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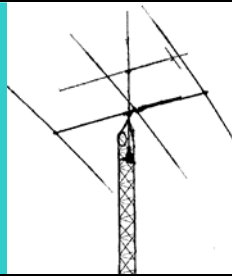
Serving radio enthusiasts and communities in Central Virginia – The Radio Club for Central Virginia

Volume 2009, No. 3   ~~~~~~~~~~~~   **March 2009**

Inside this Issue

Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **March 10 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA Grounds. The program will be presented by Gordon Winn (WW4GW), offering us a "History of Radio."**

Dues are Due!!!

2009 membership dues are now due. Please make payment to the AARC Secretary. **There is no increase since last year**. All club members should fill out the standard application form. **Checks are requested.**

The President's Letter

Dave, K4DND

Hello everyone and Happy March. We are coming up on busy times with the start of spring. Many will be getting out and about what seemed like a long winter, and in addition to all the other outside chores of spring, there may be winter damage to antennas that requires attention. If you need some help with antenna work, please let us know. We have a lot of combined ability and experience in the AARC, capable of assisting with repositioning wire antennas, replacing feed lines, and if necessary, doing tower work. Bubba has admitted to be "willing to climb for food".

First, **let me say a special thanks to Jeffrey, N4LFJ for setting up the interview on the Rob Schilling Show on WINA that aired Friday February 27**. Jeffrey, Jim K4JEC and Alan K9MBQ did a really first rate job at covering a wide variety of amateur radio topics in the short time available. FB guys! We have gotten more public awareness exposure in the past year with Jeffery acting as out Public Information Officer than there may have been during all the preceding years of the AARC added together.

Upcoming events that you should be aware of include the local **Science Fair on Thursday, March 5th**. If you would like more information about this, please contact Bill Phillips AD6JV. Again this year, the AARC is sponsoring 2 awards

(one for the junior division and one for the senior division) of $100 and a copy of the ARRL License Manual. Dennis K4THE is assisting, but others are encouraged to participate in this fun and interesting event.

The weekend of the 22nd is the Virginia QSO Party sponsored by the Sterling Amateur Radio Club. The purpose of this event is to promote amateur radio activity in all 95 counties and 39 independent cities. For more information about the QSO party just do an internet search for "Virginia QSO Party 2009". You will find a wealth of information at this site. For example, in 2008, the following number of contacts with local jurisdictions were reported, Albemarle 586, Greene 427, Nelson 230, Fluvanna 86, Charlottesville 59 and Cumberland 45. That is quite a bit of activity. Think of these as the number of times these counties and Charlottesville were listed in logs submitted by operators anywhere in the world who participated and submitted their logs. Despite all this activity, only 2 logs were submitted on behalf of the AARC; that recorded a total 59 QSOs, for a club score of 16,402.

I think we can significantly increase that score if more people participate in the QSO party, and more participants submit their logs and indicate their log is also to be credited to the AARC. Please understand that when you do so, your log is your log, and credited to your individual standing. If you are an AARC member your personal log and score can also be counted for the AARC score as well, but you have to indicate so in your submission. Some of you may be reluctant to operate and submit a log because you think it is too difficult. You couldn't be more wrong!! If you go to www.n3jfp.com you can download a very nice logging program specifically designed for the VA QSO Party. It only costs $6 to register for unlimited logging, with up to 30 QSOs without registration. All of the N3JFP logging software has the capability of converting your log to the proper Cabrillo file format. You don't need to know anything more than how to click a menu item, and it is all done for you. It couldn't be easier!!

