



# THE JUNKBOX



## The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

January 2006

Elizabeth City, NC 27906-1217

<http://www.taars.us>

WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655/444.300 PL 131.8 APRS 144.39

### Next TAARS Meeting

Our next scheduled TAARS meeting is slated for Thursday, January 19, 2006 7:30 at COA. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6PM. Let's start the new year off with a big crowd for our January meeting!

### Minutes from December Meeting

A formal TAARS meeting was not held in December. Instead the annual Christmas get together took place.

### From the President

Here we are at the beginning of a new year, and traditionally the time for resolutions. So, I resolve to have more fun with ham radio. I've hardly been active at all during the past year, I'd like to change that. I hope all of you had a great holiday season, I know all of us who attended the Christmas party had a great time. I plan to be at next Thursday's meeting, and hope to see all of you there as well.

73,

Ron N4WYR

### Repeater Reports

January was traditionally our repeater meeting month. Since PARK was dissolved and TAARS took over the repeater operation and funding that's no longer necessary. The repeaters are in excellent working condition. I don't know of any changes or improvements that should be made. If you need an autodial number or have forgotten what yours is let me know and I'll be glad to help you. If you want any of the control codes please let me know and I'll get you a list.

Herman, NO4Y.

### Upcoming Events

The next quarterly TAARS Amateur Radio license test session will be held January 21, 2006. If you need any

information contact Dave Perham N1DP or email [n1dp@arri.net](mailto:n1dp@arri.net) TAARS schedules quarterly test sessions in the months of January, April, July, and October.

### TAARS Christmas Meeting

The annual TAARS Christmas get together was held Thursday December 15th at Mamasita's restaurant here in Elizabeth City. It was a cool rainy evening and not as many as we hoped were present. There was however a number of hardy hams that ventured out. I think everyone had a good time. The highlight of the evening to me was an ARRL Elmer Award presented by our president Ron N4WYR to Herman, NO4Y on behalf of Rod, KA2TQY. I was completely surprised and humbled. I have it proudly hanging in my shack. Thank you very much.



On another note there were 2 donated door prizes, a Yankee candle and a leather man multi tool. Madeline KF4HIQ won the candle, and Zeb, K4ZVM won the leather man tool.

Herman, NO4Y

### Around the Bands

Well as the New Year unfolds, I look back on a eventful 2005. I was lucky enough to make two trips out to Wyoming and while I didn't have much success making

contacts from WY, you can't argue with the scenery. I managed to finish 6<sup>th</sup> on the NC QSO Party, that was up from 9<sup>th</sup> in '04. I also finished 10m and 40m WAS and still need AK on 80 to complete 5 Band WAS. Maybe

tonight. The NAQP is this weekend and I'll check out 80 as the night wears on.

December saw a flurry of activity on 6m. you can usually count on 6m opening up a for a week or so around Christmas. The highlight of the openings was a conversation I had with my friend Vince, N0VZJ, in MN that lasted for almost an hour before we moved on. I met Vince at the airport on my return flight from WY in July, but we've been talking for years. But an hour long QSO on 6m is almost unheard of with the sudden shifts that make 6m's name, The Magic Band, so appropriate.

I also spent some time building a few antennas, most notably a pair of 5-element 6m yagi's that will hopefully find their way to the top of the tower, stacked and waiting for Spring.

Speaking of the NCQP, mark your calendars now for Feb. 26 at 1700z and help our State QSO Party grow. It's a chance to spend a few hours on Sunday afternoon on the radio, making contacts with a lot of the same people every year. Good fun and who knows, maybe we'll move up from 6<sup>th</sup>. So remember to fire up the rigs and call CQ because this stuff really is fun.



Ed/W4RVZ

### **Upcoming Hamfest**

Frostfest  
February 19<sup>th</sup> 8:30am – 3:30pm  
At the Showplace Richmond Va.

Down East Hamfest  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> 8am – 3pm  
Lenoir County Fairgrounds  
Kinston NC

Springfest  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Moose Lodge off George Washington Highway  
Chesapeake, Va.

RARSFest  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> 8am – 3:30pm  
North Carolina State Fairgrounds  
Raleigh NC

### **License Renewals**

Amateurs may renew their FCC-issued licenses "on line" via the FCC web using <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. FCC permits on-line renewals at 90 days or less before a license will expire, and when the license has expired but is still within the grace period for renewal. Licenses that have been expired for more than 2 years are not eligible for renewal or reinstatement.

Amateurs may continue to renew their licenses within 90 days before the license expiration date, or within the two-year license grace period after expiration, using FCC Form 605 by mail to: FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245.

If you need help with this process, give me a call or drop me an email.

Herman  
N04Y