Inductor, 0 to 0.1 Hy - No manual -- \$10
- 1 ALD-32 Aerovox, Decade Inductor, 0 to 1.0 Hy - No manual \$10
- 1 ALD-42 Aerovox, Decade Inductor, 0 to 10 Hy - No manual \$10
- 1 10W-1000 Amplifier Research, Wideband Amplifier, 1 to 1000 MHz, 10 Watt - Yes manual - \$150
- 1 1309 AT&T Home Telephone Answering Machine Yes manual \$2

#### MANY MORE ITEMS - TO SEE COMPLETE LIST PLEASE GO TO

<http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/swapfest.shtml>

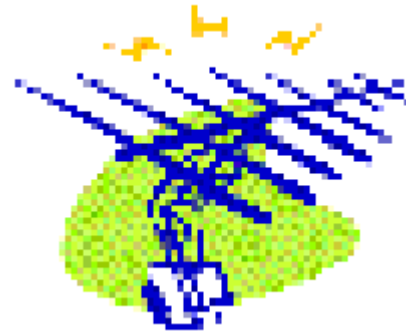
**WANTED:** I'm looking for a **2m mobile radio, preferably small** (comparable in size to modern mobile rigs). **Can be commercial VHF as long as it can tune down to 144.39 MHz.** Contact Mike Benonis KI4RIX at [mjb8h@virginia.edu](mailto:mjb8h@virginia.edu) or (703) 577-3788.

## New Basic Antenna Book Available from ARRL

*From the ARRL Letter, November 21, 2008*

For something that is often so simple to make, an antenna is remarkably difficult for many people to understand. The antenna is one of your shack's most important elements and can make your radio system a success. Now available from ARRL, "Basic Antennas: Understanding Practical Antennas and Design" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9994>> is a comprehensive introduction to antennas – basic concepts, practical designs and details of easy-to-build antennas. You'll learn how to make antennas that really work. This book will provide a foundation in antenna theory and design necessary for anyone undertaking more advanced topics and projects such as those presented in "The ARRL Antenna Book" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9876>>.

Written by ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, this new book includes an introduction to antennas, as well as sections on dipole antennas, antenna impedance, transmission lines, practical two element arrays, wideband and multiband antennas, monopole antennas, reflector antennas, Yagis for HF and VHF loop antennas, antennas for microwave applications, vehicle antennas, antenna measurements and an introduction to antenna modeling.



"Most people involved in the radio arts come from a background in the circuitry required to define radio equipment," Hallas said, "and many have difficulty making the transition to the electromagnetic side of radio. 'Basic Antennas' is intended to assist those with a basic knowledge of radio technology in making that important leap from the circuit domain to the antenna domain." Hallas said the technology presented in the book is developed using the "minimum of mathematical concepts to allow introduction of basic principles in an easy to read manner." Upon completion of this book, readers should have enough understanding of the basic principles of antenna systems to be able to make decisions about selecting antennas for their applications or using more advanced antenna materials properly.

Joel Hallas, W1ZR, earned his BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering. He has been a radar and telecommunications systems engineer, engineering manager, telecommunications executive and college teacher. Now QST Technical Editor, he is also the author of "Basic Radio -- Understanding the Key Building Blocks" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9558>>.

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

Dec 5-7	<b>ARRL 160 Meter Contest</b>
Dec 13-14	<b>ARRL 10 Meter Contest</b>

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

### Other Contests of Interest

Dec 26	<b>DARC Christmas Contest</b>
Dec 14	<b>Great Colorado Snowshoe Run - CW</b>

The [SM3CER Contest Service - Contest Calendars](#) has info and rules for these contests and just about every contest that exists.

73, Bob W4RQ



*Happy Holidays !!  
CU in 2009 !!*





## AARC Public Service Schedule

None Reported	
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## Area Hamfests

Date	
Location	

## FCC Database Updates

### New Calls

None Reported	
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### Upgrades

KI4RIX	To Extra – Our VP Mike!!
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### Vanity Calls

None Reported	
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## VE Session Schedule - 2008

Date	For 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

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.
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## AARC Club Officers

President	Dave Damon	K4DND	<a href="mailto:k4dnd@arrl.net">k4dnd@arrl.net</a> (434) 973-5866
Vice President	Mike Benonis	KI4RIX	<a href="mailto:mjb8h@virginia.edu">mjb8h@virginia.edu</a> (703) 577-3788
Secretary	Alan Swinger	K9MBQ	<a href="mailto:awswinger@earthlink.net">awswinger@earthlink.net</a> (434) 975-6237
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Director	Jeffrey Seay	N4LFJ	<a href="mailto:n4lfj@yahoo.com">n4lfj@yahoo.com</a>

## Contest Calendars

<a href="#">ARRL Contest Calendar 2008</a>	ARRL sponsored contests
<a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2008</a>	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
<a href="#">Contesting Online</a>	Just about everything contests!

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club  
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**ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month**

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**Next Club Meeting : December 9 - 7:30 PM NRAO Bldg - UVA Grounds**

**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:** Each Thursday at 8:00 PM  
**All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater**

**AREA REPEATERS**

146.760 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**  
 146.925 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**  
 224.760 (-) No Tone **WA4TFZ**  
 444.250 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**  
**Other Area Repeaters**  
 444.775 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **KF4UCI**  
 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)  
 224.600 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **KG4HOT**

**AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

DATE	EVENT
December 9	Regular Club Meeting
January 13	Annual Winter Awards Dinner
February 10	Regular Club Meeting
March 10	Regular Club Meeting
April 14	Regular Club Meeting

**AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE**

DATE	EVENT
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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)