Then Sunday, March 29th is the annual Jefferson Cup Bike Race event. This has traditionally been our first public service event of the season, and we always need a lot of help with it. I often hear people bemoan the fact that the public is not aware of the amateur radio hobby or the service it performs. Well, our public service events are the perfect opportunity for you, personally, to help change this. Every single bike rider in this race knows about amateur radio, and how amateur radio operators assist in assuring the safety of their race. If you haven't participated in an AARC public service event for some time, come back out and join us for a fun day. If you haven't ever participated before and are reluctant because you don't know what to do, don't worry, come on out and we will show you the ropes. We suggest that a new person ride along with an experienced ham for one race, to get a feel for the event. We won't put you out in the field until you feel confident of your ability to do what is necessary. It is fun, and a great way to use your license, equipment and communication skills to benefit non-hams. If you are able to participate, please contact me and let me know if you are able to assist the entire day, or if possible for

a half day. Lunch (pizza and soda) will be provided; more details will follow on future NPEN sessions. I will be meeting with Ruth Stornetta, the JCBR organizer in a few days to discuss any changes in our role.

73 de K4DND

Veep Peeps

Jim, K4JEC

The AARC Board voted at the February meeting to issue membership cards to those who pay their dues and request them. The cards are designed to fit the most common name badge holders that one can wear around the neck when participating in a public service event. The cards will be issued with the personal data necessary to make the card comply with federal (FEMA) standards required of personnel working a local or national civil or natural disaster. The data required is Full Name, Address, Date of Birth, Height, Weight, Hair Color, Eye Color and the signature of an officer of the issuing authority.

The two-sided card will have the club logo, your first name and call letters on side #1. This side will be issued to all who request it. The optional Side #2 will contain the photo ID data and can only be issued to those who come to a meeting, supply the personal data and have their picture taken.

This is an important step for the club and we look forward to your participation. The March 10 meeting will be the first meeting for obtaining your picture and personal data for the issuance of the cards. See you there!!!

The club now has a working stock (100) of our club brochure and 100 club patches have been ordered. Hopefully, they will be available for sale ($4 each) at our upcoming meeting.

The February meeting program by Bruce Budinger (AB3BB) was very interesting and gave us an insight into some new antenna technology that is just showing its head above the horizon. The April club meeting will have a presentation concerning the use of the Computer Sound Card Interface by Dave Damon (K4DND). This month, March Club meeting, will feature Gordon Winn (WW4GW) offering us a "History of Radio."

Reach out and grab a friend - fellow ham or someone you can interest in ham radio - and twist their arm ever so slightly to encourage them to attend the meeting with you.

Club Business

Submitted by: Alan Swinger K9MBQ, Secretary

AARC Board Minutes – February 10, 2009

Dave Damon opened the meeting with the purpose to discuss motions for funding for the BoD and for the February general meeting, and to agree on other required actions. The

BoD was held at the NROA building on Tuesday, 10 February 2009.

BoD members present: Dave - K4DND (Pres), Jim – K4JEC (VP), Alan – K9MBQ (Secy), Don – K4UVA (Treasurer), Dennis – K4THE (Dir), Patsy - K4PMC(Dir), and Greg – N4PGS (Dir).

Key discussion items were as follows:

➢ The treasurer's report presented by Don indicates that the club is solvent with a current balance of $5365.29 in the bank, including $459 in the Repeater fund. Frost Fest netted $685.

➢ Jim (K4JEC) noted that the **VA House and Senate Bills that could restrict Ham Radio mobile operations have been tabled and are essentially dead in the current session**. He also proposed purchasing membership cards which the BoD approved and will make available to AARC members. He also recommended and The BoD approved purchase of 50 AARC brochures to have on hand, which was subsequently increased to 100. Also recommended and approved was the purchase of 100 Club Patches with the logo used in the brochures for $2 ea and will make available to members for $4 – this delta will help offset the cost of brochures in an attempt to make these actions "revenue-neutral".

➢ Dave (K4DND) mentioned the following:
- o Jeffrey (N4LFJ) stepped down as a Director and Patsy (K4PMC) has agreed to serve – welcome to Patsy.
- o Jeffrey has submitted new Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to local TV and Radio stations; needs reimbursement of $14.18 which the BoD approved. He also discussed an interview session with Rob Schilling, WINA mid-day talk show host, who is interested in a 30 min spot. The BoD will work with Jeffrey to support this opportunity.
- o The newly approved Estate Committee has been constituted as follows:
  - ▪ Director – Linda (KI5LLB)
  - ▪ Don – K4UVA (Treasurer)
  - ▪ Members: Carter Elliott (WD4AYS), Matthew Brill (KR4 BG), Marty Mait (AG4DN).

