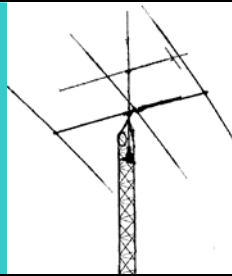


# The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2009, No. 6



June 2009

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## Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **June 9 at 7:30 PM at the NRAO Building on the UVA Grounds.** The June club meeting will be a planning session for Field Day to be staged at the Earlysville Fire Department on **June 27 and 28.** The program will be presented by **Jim K4JEC.** The title is "Ropes and Knots for Hams."

## The President's Letter

*Dave, K4DND*

Greetings to all AARC members and friends. June is here and it will prove a very busy month. The two most important events of the year occur in June, well actually three if you include the **Manassas Hamfest that takes place on Sunday June 14.**

But not taking the hamfest into account, the first important event of June is the **MS-150 Bike Tour de Vine on June 13-14.** This year the event has moved from St Anne's Belfield School to Miller School near Crozet. Already a number of club members have signed up to help out with this event, but more are needed, both as fixed stations for rest stops, as SAG vehicles, and as roving mobile stations to assist as needed.

You may be reluctant to volunteer because you don't know what volunteering for this event entails. Don't worry; we will give you plenty of assistance. In fact we can help with on the job training if needed, so you will make a real contribution to the event. For over 20 years, the Blue Ridge Chapter of the MS Society has been running this Bike Tour, and the AARC has participated from the very beginning. This year the expectation is that the tour will exceed 550 riders, which is a large number of people to keep an eye on during each day. For those who wish that the public was more aware of Amateur Radio, this is an opportunity for you to have a real impact. All riders in the Tour get to see the Amateur Radio Service in action and take home a true appreciation for our capabilities and volunteer time. Much the same happens in a disaster; people really become aware of and able to appreciate our abilities. Just think, you can have this same impact minus the disaster.

Let me try to give you a brief idea of what this event requires from us. If you are a fixed station assigned to a Rest Stop, you will need a mobile radio, just to ensure you have adequate power and a capable antenna. While some RS locations may be able to work the 146.760 or 146.895 repeaters using an HT, we can't guarantee it. Fixed stations assigned to a RS are assigned there to provide communications to and from the net in order to keep the RS personnel in touch with the event organizers and the flow of the Tour. This is a fairly relaxed assignment and you will get to see lots of cyclists as they stop off at your station. It is always interesting to see what comes into each RS. In addition to the volunteers manning the RS, there is usually an EMT as well as a bicycle mechanic, so there are plenty of people to meet and get to know during the slow times. Rest Stops are opened and closed relative to the progress of the riders on the tour, so lower numbers RS on the route are opened earlier and usually closed earlier unless they are going to be used again further along the route.



**Joe W2PVY gives his presentation on low-cost sound systems at the May meeting**

SAG vehicles (let me just tell you up front that no one seems to agree on what the letter "SAG" stand for) are ham vehicles out on the course working between RS locations to assist anyone between RS who may need to be carried forward. That means that a SAG vehicle needs to be able to carry a bike and rider, and the capability to carry more than one at a time is a great help. SAGs usually don't have much business early in the day, but as the ride progresses and people start to tire, especially if it is a hot day, there will be more and more business. In the past, many volunteers who have manned a RS location have been willing to convert to a SAG vehicle later in the day. This is a great help when possible. Being a SAG vehicle means putting on some mileage, but this can be minimized by working between two RS locations with pauses at each. Of course, one of the most important mobile positions is the Sweep. This is a ham vehicle that stays behind the last rider of the Tour. It is important to know who the last rider is and where that rider is, so that when that last rider gets to the next RS, that RS will be able to close as soon as that last rider departs. In the past, we have asked hams manning a RS to become the

Sweep as soon as their RS closes and follow the last rider to the next RS, at which point, the next RS ham will take up Sweep position. This means we always have a Sweep, but no single operator has to do that task longer than one RS interval. This was suggested by N4FWA several years ago, no doubt because Hein always seemed to get stuck with this job.

