



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

June 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, June 15th, 7:30 at COA. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6PM

Minutes from May Meeting

Ron, N4WYR called the meeting to order at 7:35 there were 9 members present and 2 guests. George, KE4NBR gave a Treasurer report reporting a balance of \$2,593.92. Ron thanked everyone who helped with the Tar Wheel Century Bike Event. Ron, N4WYR informed the group that TAARS 2006-2007 membership dues collection are in progress and June is the due date. Herman reported that he had not completed the mass mailing but would have it done prior to Field Day.

Albert, K4VHV made a motion that 2005-2006 officers remain in office for 2006-2007, Rod, KA2TQY 2nd the motion and it was carried.

Field Day discussion follow. The FD menu was discussed and 200 dollars appropriated for that use. Zeb, K4ZVM is going to invite some area officials. It was decided to invite the boys scouts so they could begin work on a merit badge.

Herman, NO4Y

The Official TAARS Field Day 2006 Planner

What: Amateur Radio Field Day 2006

When: June 24-25, 2006

Times: Setup #1: Friday, June 23, 1800 local

Breakfast Saturday, June 24, 0800 local

Setup continues: 0915 local until noon or completion

Begin operation: 1400 local

Suspend operations: 1830 local for dinner

Breakfast: Sunday 0700 local

Who: Everyone! New hams, Old Hams, Wannabe Hams!!

Nine Wonderful Years

Hard to believe it has been nine years since we moved back here. I had made a few contacts across the country during our trip from Kodiak, Alaska with the call KLOBG. Being a new Ham, with less than a year's time, I was still forming my impression of the hobby. Just as friendly as the fellow that bought us coffee in Wyoming, we soon met some very nice people on the air. I can't remember for sure, but I'm pretty certain my first contact on the

local repeater was Herman, NO4Y. Probably soon after, Ray WB4MQM and Bill K4NKJ met me on the way to work every morning for our own "morning commute." Not soon after there was Albert K4VHV, Kevin KA4NWS, and many others. One young, eager fellow named Scott KU4SN and I was soon talking about plans to upgrade. There have been a bunch of contacts on the local repeaters, and days of endless fun working on towers, building "pretty" antennas, and doing what hams do best...keeping buffet restaurants in business.

I could go on for days about all the ham fun we've had, but even as an old Newsletter editor, I know there is a limit to space. So I'll stick to the stuff that's most important. All of the wonderful people that make up the hams in Eastern North Carolina have fused my opinion of Amateur Radio and this area...what a great bunch of people!

We have spent all of our Coast Guard time in just two places: Kodiak, Alaska and Elizabeth City. Out of 26 years, nine were spent in Kodiak and the rest here. This last tour has definitely been the longest time here and certainly the most fun. I can't say for sure when we'll be back. We have a bunch of things to do up in Maine with the house, but we will be back to visit again...that we are certain.

You should all be proud of who you are, and the kind of great people you have been. Your great dedication to humanity has been manifest in the many hurricanes that have passed through here acting as hams and just as good neighbors. My time spent with Jeff N4ZWQ, Nichole KG4HRB, Milton KC4QLQ and the ever-present KD4CEB, in shelters and at the EOC, were the most challenging and rewarding because we got to see it first hand. The Isabel event was proof positive of how well the great folks of this area are capable of so much kindness. This we will never forget. 73 and 88 to all, Dave N1DP and Candie N6BAF

Upcoming Events

TAARS annual membership dues. TAARS membership runs from June through May. Dues are \$30.00 with an additional 2 dollars per family member.

Field Day 2006. June 24th, and 25th. Lets make it a great Field Day weekend.

TAARS quarterly testing session takes place Saturday July 22nd 9am at COA room 110 building "C". Walk ins are welcome.

RED CROSS PRESENTATION

Champ Cox, K2IUN and Cynthia Cox, KG4SPH, were asked by Carolyn Self, Director of Program Services, to give a presentation for the Red Cross, in Elizabeth City.



Cynthia, KG4SPH gave an overview of Amateur Radio, and passed out a diagram of how a repeater works. She also went over the different classes of licenses in Amateur Radio. The brochure "Bridging you to new HORIZONS," was also distributed.



Champ, K2IUN, set up his field unit which included tent and battery power supply on 80 meters SSB. He also showed the antenna system that is used for this rig. In addition, he had a map of NE Carolina, which he indicated and summarized UHF, VHF and HF systems used in emergencies.



Then Champ went to his emergency bag, and pulled out a flashlight which is operated by a crank generator, and an Eton radio, which is also operated by a crank generator. The radio is AM, FM, short wave and six wx channels. (It also charges cell phone batteries). The attendees were really interested in the flashlight and radio, for the Red Cross has been thinking about having these items at the shelters.

Submitted by: Cynthia V. Cox

Around the Bands

...and the fun continues. 6 meters continues to open almost every day and when it does, it borders on spectacular. Last Sunday was no exception. While I was working from FL to CA to New Brunswick without turning the rotator, suddenly JA's starting appearing on the cluster! There were bunches of Japanese stations being spotted working 5's and 7's on CW. It lasted for at least an hour or so. Just a week before, the same thing happened when KL7's started appearing on the cluster. When KL8DX was spotted on phone, you could almost hear the ham world come to a full halt as everyone looked(listened) to the great Northwest. Again, 5's, 6's and 7's worked Alaska for quite a while and there were even some 4's that got in on the fun. Having made 450 - 500 contacts, worked 4-5 new countries and worked about 25-30 new grids since the "E" season began, I just hope that this holds on until at least after the ARRL VHE Contest this coming weekend (June 10-12). It will be my first attempt to be a rover and I hope my highlight for the weekend isn't the crab dip at Lone Cedar's on the Manteo Causeway.

And HF has been pretty good as well. While not officially trying for DXCC, I have managed to work 120 countries on 15m and between 90 - 100 on both 10m and 20m. And the last month has allowed me to add some pretty nice names in the log, like Norfolk Is., Montserrat, Western Somalia, Tonga, Aves Is., Galapagos and Senegal. And just think, this is the bottom of the sunspot cycle. It's all uphill from here.

So, if you aren't dusting off and firing up that old rig, then quit reading and get busy. Time's a-wasting. Remember, This stuff is fun!!! **Ed/w4rvz**