



# THE JUNKBOX



## The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

May 2008

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, May 15, 2008, at 7:30 at COA building "C" room C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6pm.

### Minutes

Minutes – April 17, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:39 by Al, K4VHV.  
Minutes accepted as read  
Treasurer's Report accepted as read

### Old business

**TarWheel bike race.** Rovers still needed. Elizabeth City people will meet at Roanoke Bible College. Rover assignments will be made on Saturday morning. Tom will try to get radios from Perquimans County

Family Day at USCG Air Station will be May 31<sup>st</sup>. Displays will include Coast Guard aircraft, Rescue Squad displays, and Champ, K2IUN, for ARES among others.

The 146.655 repeater is back up and running on full power.

**Field Day:** The High School site has been secured by Zeb for 28 - 29 June. Zeb will be putting up the windom antennas. Anyone available should meet about 4:30 at the HIGH School on Friday, 27 June to put up the beams. Herman and George will be cooking.

Kevin has said that the Weather Radio works but is not yet hooked up to repeater. Kevin needs a manual which he'll get from Al.

### New Business

SNS Exercise: Zeb was at the Camden/Pasquotank EOC. Tom was at the Coast Guard Air Station to observe the distribution of (simulated) supplies.

Flagpole antenna: Tom briefly reviewed his flagpole antenna. This is a Hustler 5-BTV within PVC tubing.

Logbook of The World – Ron reviewed the basics of getting set up in Logbook of the World.

He said that it is hard to get confirmation of contacts by regular QSL cards. LoTW essentially creates an electronic QSL card. Contacts need to be in computer and in an acceptable format (e.g. Cabrillo). Once the information is uploaded to LoTW and other stations do the same thing, confirmation comes back. You don't have to mail cards in for awards. You do need software; go to ARRL web site and download the pdf file for instructions. There is another link to download software. There are two programs: one for the certificate, which has to be renewed annually and another to upload contacts.

Attendees included: Al, K4VHV; Ron, N4WYR; Terry Pierson, Jennifer Pierson, Jerome, KJ4ACB; John, KI4EIX; Jim KD4ISA; Cynthia, KG4SPH; Champ, K2IUN; Dave, N6YNZ; Herman, NO4Y; Kevin, N4OB; Randle, KG4CAU; Zeb, K4ZVM; Ed, W4RVZ and Tom, WB1CZX.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm

### Test Session Report

I'm glad to report the latest TAARS sponsored testing session yielded locally 4 new hams. Congratulations go out to Karl Kreulach, KF4DSA of Elizabeth City; Bradley Perkins KJ4DSE of Gates; Jennifer Pierson, KJ4DSD of Hertford; and Terry Pierson, KJ4DSC also of Hertford. Upgrades included Richard Bleil, KC4EEA of Hertford who upgraded to general. Gary Davis and Brian Hughes both came down from Virginia and were very successful. Brian, went from a non ham to General, his call is KJ4DSF, and Gary Davis was awarded Technician class, his call is KJ4DSA.

Thanks to N4WYR, (**who has served at 70 testing sessions**), N4OB, WB1CZX, KD4CEB, and K4ZVM for serving as examiners. KK4ML, of Virginia also volunteered for this session.

Our next quarterly session will take place on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Herman/NO4Y**

### Tar wheel Century

Once again TAARS supported the Tar wheel Century Bike Ride. The weather could not have been better. Thanks to our new members we had plenty of volunteers. Participating in this years support were: Jerome, KJ4ACB; Jim, KD4IJA; Dave, N6XNZ; Kerry, KD4CEB; Al, K4VHV; Champ, K2IUN; Cynthia, KG4SPH; Ron, N4WYR; Rod, KA2TQY; Zeb, K4ZVM; and myself, Herman, NO4Y.

Tom, Here is a "DID YA KNOW" if you are looking for something for the JunkBox

**FEMA to take over mass care role formerly held by Red Cross**

Emergency management professionals learned many lessons from the chaotic response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, among them the need for a more coherent approach to providing mass care. The storm destroyed or rendered uninhabitable more than 300,000 homes, sending nearly a million people in search of shelter.

As a result of that unprecedented experience, the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency agreed last year that FEMA should have responsibility for coordinating mass care, and not the Red Cross, as had been the case. That's because FEMA could direct federal resources to meet mass care needs, while the private Red Cross could not -- a factor that added to the confusion in the aftermath of Katrina.

That agreement was codified earlier this year in the National Response Framework, the emergency response blueprint FEMA published in January with input from other federal agencies and state, local and private entities involved in disaster management.

A recent report by the Government Accountability Office raises concerns about the new arrangement, however. While GAO supports FEMA's role as the primary agency for providing mass care, it questions whether it has the staff and resources to do so adequately. Additionally, neither FEMA nor the Red Cross nor other volunteer organizations are sufficiently prepared to support the elderly or people with disabilities during a disaster, auditors found.

While the role of the Red Cross will remain largely the same as in the past, it no longer will be responsible for reporting data on all shelters, something it had been required to do. Now, the Red Cross will report only on its own shelters and states will be responsible for reporting on all other shelters. FEMA will be responsible for compiling the data on all shelters into a centralized database, still under development.

By Katherine McIntire Peters [kpeters@govexec.com](mailto:kpeters@govexec.com) March 7, 2008

Additional information is available on the FEMA web site. Cynthia