Committee Reports:

➢ **Activities** – Vacant; need a Chairperson!
➢ **VE Session** – 28 Feb 0900 @NRAO; contact Gordon (WW4GW); note that Bruce (AB3BB) will take over from Gordon after this session.
➢ Bill (AD6JV) – Asked for continued support of the VA Piedmont Regional Science Fair with $ and judges. The BoD approved 2 $100 awards, and a 5 pack of License Manuals. Dennis (K4THE) will assist as judges, but others are needed – contact Bill.
➢ **Jefferson Cup Bike Races – Sunday, March 29**

➢ **VA QSO Party – 23 March**; individuals can operate and give credit to AARC. See www.qsl.net/sterling
➢ Scouting event at Montpelier 17-19 Apr. AARC will participate – more to follow.
➢ Education –No report
➢ Fund Raising – Linda absent – no report
➢ Technical – Greg (N4PGS) – looking for new repeater sites
➢ Publications – See PSA info above.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Alan Swinger – K9MBQ, Secretary

Regular Meeting – February 10, 2009

The February 2009 AARC monthly meeting was convened at 7:30 PM by Dave Damon (K4DND), club President, at the NRAO building in Charlottesville, VA. All members' present made brief introductions, and two life members were present – Harry (W2HD), and Joe (W2PVY).

The General meeting commenced with Dave K4DND addressing the following:

➢ The minutes of the December 2008 meeting were approved as they appear in the January 2009 issue of the Beacon without discussion or change.
➢ Don (K4UVA) presented the club Treasurer's report indicating a current balance on hand of $5365.29. This includes $459 in the Repeater fund. Frost Fest netted $685.
➢ Dave (K4DND) presented certificates for service to the club to members who were not able to attend the January annual club dinner. Premier among this recognition is the **AARC "Ham of the Year"**. Jim (K4JEC) read and presented **this award to Gordon (WW4GW) for all of his selfless efforts and long hours of personal time to make our repeater system as good as it is today**. **Thanks to Gordon!!**
➢ Jim (K4JEC) noted that the VA House and Senate Bills that could restrict Ham Radio mobile operations have been tabled and are essentially dead in the current session. Thanks to all members who contacted State representatives. That said, Gordon (WW4GW) cautioned all about the need for strict attention to driving while operating Ham Equipment, and sited a personal example of dangerous driving related to a shift in focus due to operations. SAFE DRIVING is the primary focus during mobile ops!! A note to this effect will be submitted by Gordon for the Beacon.
➢ He also proposed purchasing membership cards which the BoD approved and will make available to AARC members. He also recommended and the BoD approve purchase of 50 AARC brochures to have on hand, which was subsequently increased to 100. Also recommended and approved was the purchase of 100 Club Patches with the logo used in the brochures for $2 ea and will make available to

3

members for $4 – this delta will help offset the cost of brochures in an attempt to make these actions "revenue-neutral".

➢ Dave (K4DND) mentioned the following:
- o Jeffrey (N4LFJ) stepped down as a Director and Patsy (K4PMC) has agreed to serve – welcome to Patsy.
- o Jeffrey has submitted new Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to local TV and Radio stations; needs reimbursement of $14.18 which the BoD approved. He also discussed an interview session with Rob Schilling, WINA mid-day talk show host, who is interested in a 30 min spot. The BoD will work with Jeffrey to support this opportunity.
- o The newly approved Estate Committee has been constituted as follows:
  - ▪ Director – Linda (KI5LLB)
  - ▪ Don – K4UVA (Treasurer)
  - ▪ Members: Carter Elliott (WD4AYS), Matthew Brill (KR4 BG), Marty Mait (AG4DN).