Finally, we can always use volunteers as Rovers, which means an operator who is out in the field, but otherwise unassigned on the course. This volunteer contributes another pair of eyes, and a radio that can provide information about any problems encountered. If you a motorcycle rider, this is perfect. We can't expect you to carry a bike and rider, but it is a great opportunity for you to get your "scooter" out and put on some miles on back roads while making an important contribution to the Tour. I hope that I have given you an adequate introduction to this most important AARC Public Service event, and that this will inspire you to volunteer. Don't worry if you don't have the entire weekend, one day will help out. Don't worry if you don't have the entire day, a morning or afternoon will help out. We have jobs for everyone, and everyone participating will received PS event credits.

Now, if that weren't enough fun for June, we have to get ready for **Field Day, June 27-28**. We will be discussing our FD activity plans at the AARC meeting June 9 and I hope to see you all there. So far, we know we will be back at the Earllysville FD, I hope operating 2A with the WA4TFZ call sign. It should be a good time providing the WX cooperates and we have at least one sunspot. So put both these events down on your calendar and plan on participating in both. The AARC needs your support for each of these events as well as for all our other activities throughout the year.

*73 de K4DND*

## Veep Peeps

*Jim, K4JEC*

We have finally produced a **"Member Directory" for 2009** after a ten-year absence that will be initially distributed at the June club meeting. I urge you to show up and claim your copy. The directory does not include and cannot include all the information available on our website: <albeamarleradio.org>. Please check the website frequently because it is a tremendous resource. The directory is intended to be a "quick lookup" to promote member communications. I urge you to please respect the privacy of club members and not allow it to be used for any commercial purposes.

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 June club meeting will be a planning session for Field Day to be staged at the Earllysville Fire**

**Department on June 27 and 28** – Saturday and Sunday. The program will be presented by yours truly. The title is “Ropes and Knots for Hams.” It will feature a demonstration and practice tying various basic knots, as well as, how knots weaken ropes and the dangers involved in handling ropes in various situations. Each attendee will get a piece of rope so you can follow along with the practice session and learn, for example, how to hitch up a rope to a gin pole to hoist it up the tower safely and securely, and such. Please . . . no hangman’s noose – just resist the urge! 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 – May 12, 2009

Dave Damon (Pres) 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 on Tuesday, 12 May 2009. BoD members present: Dave - K4DND (Pres), Jim – K4JEC (VP), Alan – K9MBQ (Secy), Dennis – K4THE (Dir), Patsy -K4PMC (Dir), and Don (Treas) – N4UVA.

**Key discussion items** were as follows:

- The treasurer’s report presented by Don (N4UVA) indicates that the club is solvent with a current balance of \$5144.94 in the bank. The BoD approved a motion to be taken to the General Meeting for the expenditure of \$300 as a donation to Matt Shields at Charlottesville HS to support round 2 of the student APRS Balloon project.
- Jim (K4JEC) noted that membership cards were on hand and will be available to members at the General meeting, and that the subject for the next meeting presentation will be Field Day preps, and “Knots for Hams”.
- Dave (K4DND) mentioned the following:
  - ✓ Has received inputs to update the By-Laws. As such, he appointed a By-Laws committee to be chaired by Jim (K4JEC), along with Alan (K9MBQ) and Dennis (K4THE) to review and recommend changes.
  - ✓ Kenneth (KJ4KIH) has agreed to become AARC’s Web Page manager.
  - ✓ Still awaiting info on Club name badges from the vendor.
  - ✓ **Upcoming events** to be discussed at the General Meeting:
    - **May 18** – APRS Balloon #2 launch; KJ4KEE is the lead.
    - **May 23** – Tour de Greene
    - **June 13-14** Tour de Vine - need 1o2 more volunteers.
    - **June 27-28 Field Day**; BSA Camporee group is the planning committee.

