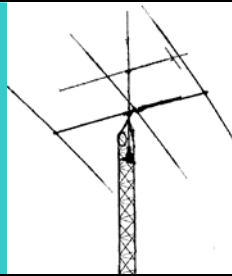


# The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2009, No. 5



May 2009

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## Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **May 12 at 7:30 PM** at the NRAO Building on the UVA Grounds. The program will be a presentation by Joe -W2PVY of an audio amplifier he constructed and a slide show of the AARC's participation in the Stonewall Jackson Council of the Boy Scouts of America's Spring Camporee at Montpelier.

## The President's Letter

*Dave, K4DND*

Hello everyone --- and I hope you are managing to get on the bands even though the solar cycle is really in the pits. A couple of weeks ago at the BSA Camporee, we had a solar telescope, and another interesting device used for viewing the solar image set up next to our W4DO station. It didn't matter which one you used, there wasn't a single blemish on the surface of the sun. Nevertheless, we were able to maintain contact through the day with the other Camporee on Long Island, NY. What a fun time! We got somewhere between 50-60 scouts on the air, many of whom talked with other scouts at the Long Island event.



**The AARC tent at the BSA Camporee at Montpelier**

Many thanks to the following for helping out with the Camporee: Alan K9MBQ, Wes K4WLE, Jim K4JEC, Patsy

K4PMC, Bruce AB3BB, Kenneth KJ4KIH, Ken KJ4HDE, Don N4UVA, Chuck KS4NW and Steve N4PKJ. Steve is a scout leader from the Staunton area and helped with our station operation. It was great to work with him and I hope we get the chance to do so again sometime in the future. We had lots of contact with the public, including not only scouts, but scout leaders, and parents. We were all surprised at how many other hams we met. Our public service event schedule is the frontline in exposing the general public to the Amateur Radio Service, and your support of this schedule is greatly appreciated.

Maps are not yet available for the MS-150 event. I will let you know as soon as they are on-line. This year, the tour will be starting and ending at Miller School, I suspect the change may be due to the ongoing construction at St. Anne's Belfield. Along with the new Start/Finish, are new routes, with new rest stops, so it will be interesting to see what is planned. I do know that Saturday the cycling activity will be as far north as Dyke, and on Sunday as far south as Keene. Both days we should have adequate coverage by the AARC repeater system, and plan to make use of APRS. Mike K14RIX has offered to organize the APRS aspects of our response, so thanks Mike.

**For both these Tours, we need sufficient participation to provide fixed stations at each of the rest stops and an adequate number of mobile stations providing assistance on the routes until the last rider has finished the day.**

As opposed to the Jefferson Cup Bike Race where all of our attention is on the main group of riders competing in the race, on a bike tour, most of our attention and efforts are on those further back on the course, those who may end up struggling to the next rest station. Depending on the weather, many of these riders at the tail end of the day, need to be carried forward to the next rest stop or even to the finish, so the ability to carry a couple of bikes and riders is essential for mobile operation.



**Alan K9MBQ doing demos of ham radio to several interested Scouts!!**



**Here – you can talk to the fellow on the other end!!**

**Upcoming events** in which I encourage you to participate include the **Tour de Greene, a one day bike tour in Greene County on May 23, and the MS-150 Tour de Vine, the two day bike tour covering Albemarle and parts of several adjacent counties on June 13-14.**

This year will be the second Tour de Greene and those of us who participated last year had a lot of fun with the event. It is organized by the Springhill Baptist Church and is comprised of 21, 42 and 60 mile rides. All proceeds from the event are donated to Habitat for Humanity of Greene. Further information and ride maps can be downloaded from the SHBC website at: <http://www.springhillbaptist.org/>.

