



# THE JUNKBOX



## The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

January 2007

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, January 18th, 7:30 at COA building "C" C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6PM.

### Minutes from December Meeting

December's Christmas meeting was held at Mamasitas's restaurant. Zeb K4ZVM was awarded Ham of The Year for 2006.

### From the President

Well, it is time for the January meeting. Brenda and I had a great time at the Christmas Dinner, and it was an honor to present Zeb with the Ham of the Year plaque. For those who weren't there, I hope you can make it next year, it is great food and fellowship.

I finally got my ham shack cleaned up over the holiday break, and I am back on HF after a several month break. I am still playing with PSK31 and RTTY, and am trying to get my code speed up high enough to actually use it on the air with confidence. I am still using the DXLab suite of programs, including Winwarbler for digital modes. I am also using Hamscope and CWGet/CWType. In the case of CWGet, it is shareware, but very reasonable for what it does, the rest are all freeware. Some other freeware I have been using is propagation software HamCap/VOACap, which after entering the sunspot number, can draw a map of where in the world a given band can propagate from your QTH. Rather than just calculating a single point to point value, it calculates to everywhere in the world, and colors a map accordingly. I found all of these using Goggle.

Another Internet resource I have been using is eHam.Net. There is quite a bit on the site, but my favorites are the forums, and the customer reviews of products. As with anything else on the internet, this has to be taken with a grain of salt, but there is some pretty good information available.

73, and see you at the meeting,  
Ron/N4WYR

### Upcoming Events

CERA Meeting February 10, 2007

TAARS Testing Session January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Frostfest 2007 February 18<sup>th</sup> Richmond Va

NC QSO Party February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

<http://www.w4nc.com/2007ncqsoparty.html>

### Repeater News

146.655 without amp. I'm sad to report our amplifier is down once more. I hope to be able to provide an update by our Thursday meeting.

147.330 soon to get Echolink. Greg has been working on a plan to make Echolink available on the 147.330 repeater. He has ordered an interface board and already assembled a computer to run the service.

444.300 Users needed. I'm glad to report no problems with 444.300 we just need some users. **Herman/NO4Y**

### TAARS Amateur Of The Year

Congratulations to Zeb Moseley, K4ZVM for his well deserved selection as Ham of the Year. Zeb has really gone the extra mile for TAARS and Amateur Radio this year. He's been very actively promoting Amateur Radio at civic meetings, through county emergency management, Boy Scouts and our school systems. It seems like Zeb is always there helping to organize or do whatever needs doing for any TAARS event. TAARS is very fortunate to have Zeb as a member.



Zeb K4ZVM after being presented with his Award at the Christmas Party.

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## **Part 18 Part 15 Devices**

### **What is an ISM (industrial, scientific and medical) device (Part 18)?**

Part 18 ISM devices utilize RF energy for non-communicative purposes. They radiate only and do not receive therefore it is highly unlikely that you would ever interfere with an ISM device. See the definition of ISM equipment in 47 CFR 18.107(c).

Shrink wrappers are a fine example of an ISM device. The plastic is heated and semiliquified by a very strong RF field only a few inches away. The sheet of plastic is then lowered onto the rest of the packaging, clings to the product and the cardboard, and resolidifies. Since telecommunications are precluded, and ISM signal will contain not data. The third character of the emission designator for a Part 18 device will always be N (N0N or P0N are most likely). Other ISM devices include; RF lighting systems, paint dryers, jewelry cleaners, industrial microwave ovens, and MRI equipment.

Wireless Ethernet cards and cordless phone are Part 15 devices that just happen to be operating on an older more established ISM (Part 18) band. Wireless Ethernet cards are Not Part 18 devices.

The prime distinction between Part 18 and Part 15 devices is that Part 18 devices use RF to do something, and Part 15 devices use RF to communicate or send a command.

A recent publicized example titled: "[FCC Queries Wireless 'Net Provider About Interference To Hams'](#)" Proves that Part 97 has priority over Part 15, and proves that that wireless Ethernet gear is indeed Part 15 and not Part 18.

Part 15 devices must not interfere with primary or secondary users. Section 15.5(b) is printed on all Part 15 devices and states; This device complies with FCC Rules Part 15. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: This device may not cause harmful interference. This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation **Dave/N1DP**

## **We are Warned**

FCC cites Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to ID: The FCC's Philadelphia Field Office has issued a formal Notice of Violation to a Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to identify in a timely manner. The Commission released the NOV to Andrew Ban, KB3GRK, of Feasterville, on December 20. The notice says that on September 12 and 13, 2006, an agent of the FCC's Philadelphia office monitored KB3GRK's transmissions on 439.850 MHz and observed that the operator failed to identify for nearly one hour in one instance and for more than 20 minutes in the second. §97.119(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules requires stations to identify "at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication."

The FCC has advised Ban that he must submit within 20 days a written statement addressing the alleged violations and action taken to preclude recurrence. The issuance of an NOV appears to be a departure from the FCC Enforcement Bureau's typical practice of addressing such alleged infractions with an advisory letter.

## **Around the Bands**

Well I sure hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Our family got together several times and in true "ham" fashion, I certainly ate too much. But the family time together was great and I am ready to settle down as we head into 2007. Several new things have taken place in the last month or so, Two of the most notable were the increase in the 40m and 75m phone band. This increase along with the eventual move of the overseas broadcasters should really make 40m the best overall band in my opinion. You can work close in during the day and DX at night. Then there is the "other" change. The long anticipated demise of CW. Given that everyone else in the world had already dropped it, I'm sure that no one is really surprised but I for one am disappointed.

That may be hard for some to understand since I was a "No-Code Tech", but if it's possible to be an "Old-Timer but only have 5 years in the hobby, then that describes me to a "T". Now I am not a dooms-dayer, I don't believe that this will be the end of Ham Radio. But I certainly do believe that some things are an integral part of something and actually identify it or make it stand out. CW was that identifier for Ham Radio, as far as I'm concerned. CW kept me out of the hobby for many years. Had it not been for CW, I would probably would have 25 years not 5. And even though I finally learned it enough to pass the test, I don't hardly ever use it.

So what would I do different? Well, mostly I would have the Extra Class set aside just for those who had passed the code test. Give the others access to General or whatever you want to call it, but for those who invested the time AND those still willing to take that step, there should be a difference. Extra means just that, you did a little extra. But it's over and done, and as long as WE continue to police ourselves the way we have for years, then the hobby will continue to grow not die.

OK that's my 5 on the soapbox.

December and early January have been very warm in our area and that has led to several good 6m openings. I hope it holds out for one more weekend because the ARRL VHF Contest is the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup>. And speaking of contests, don't forget the North Carolina QSO Party the last weekend of Feb. I believe it runs from 1700z Sunday to 0300z Monday. Take a Sunday afternoon and have some fun and maybe you can work me as W4RVZ/R. I'm planning on starting in Dare and then going thru Currituck, Camden, northern Pasquotank, Gates, Hertford, Bertie, Chowan and Perquimans. It's about 150 miles and will take the whole day to be able to have any time at all in each county.

So fire up the rig and listen for me, mostly on 40m phone, and we'll have some fun.

**Ed/w4rvz**