Committee Reports:

➢ **Activities** – Vacant; need a Chairperson!
➢ **VE Session** – **28 Feb 0900 @NRAO**; contact Gordon (WW4GW); note that Bruce (AB3BB) will take over from Gordon after this session.
➢ Bill (AD6JV) – Asked for continued support of the VA Piedmont Regional Science Fair with $ and judges. The BoD approved 2 $100 awards, and a 5 pack of License Manuals. Dennis (K4THE) will assist as a judge, but others are needed – contact Bill.
➢ **Jefferson Cup Bike Races – Sunday, March 29**
➢ **VA QSO Party – 23 March**; individuals can operate and give credit to AARC. See www.qsl.net/sterling
➢ Scouting event at Montpelier – 17-19 Apr. AARC will participate. Dave will contact N7DC and WR4I to get details. Wes Epperly K4WLE and Jim Wilson K4BAV volunteered to lead this effort.
➢ **Field Day (June)** – Bill Pond (N0WP) has offered to Chair the committee which will be calling for volunteers soon. AARC will run field day ops at the Earlysville Fire house.
➢ **Education** –No report
➢ **Fund Raising** – Linda absent – no report
➢ **Technical** – Greg (N4PGS) – looking for new repeater sites; ideas welcome.
➢ **Publications** – See PSA info above.

New Business

➢ Vic Vickery N3DFS noted that the wife of Jerry Bortner KE4NHP has requested assistance from our Estate Committee in disposition of the station equipment.

➢ Harry (W2HD) suggested that AARC donate to the Amateur Radio Newsline as it has in the past. A motion was made and approved to donate $50.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Two special presentations followed the meeting:
- • **Sam (KJ4JEF) and Jared (KJ4JEE) talked about their Albemarle HS science project in which they constructed a data package for monitoring Navigation and weather data from a balloon** that they launched. It was a great effort that will be retried in the near future.
- • **Bruce ((AB3BB) made a presentation on an electrically steered antenna system** he has designed and plans to build.

Thanks to the presenters for sharing what they have learned.

Alan Swinger – K9MBQ, Secretary

ARRL Issues Policy Statement

Tnx Jim, K4JEC

On January 30, at the instruction of the Board of Directors at its January 2009 meeting, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted a policy statement on mobile Amateur Radio operations. The statement addresses the growing number of proposed state and local laws and ordinances regulating the use of cellular telephone and text messaging, inadvertently affecting Amateur Radio mobile communications.

In its statement, the Executive Committee urges state and municipal legislators to limit the scope of their proposals, limiting them to devices such as full duplex wireless telephones and related hand-held or portable equipment. Alternately, it suggests that licensed Amateur Radio operation be listed specifically as an exclusion to the proposed regulations.

The ARRL Policy Statement also recognizes the responsibility of the amateur community to conduct its activities in a manner that does not create unsafe operation of their motor vehicle.

QCWA Chapter 155 Dinner

Photos Tnx to Phil W4DGN

The Blue Ridge Chapter 155 of QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association) met for dinner Sunday evening February 15 at the Blue Ridge Café in Ruckersville.

The **only requirement for membership is that you have been a licensed amateur for at least twenty-five (25) years**. We are trying to have an active and vibrant chapter; try to meet for dinner about 3 times a year and plan

other activities as desired. **Interested in joining us?** If so, please call or email me!!

In attendance were Bob, W4RQ; Bob, K4DU and XYL Virginia; Jim, K4CGY and XYL; Ernie, W2EIU and Mella, W2HTJ; Harry, W2HD and XYL Kay, Stan, K2SSB and XYL and Phil, W4DGN and XYL.

Here is just a sample of photos to give you a flavor of the proceedings.......

Enjoying great food with a colorful background of the Blue Ridge (you were expecting something different at the Blue Ridge Café???)

The view from the other end of the table...

Many interesting discussions ensued...

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

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

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.

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.

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 or (703) 577-3788.

A Book Review…

Jim Crosby, K4JEC

I have just finished reading **the Fourth Edition of ARRL's Emergency Communications Handbook** and sincerely recommend it to all – it's great!