I've had a lot of fun helping put up antennas in the past couple of weeks. The antenna we used at the BSA Camporee was a G5RV owned by John KJ4EYO. We were able to get it up about 60 ft between two tall trees on the Montpelier infield. I was able to help AI N2YDW get a low profile Windom from Radio Works close to 80 ft above his house and that antenna is playing great. AI should have a lot of fun with it. The G5RV we used at the Camporee was just put up at John's house and you should now look for KJ4EYO on the HF bands. We weren't able to get it up very high, and had to drop one end of the antenna about 6 ft to fit the space available, but I have worked John on 3.947MHz and he had a great signal from his TS-570. By the way, John was a great help in getting his antenna strung up, although we did need to bother Dianne a couple of times. John wasn't much help in trying to see a 3/4 oz lead weight dangling in the brush and I wasn't too much help with that

either, so needing some good visual acuity, Dianne was recruited. We are increasing our pool of experienced wire antenna installers, so if you would like some help, please let me know. The next scheduled installation should be for Don, N4UVA and if you would like to assist, please let Don or me know.

On another topic, I was very interested in the picture on **page 67 of the latest QST showing Richard Garriott W5KWQ on the ISS**. The caption reads "W5KWQ gets weighed in space. In space, you can't just step on the scales". Here's a question for all you technically-inclined members, how do you weigh something in zero gravity? I have an idea, but would like further input. Maybe we will have an answer for you in the next issue of the Beacon.

Until then ---

*73 de K4DND*

## Veep Peeps

*Jim, K4JEC*

The AARC April meeting brought out a fair group of members to hear Dave, K4DND's presentation on Digital Modes which was well received and stimulated many good questions. **The May meeting will feature a presentation by Joe -W2PVY of an audio amplifier he constructed and a slide show of the AARC's participation in the Stonewall Jackson Council of the Boy Scouts of America's Spring Camporee at Montpelier.** I need your input of ideas for informative and interesting presentations, so help me out.

All Club ID Badges that have been produced to date will be available at the meeting for pickup. I will also take pictures of anyone wanting a club ID badge during the meeting. Club patches will also be available at the meeting for \$4 each. The patches will be available at all club meetings until the present stock is depleted.

The club distributed a lot of literature on ham radio at the camporee and maintains a working stock of literature for any special event of which any member of the club may become aware. We have clear plastic display racks in two different sizes to accommodate the available brochures. The literature provided by ARRL is outstanding at explaining ham radio and all of its aspects and coupled with our own club brochure makes a great introduction to ham radio and what it means to our community.

Spring is here and that's a good time to get some of our outdoor antenna work done. If you need something special done on your antennas and are not able to accomplish it yourself, please contact an able-bodied fellow club member for assistance. It's the sharing of knowledge and physical assistance that makes for a strong club of good fellowship. It's amazing to me what a knowledge and talent pool we have among our membership.

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 -- the more we have present, the better the fellowship!

## Club Business

*Submitted by: Alan Swinger K9MBQ, Secretary*

### AARC Board Minutes – April 14, 2009

Jim Crosby (VP) opened the meeting with the purpose to agree on required actions and to agree on the General Meeting agenda. The BoD was held at the NRAO building. BoD members present: Dave - K4DND (Pres), Jim – K4JEC (VP), Alan – K9MBQ (Sec'y), Dennis – K4THE (Dir), Patsy - K4PMC (Dir), Linda – K15LLB (Dir), and Greg – N4PGS (Dir).

**Key discussion items** were as follows:

- The treasurer's report forwarded by Don (N4UVA) indicates that the club is solvent with a current balance of \$5470 in the bank. The BoD approved the expenditure of \$55 to reimburse K4JEC for expenses incurred in getting the By-Law changes to the SCC.
- Jim (K4JEC) noted that membership cards were on hand and will be available to members at the General.
- Dave (K4DND) mentioned the following:
  - The AARC has submitted amended By-Laws as required to obtain 501c3 status and is awaiting IRS determination and approval.
  - All BoD members will review the By-Laws and suggest changes/updates as needed by the May meeting. Some of our procedures and processes appear to be out of date (e.g. Election process, and filling an unexpected BoD or Officer vacancy).
  - Still awaiting info on Club name badges from the vendor.
  - Need to revisit/review the Inventory of club equipment.

