



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

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Elizabeth City, NC 27906-1217

<http://www.taars.us>

WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655/444.300/147.330 PL 131.8 APRS 144.39

Next TAARS Meeting

Our next scheduled TAARS meeting is slated for Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 7:30 at COA building "C" room C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6pm.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Al, K4VHV.

The minutes of the previous meeting and treasurer's reports were accepted as read.

There were three visitors: Pete Marriner, KI4UMC; Terry Pierson and Jennifer Pierson.

Old Business

Tarwheel Century Bike Race: Assignments were discussed. More volunteers are needed.

Hurricane Preparedness day will be held May 31st at the USCG air station.. Tom will have more info after Tuesday.

The Windoms will be retuned for Field Day.

The repeater is still ailing. Herman will get a temporary replacement until ours is fixed.

New Business

A motion was passed to have the minutes published as soon after the meeting as practical. They will continue to be published in the monthly newsletter.

Field Day: Zeb is taking care of Northeast High School arrangements. There have been rule changes for this year- see QST. Committees will be appointed next month.

Kevin showed the mount for his new dual-band radio. A discussion on mounting radios in new cars was held. Kevin will work on hooking up a weather radio to the repeater. Any warnings that activate the weather radio will be broadcast over the repeater.

The HF bands are starting to open up; 12m to the Caribbean and many German stations on 10m.

Next month, Ron will do a presentation on Logbook of The World.

Pasquotank/Camden Emergency Drill

Jeff N4ZWQ sent me this message Monday :

"Last week Zeb passed along a request from Christy Saunders that we participate in an emergency drill on Wednesday, [April 9th \(tomorrow\)](#) at 8:30. It is anticipated to be complete before noon...

We need at least three people to staff the EOC, Mobile Command Post and the station at Albemarle Hospital. Zeb has agreed to let me take leave to participate."

On Thursday Zeb and I moved the radio equipment to the EOC and inspected the antenna installation. We found that four identical antennas were installed, all Comet GP-3 verticals. I am working with Christy to get a UHF beam installed for ATV reception from the Columbia ATV repeater in place of one of the verticals."

I was able to participate in the Wednesday 04/09 Pasquotank Camden EOC test at the EC safety building EOC. Jeff and Zeb had checked the ARES station out the previous week and connected antenna and set up station. see attached poor quality pix. Jeff was going to participate but he and his wife had a car accident that prevented that - they are OK.

I spent about 9:45 to 11:45 testing the VHF/UHF station, reading the manual, doing radio check- made 3 contacts 2VHF and 1 UHF, one on EC .655 with a mobile in Sunbury with signal clear a little white noise. There is a Kenwood HF transceiver also at the EOC radio area which did power up but no tunable antennas there.

-Kerry KD4CEB

Note: This drill was part of a larger Strategic National Stockpile exercise that was held at the Coast Guard Air Station.

Flagpole Antenna

OK, WB1CZX finally has an outdoor antenna. Of course, here at the Plantation, outdoor antennas are prohibited by the covenants. So, we have what looks like a flagpole.



It's a Hustler 5-BTV Vertical (minus the 80M resonator) mounted on a DX Engineering Tilt base which, in turn, is bolted to a 1 3/4" pipe driven into the ground. The ground system consists of 2 quarter wavelength radials for each band (#14 solid wire buried about 1" in the ground). The antenna is covered with 2" and 1 1/2" PVC tubing.



This picture shows the base with the radials connected.



This last picture shows the top with the pulley in place to raise a flag.

Does it look like a flagpole? Yes. And no one has said anything about it. It has had a flag on it.

Does it work as an antenna? Of course. Signals are stronger (at least 2 s units) higher with the vertical as compared to the attic dipole.