### Committee Reports:

- ✓ **Activities** – Vacant; Dave announced the activities noted above.
- ✓ **Education** – Dennis: Noted that there is an Emergency Training opportunity (CERT), and asked for suggested mods to the Education web site.
- ✓ **Fund Raising** – Linda: absent.
- ✓ **Technical** – Greg : absent
- ✓ **Publications** – Patsy: More club patches available.
- ✓ **Estate** – No report.

### Old Business – None

### New Business

- ✓ Alan (K9MBQ) noted that HR 2160 – the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 – has been submitted to Congress. The thrust of the proposed act is to conduct a study of Enhanced Uses of Amateur Radio in Emergency and Disaster Relief and For Relief of Restrictions. The study terms include identification of unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations, and make recommendations regarding such impediments. The point of this effort is to provide ammunition to counter community CCRs and HOA restrictions against Ham Antenna installations. Alan suggested that members express their support for the Bill to Congressman Perriello, and that the BoD approve taking the forgoing to the General Meeting. The BoD so approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

*Alan Swinger – K9MBQ, Secretary*

### Regular Meeting – May 12, 2009

The May 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). Membership now numbers 106.

The General meeting commenced as follows:

- The minutes of the April 2009 meeting were approved as they appear in the April 2009 issue of the Beacon with the correction that Jim Crosby (K4JEC) vice Dave Damon (K4DND) chaired the meeting.
- Treasurer’s report: Don (N4UVA) indicates that the club is solvent with a current balance of \$5144.94 in the bank. The BoD approved motion was also approved by the General Meeting for the expenditure of \$300 as a donation to Matt Shields at Charlottesville HS to support round 2 of the student APRS Balloon project. The members also

approved that the Treasurer expend \$55 to reserve McIntyre Park for the Aug AARC picnic.

- **VP Report:** Jim (K4JEC) noted that membership cards were on hand and available to members, and that the subject for the next meeting presentation will be Field Day preps and "Knots for Hams".
- Dave (K4DND) mentioned the following:
  - ✓ Has received inputs to update the By-Laws. As such, he appointed a By-Laws committee to be chaired by Jim (K4JEC), along with Alan (K9MBQ) and Dennis (K4THE) to review and recommend changes.
  - ✓ Kenneth (KJ4KIH) has agreed to become AARC's Web Page manager.

Still awaiting info on Club name badges from the vendor.

- ✓ Upcoming events to be discussed at the General Meeting:
  - **May 18 – APRS Balloon #2 launch;** KJ4KEE is the lead and discussed details for the members.
  - **May 23 – Tour de Greene:** Participants – Jim (K4JEC), Patsy (K4PMC), Greg (N4PGS), Elmer (KF4UCI), Stan (K2SSB), Kenneth (KJ4KIN), and Don (KE4DDR).
  - **June 13-14 Tour de Vine.** Details:
    - Mike (K14R1X) – GPS coordinates for rest stops, Maps, APRS
    - Need 6 rest stop stations on Sat and 5 on Sun
    - Need at least 5 mobile SAG vehicles
    - Start/Finish people
    - NCS
  - **June 27-28 Field Day;** BSA Camporee group is the planning committee – Wes (W4WLE), Jim (K4JEC), Patsy (K4PMC), Alan (K9MBQ), and Jim (K4BAV)
    - Need to decide on category – 1A or 2A
    - Location is Earlysville Firehouse (Don – does that mean we get Donuts?)
    - Expect to use the Club Call WA4FTZ
    - Will invite Congressman Tom Perriello and the Amateur Astronomy club; other **thoughts on invitations welcome!!**
    - **Need Publicity coordinator (does not have to be a Ham).**

**Committee Reports:**

- **Activities – Vacant;** Dave announced the activities noted above.
- **Education** – Dennis: Noted that there is an Emergency Training opportunity (CERT), and asked for suggested mods to the Education web site. Members agreed to review and comment prior to the June meeting.
- **Fund Raising** – Linda: absent.
- **Technical** – Greg: there is a problem with the 895 repeater hanging up in the transmit mode. Pls monitor and advise the Tech chairman – Greg (N4PGS).
- **Publications** – Patsy: More club patches available at a cost of \$4 each.