### Committee Reports:

**Activities** – Vacant; Dave announced the following:

- **Montpelier BSA Camporee 17-19 Apr.** AARC will participate with a station and help with the Scout Radio Merit Badge on 18 Apr – more to follow.
- Tour de Greene – 23 May.

**Education** – Dennis: completed a major update of the Education section posted on the AARC web site.

**Fund Raising** – Linda: Brought example T-shirts with club insignia and will post an Ad in the Beacon.

**Technical** – Greg (N4PGS) – looking for new repeater sites

**Publications** – Patsy: ARRL info package received to support AARC efforts at the Montpelier BSA Camporee.

## May 2009

**Estate** – A list of items was received from an estate for use in a possible auction. The list will be updated with equipment nomenclature for use with the membership.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – Alan (K9MBQ) noted that the ARRL newsletter had recently printed an extensive interview with the ARRL attorney, Mr. Imlay, regarding recent legislation requiring the FCC to develop a Rural Broad Band Plan. The interview comments address in some detail how the FCC has interpreted the legislation to mean Broad Band over Power Lines (BPL), and the likely harmful interference this will cause to the Amateur Radio spectrum. The BoD agreed that the membership should be made aware of this issue.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

*Alan Swinger – K9MBQ, Secretary*

## Regular Meeting – April 14, 2009

The April 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 March 2009 meeting were approved as they appear in the April 2009 issue of the Beacon without discussion or change.
- President's report - Dave presented the following:
  - Club Treasurer's report indicating a current balance on hand of \$5047.10.
  - Membership was up to 104 with more expected.
  - The AARC has submitted amended By-Laws as required to obtain 501c3 status and is awaiting IRS determination and approval.
  - Still awaiting info on Club name badges from the vendor.
  - Need to revisit/review the Inventory of club equipment.

**VP Report:** Jim noted that club ID card have been made and are available at the meeting for pick-up.

## Committee Reports:

**Activities** – Vacant; Dave announced the following:

- **Montpelier BSA Camporee 17-19 Apr.** AARC will participate with a station and help with the Scout Radio Merit Badge on 18 Apr – more to follow.
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**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – Alan (K9MBQ) noted that the ARRL newsletter had recently printed an extensive interview with the ARRL attorney, Mr. Imlay, regarding recent legislation requiring the FCC to develop a Rural Broad Band Plan. The interview comments address in some detail how the FCC has interpreted the legislation to mean Broad Band over Power Lines (BPL), and the likely harmful interference this will cause to the Amateur Radio spectrum.

All members need to be concerned about the impact of BPL and let their/our elected officials know that we (AARC and individuals) will not accept a casual attitude by them in accepting an interference prone system, especially when it has not proven commercially viable (see ARRL articles about the Manassas, VA failure of BPL).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

A special presentation followed the meeting. It was given by **Dave (K4DND) and addressed Digital Modes (e.g. RTTY, PSK, CW, etc). One especially good question asked was – why do these modes? Many can expound on this, but the short answer is that digital modes use very narrow bandwidth (less than CW), need very low power (50W or less on PSK) and provide a very efficient and reliable means for working other stations including DX – on your computer real time.**

See you at the next meeting on Tuesday 12 May!

*Alan Swinger – K9MBQ, Secretary*

## Estate Committee Happenings

*Linda, K15LLB*

**We have several radios and some miscellaneous items that will be for sale soon.** Carter Elliott is looking over the radios and seeing how well they work. I will have a list of them as soon as he is finished checking them out. These items are special in the sense that they belonged to someone that some of us in the club knew. These items are up for sale to help the widow get some of the money she needs to live on. We want to get a good, but fair price for all of these things. We will be pricing them so that she gets the most money possible, but also, so that the buyer gets a good deal. The goal is to be fair to both the seller and the

buyer. I will send out a list of all of these items with ID numbers as soon as I hear from Carter.