Generally speaking, our repeaters are under-used, however, the usage goes up fast during certain times of public service activities, weather emergencies and civil emergencies. During those periods of high usage it becomes very important to use our very best *Basic Communication Skills* that slip away from us after long periods of rag chewing. That title comes from Chapter 5 of *The ARRL Emergency Communication Handbook.*

Some excerpts from the publication that are worth reviewing and they might even tease you to read it:
1. **Listening is at least 50% of communication**. A wise person once said, "A person has two ears and one mouth, therefore one should listen twice as much as one talks."
2. Hold your mike about 2 inches from your mouth and speak across it rather than directly into it.
3. When using a repeater, **allow a little extra time after pushing the transmit button before you speak**. All too often, we only hear the last two characters of your call sign and if you really want us to know who you are, don't slur or truncate your characters beyond recognition.

4. Remember that most of us are monitoring many repeaters and simplex frequencies and don't know which one you are issuing the call on. It is wise to announce the frequency you are calling on such as: "K4JEC on 760."
5. ARRL and others state "do not use CW Pro-signs on voice transmissions. Use plain language. For example: "Best Regards" instead of "73."
6. Every amateur radio operator should have a good command of the **International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Phonetic Alphabet and use it instead of cuties** derived from our own imagination.
7. Every amateur radio operator should have a good command of the **Procedural Words** used in general voice communications such as: Clear, Over, Out, Stand by and Roger. There is an old saying that drives this home, "You can be over and you can be out, but you can never be both over and out because to be over you are not out and to be out means you will no longer be listening." The word "out" in contemporary slang means, "I'm outta here!"
8. The last thing you should transmit should be your call sign. Example: ". . . . . . over K4JEC.
9. When you transmit a signal, like "kerchunking" the repeater, you should always just say, "K4JEC." You don't have to follow that with "listening" or "monitoring" – it is understood until you say "OUT."
10. **Don't think out loud on the air.** "Ahhh, let me see." Do that before you punch the mike button. "Silence is golden" – much better and allows someone else to join or break into the exchange, or more importantly permit an emergency use of the repeater. It is a good idea to let the repeater drop out before you respond so each transmission starts the timer over again.

Logging Programs

Tnx Alan, K9MBQ – from ARRL LOTW user group

First off, logging programs are taken personally. **Each and every program has its issues and for you only to decide what you like and what you want out of a program.**

DXLab Suite is a free Windows logging program a screen Hog. If you are interested in working band modes this program cannot do it for you countries. On the other had Issues are resolved.

Logic8 Windows logging program looks like it has possibilities but was not for me. I almost bought it.

DXBase Windows logging program has a couple of built in unnecessary redundancies. They have not come up with a new updated program since 2007. They call the program

2008 but it is a 2007 program. The program has too many things to click on to in order to get to where you want to go.

DX4Win Windows logging program is **most widely used**. Issues are resolved.

McloggerDX is a Mac OS X program. People seem to like it. Does not cover Awards very well. Does not cover DXCC Challenge which in my opinion the program is not worth the money.

JLog is a Mac OS XX program I was not happy with. Response to issues was slow. Program was limited for my use.

RumLog is a free Mac OS XX program. Is a sturdy program. If there is a problem it gets resolved fast.

Logger32 is a free Windows logging program. I had no problems with it. If there is a problem it gets resolved.

As a side note the following packet radio programs will enhance your telnet program that your logging program will not cover.

VE7CC is a Windows packet software is a good enhancement to you packet experience most of the bugs if not all of them have been worked out.

Spot is a Mac OS XX packet software is a good enhancement to your packet experience. This is the same as VE7CC.

There are emulators that are available Like VMware Fusion and Linux system with Virtualbox that you can run some of the windows programs on but not sure which ones will run on it.

DXPedition QSL Costs

Tnx Alan, K9MBQ

The good indicator of DXpedition costs is the number of $$$ per QSO.

1. Small scale expeditions are typically less than 1$/QSO made

2. Typical Pacific expedition is <$1 150K/100K QSOs <$2

3. Expensive   <$2   cost   < infinity.

Expensive DXpeditions are either well planned but require special equipment, transportation, and work in extreme. WX conditions, or are simply poorly planned, and yield small number of QSOs.