- **Estate** – No report.

**Old Business – None**

**New Business**

- Alan (K9MBQ) noted that HR 2160 – the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 – has been submitted to Congress. The thrust of the proposed act is to conduct a study of Enhanced Uses of Amateur Radio in Emergency and Disaster Relief and For Relief of Restrictions. The study terms include identification of unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations, and make recommendations regarding such impediments. The point of this effort is to provide ammunition to counter community CCRs and HOA restrictions against Ham Antenna installations. Alan suggested that members express their support for the Bill to Congressman Perriello. To facilitate, it was agreed that Alan would send out an e-mail to AARC members with details.
- Dave (K4DND) noted that **ARES needs more members** and that very few AARC members belong to ARES. For those who are interested, see the ARES web site at [www.aresracesofva.org](http://www.aresracesofva.org)
- Tim (KG4HOT) proposed moving his 224.6 repeater to AARC's Heard Mountain site. Dave referred this proposal to the Technical committee for further review.

There being no further business, a raffle was conducted and then the meeting adjourned.

**The post-meeting presentation was made by Joe (W2PVY) on a home-brew sound system he constructed at very low cost with readily available parts.** He also demonstrated its incredible performance . . . Thanks Joe!

*Alan Swinger – K9MBQ, Secretary*

**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, K14DLA

**Old tube console radios.** Philco 620F (1937) - \$ 50. Call Carter Elliott, WD4AYS at 434 566 8767 or via email at [celliott14@aol.com](mailto: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 KI4R1X.

## ARRL Field Day Tips/Techniques

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

- 1) **You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs;** however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.
- 2) **Keep your CQs short and to the point:** "CQ Field Day,

CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.

3) **Use standard phonetics.** "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.

4) When working a station, you should **give your exchange information only once and keep it simple.** "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.

5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.

6) **If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically:** "The station with Delta only, go ahead."

7) When you get the other station's information, **keep your acknowledgment simple.** "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."

8) **Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace.** You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.

9) **Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch** -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.

10) **Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can.** Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

## Contest Highlights - Upcoming

Bob, W4RQ

### ARRL-Sponsored Contests

June 13-15	<b>ARRL June VHF QSO Party</b>
June 20	<b>Kids Day</b>
June 27-28	<b>ARRL Field Day</b>

## June 2009

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

### Other Contests of Interest

June 20-21

**All Asian DX Contest**

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

June 13 – 14	MS 150 Tour de Vine
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## Area Hamfests

<b>June 14 Manassas</b>	Sponsor: Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club <a href="http://www.w4ovh.net/">http://www.w4ovh.net/</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.97-, 224.660-, 442.200+ Contact: Chris Allen, KI4POT 9160 Pristine Court, Manassas, VA 20110 Phone: 703-361-3257 Email: ki4pot@gmail.com
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## FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
None Reported	
Upgrades	
None Reported	
Vanity Calls	
None Reported	

## VE Session Schedule - 2009

<b>Date</b> <b>Location</b>  (ARRL VEC)	For exam sessions in Virginia outside the AARC area, check the <a href="#">ARRL Exam Session Search</a> web page.
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## For Sale Items

For Sale	
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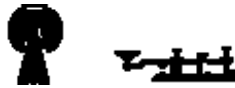
## AARC Club Officers

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



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month

Contact Information  
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PO Box 530  
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(434) 990-2659  
[W4RQ@yahoo.com](mailto:W4RQ@yahoo.com)

**Next Club Meeting : June 9 - 7:30 PM NRAO Bldg - UVA Campus**

**CLUB MEETINGS and NETS**

**REGULAR Meeting:** Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM  
**BOARD & TECHNICAL Meetings:** Prior to regular meeting at 6:30 PM  
Meetings are held at the NRAO building on Edgemont Road.  
**LUNCHEON:** Wednesdays -- Area hams gather at the **Wood Grill Buffet** on Rte 29 North from 11 AM – 1 PM  
**Monday Night Information Net** – Each Monday at 7:00 PM  
**Northern Piedmont Emergency Net:** 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)