Please, **let me know if there is a member of the club that is sick and in need of a card or call.** I will be checking my e-mail as I travel and I can contact anyone I need to contact even while I am away. This is a responsibility I take seriously, but you as a group know more of the member of this club than I as one person can know. I need your help to fulfill this position well. Also, I have started a file for people like myself who haven't any family members to leave my radios to. I have already put it in my will that the AARC will get all of my radios and other equipment. If you have planned to donate your radios, etc. ... to the club or ask the club to help your husband/wife sell your radios and etc. ... please allow me to add you to the file I have started. This would be done so that I can try to make the removal of the radio etc. as easy on your husband/wife as possible. Roland and I have helped several friends as a loved one died and we are very careful to attempt to do whatever we can to make the surviving person as comfortable as possible with what we are doing. It will help them if they know of your plans and that you have given us instruction as to what you want done. Please e-mail me with comments, questions or if you want information. My info is: lindaskyone@embarqmail.com or call 434-823-2107-- my home number or 434-981-6564 -- my cell number. Thank you for any and all responses.

73, Linda KI5LLB

## Fund Raising Committee Info

Linda, KI5LLB

Well Everyone! The long awaited 501c3 is ready for us to use. There have been a lot of promises of donations for sale. I am on my way to Texas for my medical check-ups. I will be home in a little while and will pick up items if you e-mail me with a list of your items and directions for the pickup. I will get all of the items as soon as I can get back. I am looking forward to getting the long promised item and it will be a pleasure to see to it that the people who want or need these items get the things they want.

This is a great way to make sure that ham radio continues on into the next generation. It is costly to buy everything you need to set up a radio station for even one radio. When we pass along no longer used equipment that can give a new ham a great start. The long-timer in the hobby can add to their treasure shack and can have more fun as they experience having yet another band up and running. You can never listen to many bands at one time, you know. Thank you for helping me to help others enjoy ham radio a little bit more. E-mail me at Lindaskyone@embarqmail.com or call me on my cell phone (for now) at 434-981-6564.

## 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.

**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

**Old tube console radios.** Philco 620F (1937) - \$ 50. Zenith 7S682 (1940's) - \$100. Call Carter Elliott, WD4AYS at 434 566 8767 or via email at celliott14@aol.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

# ARRL Propagation de K7RA

*ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP018*

The data at the end of last week's Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP017 reported daily sunspot numbers from April 16-22 were six zeros, then 11, when in fact they were zero on every day until April 21, when it was 11, then zero again the next day, April 22. Just as many zero sunspot days -- and only one day with a sunspot -- but on Tuesday, April 21, and not April 22.

We had two additional days with a sunspot this week, Wednesday and Thursday, April 29-30. The sunspot number was 15 and 12 on those days. But this was another old Cycle 23 sunspot, and it appeared near the western limb, and may have either faded away completely or rotated out of view today, May 1. The data at the bottom of our bulletin shows seven days, Thursday through Wednesday for the reporting week, so the sunspot number of 12 for Thursday will appear in next week's data.

Now that we have all the data for the month of April, it is time to present our running 3-month average of daily sunspot numbers, centered on March.

The last time we presented this was four weeks back, in Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP014 on April 3. We were hoping last fall that the sunspot minimum was centered around August 2008, when we showed the three month average centered on that month with data from July through September at 1.1. The following two averages for September and October were 2.5 and 4.5, but then it began another decline, to 4.4, 3.7, 2.3 and 2.1 for November 2008 through February 2009.

The average daily sunspot number centered on March was just 1.5, so the decline continues. Why so low? From February 1 through April 30 we had very few days with sunspots, in fact only eleven. There was never more than one sunspot visible on each of those eleven days, and the highest sunspot number (an index which does not equal the number of sunspots) was just 15, and that was this last Wednesday. That is not a high sunspot number, but we haven't had one that high since November 13, 2008 when the sunspot number was 16.

