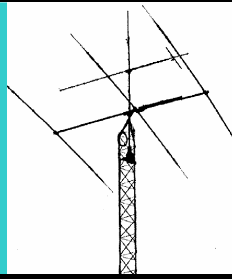


The AARC Beacon



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

Volume 2010, No. 9



September 2010

Inside this Issue

- 1 Meeting Notice
- 1 The President's Letter
- 2 Veep Peeps
- 3 Club Business
- 4 For Sale and Wanted...
- 4 AARC VE Team Members
- 4 AARC Member Focus
- 5 AARC Public Service Schedule
- 5 Area Hamfests
- 5 FCC Database Updates
- 5 VE Session Schedule - 2010
- 5 AARC Club Officers
- 5 Contest Calendars
-
-
-

The President's Letter

Dave, K4DND

Hello to all AARC members and friends. By the time this issue of the Beacon reaches you we will have only one public service event left for 2010, the Great Eastern Endurance Run. It has been a great public service year for the AARC and I want to thank each and every participant who made the year such a success. I hope to see all of you next year when we start the public service event cycle for 2011.

Many thanks go out to Jim K4JEC, Patsy K4PMC, Don KE4DDR, Donna KG4FOL, Elmer KF4UCI and Greg N4PGS for their cooperative and successful participation in the Devil's Backbone Mountain Cross bike event. The organizers were very pleased with our contribution and in recognition of our efforts are sending a check to the AARC for \$400. The major wrinkle in our effort was my failure in thinking the 146.925 WA4TFZ and the 147.045 KC8LRN repeaters would do the job for us. It turned out that neither was of much use, and so on the fly we switched to the K4CQ 444.550 and K14ZR 147.330 repeaters. Everyone participating made the switch with no difficulty and we merrily carried on.

Switching topics - the other day I was reminded of how I felt when I was first licensed. I was nervous and uncertain, and definitely mic shy. Maybe some of you wished I was still that way! Anyway, I was talking with someone on the Bluemont repeater, in those days it was easy to get into that repeater from Albemarle County. Some other fellow and I were just yakking away, and a breaking station told us to get off the repeater, there was a net coming on. A second and older local ham then immediately came on the frequency and politely but in no uncertain terms, gave the breaking station a valuable lesson. He told the breaking station that was no way to treat other amateurs, that the way to do it was to explain that there was a net getting ready to meet and to invite us to stay on the frequency and join the net. What a difference in approaches.

I bring up this example from my own experience because at that time I was on the receiving end of an unpleasant public chastisement. Had it not been for the older fellow who intervened, I might have been left with a very different feeling about whether I was welcome on that repeater or even welcome in Amateur Radio.

Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **September 14 at 7 PM at NRAO. The program should be of interest to all amateurs involved in ARES/RACES. Manny K4MSR, and his Fluvanna group will tell us how they responded to the winter emergency communications event in their county.**

Be sure to attend!

Veep Peeps

Jim, K4JEC

It happened again a couple of years ago, when I suggested to John Turchi KI4DJT that he should try the 440 repeater on Fork Mountain in Madison County. John and I went to that repeater and started chatting, but before long a breaking station told us that we had no business being on that repeater, it was for members only, and was linked to several other repeaters in the DC area, and that we were QRM'ing the whole system. Well thank you very much; by this time I didn't take it personally, I just knew that I had encountered another ill-mannered so-and-so on the air.

The point I am trying to make is that we need to treat new amateurs not only with respect, but in a gentle way that doesn't turn them off to the hobby in general, or to the AARC more specifically. Many years ago I heard a fellow on our 146.760 repeater who was newly licensed and had come to Amateur Radio from the "Children's Band". He committed an egregious offense, by using "Children's Band" speak on our repeater. The fellow he was talking with gave him a scalding rebuke. While the honor and dignity of Amateur Radio was upheld, the effect of that was the new ham who had committed this unforgivable error was never heard on our repeater again. Maybe he gave up on Amateur Radio all together, I don't know, but who could blame him after the public humiliation he received.