One of the major tasks of QSL manager is to maximize additional coverage of expenses (tax sheltered). Adding contributions to DXpedition is left to individuals, who in turn have problem with large number of those who expect some contribution. Problem is similar to charities.

On the other hand **electronic QSL systems should open up to other awards programs**, not to its own. It does not necessarily mean they have to PROCESS credits for other awards programs.

In my opinion this is already happening with recent eQSL acceptance for other awards, in addition to its own. Issuing certified GCR lists for specific awards, based on matched records, would be another possibility.

Electronic QSLs should coexist with paper QSL's since there are a lot of HAMs who still like paper cards. Printing paper cards with clear indication that it was based on match record is another example.

Regarding QSL Bureau problem, it will escalate when QSL bureaus WW start going bankrupt and turn into Rx only. IARU member organizations are trying to contain expenses by reducing the frequency of sending, in larger boxes.

 The real saving on QSL Bureau will happen if the QSL cards are printed from electronic media matched records, in the country of recipient, and locally distributed to those who still want paper cards. This model is different from the current model where all paper cards are sent from one country, exposed to high postal expenses for sending overseas.

73 Nenad VE3EXY ...

ARRL Propagation de K7RA

ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP009

Excitement mounted a few days ago when new Cycle-24 sunspot 101 emerged, but two days later it was fading away, similar to other recent sunspot appearances. The sunspot number for February 24-26 was 12, 14 and 12. Today's number will likely be 0.

In a few weeks is the Vernal Equinox -- the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere -- on March 20, 2009 at 1144z. Areas north and south of the equator will be bathed in an equal amount of Sun, and this is always a good time for HF propagation.

Using one of the popular propagation programs to predict a path from California to Australia using an average sunspot number of 12, on 15 meters on January 20, there was a good chance of an opening from 2130-0100z, with an excellent chance within that period, at 2330-0030z. On March 20 using the same numbers, the chances of propagation look excellent from 2200-0230z, with the band perhaps opening at 2130z and shutting down at 0330z. This gives us an illustration of propagation changing with the season.

Another example would be Dallas to Brazil. On January 20 on 20 meters the band would probably be open from 1800-2300z, with signals gradually increasing about 12 dB over

that period. On March 20 a likely 20 meter opening would be from 1830-0230z, with signals increasing 16 dB over that period, and rising faster as well.

Geomagnetic activity has been very quiet for a long time now, and this is expected to continue. NOAA and the U.S. Air Force predict a planetary A index of 5 over the next two weeks, with minor exceptions. On March 3 the A index may rise to 8. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions February 28 through March 2, quiet to unsettled March 3-4, then back to quiet on March 5.

The predicted quiet conditions should be good for the CQ 160-Meter SSB DX Contest this weekend.

Mike Schaffer, KA4JAW lives in West Central Florida, and enjoys observing sporadic-E propagation on broadcast television. His local Channel 2 station, WEDU, ceased analog transmissions recently, eliminating co-channel interference with Channel 3. On Sunday, February 22 just after 2300z Mike noticed a wrestling match on Channel 3, and shortly after a logo appeared for TGV, a broadcaster in Guatemala City (see http://www.canal3.com.gt/). The station is over 1,000 miles away.

Joaquin Montoya, EA2CCG in Spain reported good conditions over the past few days during the brief sunspot appearance. On February 25, 2100-2130z he worked a number of states in the Western United States including one in Montana while he was mobile on 20 meters. He could hear K5D, and earlier that day he worked K5D on 17 meters and 6V7P in Senegal as well.

An Alaskan newspaper this week ran a story about subdued aurora due to low solar activity. See it at, http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/interior/story/700194.html and note their confusing comment about the Sun having an 11 year positive cycle following an 11 year negative cycle. Perhaps they refer to the switch in magnetic polarity in individual sunspots.

 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 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/.

Sunspot numbers for February 19 through 25 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 12, and 14 with a mean of 3.7. 10.7 cm flux was 68.9, 69.2, 70.6, 70.3, 70.8, 71, and 70.7 with a mean of 70.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 1, 3, 3, 3, 5, 6 and 3 with a mean of 3.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 3, 2, 3, 3, 6 and 2 with a mean of 2.7.