The only days with visible sunspots over the past three months were February 11-14 and 24-26, March 6-7, and April 21 and 29-30. That's it. And if you add all those sunspot numbers together on those dates, you get a sum of only 133. Divide 133 by the 89 days over those three months, and you get an approximation of 1.49438, or 1.5 to round it up.

Here are the latest 3-month averages of daily sunspot

numbers:

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
Nov 08	4.4
Dec 08	3.7
Jan 09	2.3
Feb 09	2.1
Mar 09	1.5

So if we examine the 3-month averages since January 2007, we see what we thought was a minimum of 3.0 centered on October 2007, then another decline to 1.1 in August 2008, and now after rising slightly it has dropped again, to 1.5. And of course we have no way of knowing if next month the number will be lower or higher.

If you look at the sunspot numbers for the three days with sunspots in April -- April 21, 29 and 30 -- the numbers 11, 15 and 12 only add up to 38. Divide that by April's 30 days, and the average is about 1.267, less than the 3-month average ending yesterday. So if we saw the same activity (or lack of it, actually) for May, we could see another decline at the beginning of June when we look at the averages centered on April. If by chance we have no sunspots at all through the end of May, that average would decline from approximately 1.494 centered on March to 0.681 centered on April.

Last week's bulletin mentioned the Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Network site at <http://wsprnet.org/drupal/wsprnet/map>. This week we heard from David Witkowski, W6DTW of San Jose, California, who said that WSPR was developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT, the 1993 Nobel Laureate in Physics who brought us WSJT and JT65. David recommends <http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wspr.html> for

getting set up. Also note the link selections on the left side of that page for info on WSJT and JT65.

WSJT is a mode for communicating via brief meteor scatter propagation, and JT65 is useful for moonbounce and troposcatter modes.

Last week's mention of the first signs of early 2009 E-skip season brought a response from Jon Jones, NOJK, who says most of the openings have been short, and best for those in Arizona, Texas, Florida and Central America. At the start of the season, conditions are better for the southern tier, but later E-layer openings improve further north. He sent a log of 6-meter contacts on April 22, from 2158-2206z on 50.125 MHz. NOJK (EM17) worked K9NU (EN44), VA2JOT (FN45ER) worked K14FCQ (EM72NK), and UT1FG/MM worked K1TTTT.

Last night (Thursday, April 30) Rob Geursten, N1KEZ of Beaverton, Oregon worked some unexpected DX on 20 meter PSK31 at 0545z. He copied a Bulgarian special event station, LZ2009KM, working many European Russians, and Rob worked Wolfgang, DL2MWB in Memmingen, Germany. He was surprised to find 20 meters open at this time of day. The sunspot number was 12 -- and 15 the day prior -- but a check with the W6ELprop software shows that with or without sunspots, communication over that path on the first of May is not surprising at that time of day, 10:45 PM at Rob's end. Run the numbers a month ago, and the path isn't there, but for this late in the spring communication becomes more likely.

You can download W6ELprop at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Don't miss an excellent tutorial for using this software, written by K9LA, Carl Luetzelschwab at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/W6elprop.pdf>.

Bob Rumsey, KZ5R of Denton, Texas wrote in comparing current conditions to 45 years ago, during the minimum following Cycle 19.

He writes, "I would like to add a different perspective to the current solar minimum. Licensed originally at age 14 in 1962, I worked the HF bands diligently until I left for college in 1966. Unless I am mistaken, this was also a period of very low sunspot activity (there was little understanding of it then) and as a General class on 50 watts of AM and using a 40 meter dipole and 2 element triband Yagi, I worked little to no DX. I remember an opening during a contest in 1965 when I worked G3CAZ and thought I had walked on the moon."

He continues, "From 1966 to 2006 I kept my license active but other than a stint with VHF in the 70s did little hamming. Then after retiring early and starting my own business, I once again had some time and felt the tug of the

HF bands. I built up my station and was amazed at what the technology can now accomplish. Working either coast of the US is a day to day occurrence and Europe or Asia is quite frequent. So you can imagine my surprise when I began reading how we were once again in a solar activity downturn while I'm thinking, 'Wow this is great.' From November of 2006 when I put up my vertical disguised as flagpole, I have worked 106 countries running from 100-1000 watts. To me this is heaven and of course in 2006 conditions to me where what I remembered as normal. The vertical is my primary antenna since I live in a restrictive CC&R community."

