



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

April 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, April, 19th, 7:30 at COA building "C" C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6PM.

Minutes from March Meeting

March's meeting was called to order by Ron, N4WYR at 7:35 PM. There were 12 members present. The February minutes were approved as printed. The Treasurers report was presented and accepted. A motion was made and approved to reimburse Herman, NO4Y \$125.00 for repairs to the VHF amplifier. A discussion was held on a place to hold this years field day events. Zeb, K4ZVM and Herman, NO4Y were to report back on details of liability insurance and other concerns.

A discussion was held on the TarWheel Century Bike Event. Several guys volunteered to help with communications as we do yearly. K4VHV, N4WYR, K4ZVM, W4RVZ, KD4CEB, and KG4ZFW agreed to give a hand but we still could use a few more volunteers.

Gene, WB4KZI gave a brief presentation on his mobile CW operation during the NC QSO Party.

Ed, W4RVZ gave a brief overview of working meteor scatter contacts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

A testing session followed the meeting.
Herman/NO4Y

Upcoming Events

April 21st: TAAR testing session at COA
April 28th Tar Wheel Century Bike event.
May 12th CERA Quarterly Meeting
May 17th TAARS Officers Elections
June 23rd and 24th ARRL Field Day

Volunteers Needed

Once again TAARS will be supporting the Tar Wheel Century Bike event. It will take place on Saturday April 28th. It begins at

7am and support ends at 4pm. We need several rovers and Hams to man the SAG stops.

Repeater News

The 444.300 repeater is now Echolink enhanced. The node number is 330818 you can find the listing in the directory as WA4VTX-L. If you don't have a UHF rig and want to gain RF access to the system, 3365 brings the UHF link up and 3360 brings the link down. These codes are optimized for Echolink performance although the normal 6544 up and 4465 down codes will work. Have fun!

Herman/NO4Y

WA4VTX / Hertford linking codes.

331 Link up to CERA backbone
330 Link down from CERA backbone
3365 Link up to 146.655
3360 Link down to 146.655
3341 Link up to 444.300
3340 Link down to 444.300
Greg/N4QLD

Save Some Energy

Not exactly ham related, but I've been on an environmental kick lately. Not exactly in practice, but I've been reading a lot. A few weeks ago my wife came home from the store with a bag of compact fluorescent bulbs. I grumbled about replacing them, because I thought of fluorescent light as very cool compared to incandescent light. Eventually I changed the living room lamps over. I was really surprised by the quality of light. I can barely tell the difference. Now we are using these bulbs in two lamps in the living room and many of the overhead fixtures in the rest of the house.

Here's how the savings break down. I replaced six 60 W bulbs and two 100 W bulbs with Compact fluorescent bulbs that are 13W and 23W respectively. If I use each of these bulbs 4 hours a day at \$0.10 /kWh it will cost \$18.10 a year to operate them as compared to \$81.76 with the incandescent bulbs. The savings of \$64 is over 3 times what we paid for the bulbs. The other part of the cost equation is that these bulbs are supposed to last 8-10 years.

Looking up fluorescent bulbs on the web I found out that they are now available in 3-way, dimmable, flood, and even candelabra

base, although the fancy ones are still pretty expensive (about \$10 a bulb).

Now, about the environmental stuff...According to the energy star website, "If every American home replaced just one light

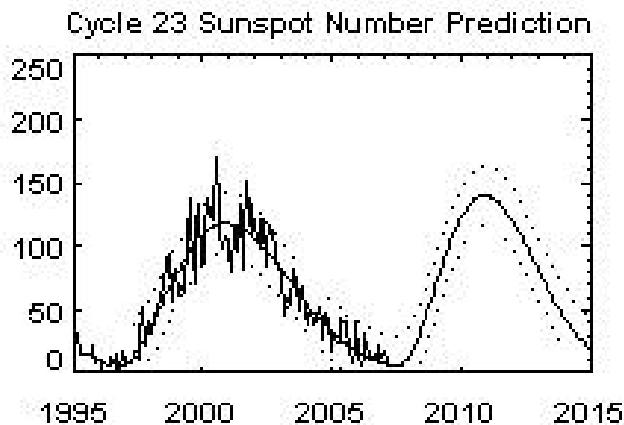
bulb with an ENERGY STAR, we would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars." They also say that one compact fluorescent bulb "can prevent more than 450 pounds of emissions from a power plant during its lifetime."

Replacing a few light bulbs is certainly a baby step toward stopping global warming, but it also makes good economic sense given the rising costs of electricity.

George/KE4NBR

ARE WE THERE YET?

Have we finally reached the bottom of the cycle? As often as monthly I read an article that says we have reached the bottom of the cycle. Unfortunately (if you are a ham) the same article is repeated the following month, and the month after that. I don't think the answer is etched in stone until we can see some positive indications that sunspot numbers are actually on the increase.



This graph was taken for the NASA Solar Physics page. There is some very interesting reading there about our solar cycles.

<http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>

TECHNICANS PRIVILIGES

I've recently overheard several on air conversations concerning new privileges that technician class operators have recently acquired. Apparently there is some confusion concerning privileges below 30 Mhz.

Here is the Scoop.

Technicians now have phone privileges on 10 meters 28.300-28.500. **This is the only place technicians have phone privileges below 30 Mhz.**

On 80 meters Technicians now have CW privileges (**CW ONLY**) between 3525 - 3600

On 40 meters Technicians now have CW privileges (**CW ONLY**) between 7025 - 7125

On 15 meters Technicians now have CW privileges (**CW ONLY**) between 21.025 - 21.200

On 10 meters Technicians now have CW privileges (**CW ONLY**) between 28.000 - 28.300

This information was taken from ARRL

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/allocate.html>

Herman/NO4Y