Speaking of Propagation ...

Tnx Alan. K9MBQ

In the new March 2009 issue of *CQ Magazine*, on page 102, is a very interesting article on Grayline propagation. This occurs at sunrise and sunset times at both your local QTH and the other station's QTH. Definitely worth a read...

[Ed. Note: This actually works ... I have tried using it in the past and was amazed at the results!!]

Bud Maine, WB4FZV - SK

Tnx Ron, K4RKA

Bud Maine, WB4FZV, passed away on February 9, 2009.

Bud worked at Sperry and was somewhat active in the Albemarle Amateur Radio club and on VHF, mostly in the 1970's. His later activities revolved primarily around the Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire Department of which he was a founding member.

His interest in ham radio reappeared periodically because of his interest n hiking, camping, and canoeing where communications could be vital and I remember at least one time when he use the Charlottesville repeater to get assistance to a hiker who had been injured. Some years before I knew him, he used to go off road motorcycle trail riding with a couple of other local guys. Bud had a Honda Trail 90 and the other guys had more powerful machines like Bultaco 250s. But Bud had stove bolts bolted through his rear tire sorta like an ice racer. He used to joke that the other guys could get to the bottom of the hill first, but he could get to the top first.

Bud also sponsored (provided a location and electricity for) the first real 450 MHz repeater with remote base in Charlottesville from his home on Chapel Hill just off Rio Road. The Carter mountain repeater used 450 primarily for control of the 2 meter repeater & some of us wanted something easier to get to in order to play around with a remote base.

Bud designed a Sterba curtain antenna for the 450 repeater and he, Biff Franks, Ron Richey, & probably Barry Girshenfeld build the 450 repeater and controls and installed a 6 meter remote base in Bud's attic. Since everything including the antennas were literally "under roof", the coverage wasn't great but we could work from north of Charlottesville into the University area although we did work several stations on 6 meters during band openings. My favorite story about Bud concerned a three way conversation

which he had with WA4ZVF and another station with a call something like WB4CVZ.   By the time they had said WA4ZVF, WB4FZV & WB4CVZ several times they were all so confused that no one was saying their call right and I remember Bud saying, after mangling his own callsign, "BUD CLEAR"...

We will miss his smiling face and ironic sense of humor...

73, Ron

AARC Membership List 2009

Tnx Dave, K4DND

This is the current list as of Feb. 28, 2009. Anybody missing? If so, let us know!!

AGT	KF4AGT	Alfred N. Bogden
AOE	K2AOE	Ken Kellermann
AQD	KE4AQD	Robert H. Nelson
AYS	WD4AYS	E. Carter Elliott
AZN	KG4AZN	Chris Wyatt
BAV	K4BAV	James L. Wilson
BB	AB3BB	Bruce Budinger
BG	KR4BG	Matthew C Brill
BZW	W4BZW	Richard A. Mullikin
CGY	K4CGY	James Owen
CK	W2CK	Allen B. Graves
CSX	PA3CSX	Bart Van Gorp
CUE	KF6CUE	Casimir W. Grys
D	AA4D	George Grotz
DFS	N3DFS	Vic Vickery
DGN	W4DGN	Philip Lawrence
DJT	KI4DJT	John Turchi
DLA	KI4DLA	Jerome A. Ix, Jr
DN	AG4DN	Martin Mait
DND	K4DND	Dave Damon
DU	K4DU	Bob Pattison
DX	W3DX	Robert S. Capon
DXX	W3DXX	Howard J. Capon
EBL	K4EBL	Richard S. Hildebrand
EI	W4EI	Roger L. Barron
EPK	KB4EPK	Lawrence E. Eicher