He ends with, "So as you might have guessed, because of the current technology, I am actually quite happy with the current conditions and cannot wait to see what true solar activity will bring. The proverbial 'kid in a candy store' comes to mind. Thanks for letting me provide an alternative viewpoint on today's conditions."

Thanks Bob. Readers can check out Bob's bio on, <http://www.qrz.com/kz5r>.

I started in ham radio a few years after Bob -- in 1965 -- and one big difference is that back then I had a very poor receiver and most of my attempts at antennas didn't work very well. To look at the sunspot minimum back then, use the tool at, <http://spaceweather.com/glossary/sunspotplotter.htm>. This shows that the minimum between Cycles 19-20 was probably around the middle of July, 1964.

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 April 23 through 29 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 15 with a mean of 2.1. 10.7 cm flux was 70.6, 69.7, 69.4, 69.2, 67.7, 68.8, and 69.5 with a mean of 69.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 5, 4, 5, 4, 2 and 3 with a mean of 3.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 5, 2, 3, 3, 2 and 3 with a mean of 2.6.

## AARC at Science Fair

AARC again participated in and sponsored awards for students entering projects at the Piedmont Regional Science Fair held in March in Charlottesville.



**Dennis K4THE stops to talk to one of the students with a very interesting entry!!**

We hope to more info on and photos of the winners for you next month!!

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

May	<b>None</b>
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Complete info, rules and log forms for these events can be found online at the ARRL Contest Calendar webpage.

### Other Contests of Interest

May 16-17	<b>Baltic Contest</b>
May 30-31	<b>CQ WW WPX Contest - 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



**Our new AARC club logo designed by Jim K4JEC**



## AARC Public Service Schedule

May 23	Tour de Greene
June 13 – 14	MS 150 Tour de Vine

## Area Hamfests

Date	
Location	

## FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	
Vanity Calls	
None Reported	

## VE Session Schedule - 2009

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	
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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	Jim Crosby	K4JEC	<a href="mailto:jecrosby@comcast.net">jecrosby@comcast.net</a> (434) 987-2006
Secretary	Alan Swinger	K9MBQ	<a href="mailto:awswinger@earthlink.net">awswinger@earthlink.net</a> (434) 975-6237
Treasurer	Don Eason	N4UVA	<a href="mailto:deason@comcast.net">deason@comcast.net</a> (434) 973-9119
Director	Dennis Mennerich	K4THE	<a href="mailto:k4the@arrl.net">k4the@arrl.net</a> (434) 973-5407
Director	Linda Beard	KI5LLB	<a href="mailto:lindaskyone@earthlink.net">lindaskyone@earthlink.net</a> (434) 823-2107
Director	Greg Faust	N4PGS	<a href="mailto:n4pgs@arrl.net">n4pgs@arrl.net</a> (434) 978-1962
Director	Vacant		
Director	Patsy Crosby	K4PMC	<a href="mailto:patsycrosby@comcast.net">patsycrosby@comcast.net</a> (434) 989-2362

## Contest Calendars

<a href="#">ARRL Contest Calendar 2009</a>	ARRL sponsored contests
<a href="#">SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2009</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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 Charlottesville, VA 22906  
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**THE AARC BEACON**  
**Vol 2009 No. 5**  
**May 2009**



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**ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month**

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**Next Club Meeting : May 12 - 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**

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
May 12	Regular Club Meeting
June 9	Regular Club Meeting
Tour de Vine	Regular Club Meeting
August 11	Regular Club Meeting
September 8	Regular Club Meeting
October 13	Regular Club Meeting

**AARC - PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEDULE**

DATE	EVENT
May 23	Tour de Greene
June 13 - 14	MS150

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)