I guess my point in raising this is that there are a set of unwritten codes of behavior and operating practices that are not found in Part 97 of the FCC rules. Many of these are conventions and understandings that have developed over a long time, and that new amateurs absorb over time. We need to remember that these are mostly just personal preferences and are more productively impressed on others by gentle and considerate persuasion, not by the use of the microphone as a club. Also, we need to realize that many of these conventions and understandings are peculiar to our area and the AARC and are not universal by any means. So what may be unacceptable to you may be the norm elsewhere. If even one amateur is driven off the AARC repeaters by poor behavior by any of our members, that is one too many. If someone is on one of the AARC repeaters and commits any of these perceived errors in operating practice that you find need comment, contact the person by phone, a private means of communication, and explain what you feel to have been the offense. Never use ham radio, a public means of communication, to do what should be one another way.

I hope to see everyone at the September meeting, which should be very informative and helpful to anyone concerned with emergency communications, and timely as we enter the prime hurricane season. Let us take this opportunity to study the response of the Fluvanna team and see if we can improve our potential response based on their experiences.

I am a very proud member of this wonderful organization – an organization of a very diverse group of individuals who share one thing in common; our interest in our hobby – a hobby that is unique to all hobbies in that it represents a personally satisfying mental and physical pursuit that also serves our fellow man in ways yet to be fully counted. Not only do we serve the public need when other means of communications are not available but through our constant challenge to the norms of electronics and communications, we open doors to new and innovative ways to meet the challenges of future communication techniques, principals and tools.

Beyond the hobby as a worldwide pursuit, our local club members demonstrate such a can do attitude that astounds me every time we schedule an activity. You astound me with your knowledge, willingness to pitch-in and ability to show-up to guarantee success. This dedication to our hobby and club is like a never ending; continuously spreading of warm sunshine that draws new members in increasing numbers. A perfect example of the old adage "People want to share in success." The more successful the club, the more others want to join in the effort – a never-ending process that must be nurtured and developed to the limits. You, individually and collectively, are responsible for the success of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club. As long as we can foster and maintain the level of participation we have at this time, future success is guaranteed.

The falling of September reminds us that it is time to prepare for the club's next year's success. An integral move in that direction is the selection of next year's leadership. The president will appoint a Nominating Committee as directed by the club's Bylaws and that committee's challenge will be to reach out into the membership and solicit individuals who are willing to have their names placed in nomination to fill the 10 slots that must be renewed each year. This should be viewed as an opportunity rather than a burden – an opportunity to provide your unique knowledge to the pool of talent elected to offer leadership for the future. It should be viewed as an honor to be selected to a position of leadership within the club. Of those nominated to office, there can never be a loser. Anyone who is willing to have his/her name placed in nomination for office can never be considered a loser even if they are not elected. By virtue of the fact that they are willing to serve if elected makes them an all time winner.

Our retiring President has presided over a renewed growth of the club not seen in quite a few years. He deserves our sincere appreciation for his efforts. He is leaving our club with a gratifying number of members, a repeater system to be admired by any club in the world, and a whole new success rate for many new programs and activities -- a record that is going to challenge the leadership of tomorrow to maintain. There is no doubt in my mind that if the Bylaws did not prohibit his return to office for a fourth year term, he would be nominated and elected without dissent.

I ask you to think seriously about this and be willing to step up to have your name placed in nomination when asked with the only reservation being your ability to fulfill the duties and requirements that the office will place upon your schedule.

As our club year winds down, we have a very full schedule of club events that will require your time and attention but most of all your attendance and participation at the September, October, November and December meetings – all of which will go a long way toward setting the tone for a successful year in 2011.

Club Business

Patsy, K4PMC

The August Meeting was convened at Darden Towe Park at 6 p.m.. The club enjoyed a picnic followed by a member's silent auction

No business meeting was called to order and no business was conducted.

Approximately 60 members and guests showed up for the picnic and it was considered a gratifying success.



W2PVY and AJ4UN explore with K4RKA



Don N4UVA, Roland Beard and Pat K4PMC watch the food



Jim K4CGY and Bill N0WP negotiate



So Many Goodies

For more Picnic and Auction pictures, go to the AARC website photo gallery at:
<http://www.albemarleradio.org/gallery2/main.php>

For Sale and Wanted...

Ron, K4RKA

For Most recent listings – See www.albemarleradio.org

AARC VE Team Members

Dave, K4DND

Finally, after many months, the ARRL has gotten the web listing of VE session counts updated. A few months back after having checked the new ARRL web site over and over again, I finally wrote an email asking Perry Green WY1O if we could send up some high school students to assist them with their web work.