EYO	KJ4EYO	John C. Gallant
FOM	KG4FOM	L. Dayton Haugh
FZE	K4FZE	William L. Steo
GCQ	KG6GCQ	Debra L. Grys
GW	WW4GW	Gordon Winn
HAK	W4HAK	Henry A. Konat
HC	K8HC	Harold J. Crostwaithe
HD	W2HD	Harry J. Dannals
HDE	KJ4HDE	Kenneth R. Elias
HKJ	KJ4HKJ	Christopher Green
HRO	N4HRO	Michael T. Colburn
HWG	KI4HWG	Jerry Clark
I	WR4I	Dennis F. Terribile
IB	K4IB	William Arnold III
ISW	K4ISW	Leroy D. Moyer
IVV	N7IVV	Bradley P. Risk
JEC	K4JEC	Jim Crosby
JEE	KJ4JEE	Jaredd Deane
JEF	KJ4JEF	Samuel Barry
JJD	KA4JJD	Michael Rein
JMY	K4JMY	James E. Walker
JNI	KB4JNI	Bud Beazell
JSI	KB3JSI	Cherie Budinger
JV	AD6JV	Bill Phillips
KDR	W3KDR	Rick Oliver
KWY	WD4KWY	Douglas Webbink
LFJ	N4LFJ	Jeffrey Seay
LLB	KI5LLB	Linda Beard
LT	WD4LT	Skip Thacker
MBQ	K9MBQ	Alan Swinger
MBW	W4MBW	Martin Wangberg
N	AG4N	Ed Hineline, Jr
NTM	KI4NTM	Andre Berkin
NW	KS4NW	Chuck Gross
OZ	KM4OZ	Colin Ramirez
PBJ	W2PBJ	Brian T. Fovel
PGS	N4PGS	Greg Faust

PMC	K4PMC	Patsy Crosby
PRT	W4PRT	Pete Thorsen, Jr
PVY	W2PVY	Joseph Giovanelli
R	NM4R	Morris Jones
RBM	W4RBM	Robert B. Miller
RHM	PA7RHM	Chris Van Gorp
RKA	K4RKA	Ronald Richey
RL	W6RL	I. Roy Lane, Jr.
RM	KB4RM	Rose-Marie Battig
RQ	W4RQ	Daniel R. Dorsey, Jr.
RWX	KD4RWX	Joseph D. Fritz
SSB	K2SSB	Stanley Hazen
THE	K4THE	Dennis Mennerich
TY	K4TY	Charles Battig
UCI	KF4UCI	Elmer Scott
UTD	KF4UTD	Ed Deasy
UVA	N4UVA	Donald Eason, Jr
UZ	W6UZ	John Gray
WJG	KG4WJG	Randal H Garrett
WLE	K4WLE	Wesley L. Epperly
WP	N0WP	William D. Pond
XZ	KJ4XZ	Will Seay
YDW	N2YDW	Alfred Shapiro
YM	AD4YM	James Condon
YTS	KI4YTS	Ted Reuter
ZWD	KG4ZWD	John Oliver
ZWE	KG4ZWE	Andrea Oliver
ZWG	KB7ZWG	Bonnie L. Colburn
ZWM	KG4ZWM	Stephen Dobmeier
		Jonathon Scott

Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

ARRL-Sponsored Contests

March 7-8	ARRL DX Contest - SSB

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

Other Contests of Interest

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

For Sale Items

For Sale	

AARC Club Officers

President	Dave Damon	K4DND	k4dnd@arrl.net (434) 973-5866
Vice President	Jim Crosby	K4JEC	jecrosby@comcast.net (434) 987-2006
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	Greg Faust	N4PGS	n4pgs@arrl.net (434) 978-1962
Director	Vacant		
Director	Patsy Crosby	K4PMC	patsycrosby@comcast.net (434) 989-2362

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/

THE AARC BEACON
Vol 2009   No. 3
March 2009

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 :	March 10 – 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: Each Thursday at 8:00 PM

All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater

AREA REPEATERS

Frequency	Tone	Call
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

Frequency	Tone	Call
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 Tone	**KG4HOT**

AARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
March 10	Regular Club Meeting
April 14	Regular Club Meeting
May 12	Regular Club Meeting
June 9	Regular Club Meeting

AARC – PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
March 29	Jefferson Cup Bike Race

Membership application available in PDF format at http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf