



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, August 21, 2008, at 7:30 at COA building "C" room C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6pm.

Minutes

The July meeting was called to order by Al, K4VHV at 7:35. There were 9 members in attendance. The minutes were approved as posted and the treasurers report was accepted as presented.

There was a discussion of Field Day. Herman, NO4Y suggested that next years FD T-Shirts be ordered ahead and prepaid by members to reduce expense to the club and eliminate over buying.

Zeb, K4ZVM suggested that we have sign up sheets for operators and also discussed how ICS training could be incorporated into Field Day.

Greg reported on Hertford's 147.330 repeaters off air status and said it should be back on the air soon as damage was confined to the antenna.

Albert suggested we purchase some additional RG8X for FD use. Edgar, K4YF offered to donate some new RG8 for FD use instead.

Albert, K4VHV gave a talk on his new Tigertronics Signalink USB digital interface.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Members attending were: K4VHV, N4QLD, KD4CEB, N4WYR, K4ZVM, K4YF, KA2TQY, WA1TSS, and NO4Y.

Submitted by Herman, NO4Y

From QRZ.com forum

I have been operating on the 6-meter band for over 48 years. Frankly, it can open at any time of day or night and at any time during the year. Sometimes this is due to sporadic "E", sometimes to "tropo", and on rare occasions due to tropospheric ducting.

Now during the warmer months the openings are often during the time of day when a lot of operators are actually operating. However, there definitely are

openings at night and openings during all seasons of the year.

The problem is that way too many operators are either not even active or are just listening and not transmitting. MANY openings go completely unnoticed because everyone is listening and no one is transmitting. I recommend every few minutes (like maybe 15 minute intervals) for a station to call CQ on 50.125 MHz USB. Then turn their antenna about 30 degrees and call CQ again. Do this for all the way around the full 360 degrees. If no answer, then wait a few minutes and call again. The chances of working someone is greatly increased by turning the antenna. This is because the band can open in any direction.

Also, listen for the CW beacon stations that, in the areas controlled by the FCC, can operate in the 50.060 MHz to 50.080 MHz segment. Unfortunately, there are not beacon stations in all regions of the country. However, if there is an opening and that opening is in the direction of the beacon station then you will be able to work stations in the general area of the beacon IF someone is actually operating.

It is the same thing for the 10 meter band. MANY openings go without any activity due to the fact that many amateur radio operators "think" the band is dead so they don't even listen. On 10 meters just call CQ on 28.400 MHz USB (the "unofficial" calling frequency) and if you are using a directional antenna turn it and call CQ just like on 6 meters.

Again, the 6 meter and 10 meter bands are open a lot more than most amateur radio operators realize. It is the mindset that the bands are not open and therefore no one bothers to check.

Glen, K9STH

Repeater Report

The 147.330 Hertford repeater is back in service after a lightning strike. The strike took out the antenna. Fiberglass and lightning just don't mix. It reduced the 17 foot vertical radiator to a section about 4 feet long with lots of splinters. The good thing is nothing else was damaged other than a lightning arrestor.



CERA Meeting

The quarterly CERA meeting took place on Saturday August 9th. The meeting included a sky warn training review and hurricane presentation by John Cole of the National Weather Service in Newport, NC . It was an excellent program and everyone enjoyed