I got a nice email back from Perry, who said,

*David,
Thanks for the contact. The trouble with high school geeks in general is that they want more than we can afford to pay them. So we're relegated to using our in-house IT department - which has more "fix-it" projects that my wife's "job jar" on overtime.*

Compared to everything else going on - I would imagine that VE session Counts is a less than first priority item.

May I be of help in getting current session counts to you? I can access the record and count them by hand - and report back to you.

I emailed Perry back and told him I would just wait to get them off the website, and that has finally happened. So here are the latest VE Session Counts for AARC members.

# Sessions	Callsign	Name
47	W2HD	Harry Dannals
41	WA1A	Mark Gorlinsky
30	K4DU	Bob Pattison
28	W6UZ	John Gray
23	K4CGY	Jim Owen
18	K4DND	Dave Damon
13	N0WP	Bill Pond
7	AB3BB	Bruce Budinger
5	W4PRT	Pete Thorsen, Jr
5	K9MBQ	Alan Swinger
5	N4UVA	Don Eason, Jr
4	K4IB	Bill Arnold
3	K4UL	Brian O'Rourke
2	KJ4XZ	Will Seay
1	WD4LT	Skip Thacker
0	AD6JV	Bill Phillips

Thanks to all AARC accredited Volunteer Examiners. If you

are interested in participating in this important Amateur Radio activity go to the ARRL website at: <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arri-ve> to find out how to do it. It is easy and definitely worth the small amount of time and effort it takes to become a VE.

Our AARC VE Liaison is Bruce AB3BB who will be scheduling a couple more sessions before the end of the year, so you will have a chance to use your new VE identification badge at AARC VE sessions.

AARC Member Focus

Meet Stefan Tinsley KJ4TKG one of our newer members. Stefan lives in Gordonsville where he owns and operates his own home remodeling business.



Stefan KJ4TKG

Stefan is currently single, but enjoys the company of his three children, a son who is 24, a daughter 17 and his later-life surprise, a daughter 9 years old.

He credits his elmer Ken KD4RYS with getting him interested and licensed in Amateur Radio. Stefan passed his Technician class license at a Culpeper VE session in March, 2010 and then quickly upgraded to General at another Culpeper VE session a few months later.

KJ4TKG and KD4RYS jointly operate an HF station and both keep busy resetting and reconfiguring the radio after the previous session. Please make Stefan welcome the next time you see him in QSO either on the air or eyeball.

AARC Public Service Schedule

September 25	Great Eastern Endurance Run
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Area Hamfests

Date: Saturday September 11 Location: Virginia Beach, VA	Va Beach Hamfest now back at the Convention Center after many years http://www.vbhamfest.com/
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FCC Database Updates

New Calls

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Upgrades

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Vanity Calls

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VE Session Schedule - 2010

Date Location (ARRL VEC)	None scheduled yet. Remember the new Technician Question Pool is effective as of July 1, 2010. DON'T study the old questions!!
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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	Patsy Crosby	K4PMC	patsycrosby@comcast.net (434) 989-2362
Treasurer	Don Eason Jr.	N4UVA	deason@comcast.net (434) 973-9119
Director	Jim Wilson	K4BAV	jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net (434) 245-7041
Director	Linda Beard	KI5LLB	lindaskyone@embarqmail.com (434) 823-2107
Director	Greg Faust	N4PGS	n4pgs@arrl.net (434) 978-1962
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net (434) 872-0686
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	k4du@arrl.net (434) 985-4828
Director	Jim Owen	K4CGY	k4cgy@yahoo.com 434- 296-3044

Contest Calendars

ARRL Contest Calendar 2010	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2010	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
Contesting Online	Just about everything contests!

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<http://www.albemarleradio.org/>



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month

Contact Information
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Barboursville, VA 22923
434-973-5866
k4dnd@arri.net

Next Club Meeting : September 14 - 7:30 PM NRAO Auditorium

CLUB MEETINGS and NETS

REGULAR Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM
BOD Meetings: Prior to regular meeting at 7:00 PM
Meetings are held at the NRAO building on Edgemont Road.
LUNCH BUNCH: 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**
146.895 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
224.760 (-) No Tone **WA4TFZ**
444.000(+) 151.4 Hz 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**
443.000 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4UVA**
145.17 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4FCO** (Fluvanna)
146.79 (-) 110.9 Hz Tone **WW4GW** (Buckingham)
145.450 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **K4DND** (MJ Hospital)
IRLP Node # 4703
224.600 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **KG4HOT**

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