



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

November 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, November 15th, at 7:30 at COA building "C" room C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6pm.

Minutes from the September Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by President Al, K4VHV.

The minutes were accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The Radio Merit Badge class, scheduled for November 10, was discussed. Greg will help Zeb with the class.

Greg and Herman have rescued a 450mhz repeater, which is now sitting at Greg's place.

Our Simulated Emergency Test (SET) might possibly include a tour of the Pasquotank County Emergency Operations Center.

It was noted that the first two characters of the 440 repeater ID are missing.

At Our Next Meeting

Champ, K2IUN, will be doing a presentation on the "Warbler". Don't know what that is? Well, come to the meeting and find out. It will be interesting. Our President will also have a challenge for the members.

REPEATER NEWS

146.655 is operating at reduced output due to amplifier problems. Our recent power supply problems caused our VHF amplifier to fail. Our first 50 Amp Astron power supply failed in late August. It was replaced with our spare 50 amp Astron at that time while the first was out for repair. During this time the replacement failed and took out the VHF amplifier. The original power supply is now back in service and the spare has been repaired. The amplifier is now out for repair.

Herman/NO4Y

CERA MEETING

The Columbia Emergency Repeater association meeting took place on Saturday November 11th. There were 23 people in attendance. Ann Keyes, Washington County EC, Pattie Madre, Chowan County EC, and Stanley Griggs, Currituck County EC were in attendance. All the EM's gave reports on events and happenings pertaining to their counties. It was a pleasure to have these emergency managers join us.

Herman/NO4Y

TESTING SESSION REPORT

TAARS recently sponsored 2 testing sessions. The first our regularly scheduled quarterly exam and the 2nd, our end of course test session for the Technician class. Both were extremely successful.

Congratulations to the following new license awards and upgrades in the local TAARS area.

Jerome Bell	Chowan	KJ4ACB
Edgar Lane	Perquimans	KJ4AFR
Jane Rossman	Pasquotank	KJ4AFT
Rodger Rossman	Pasquotank	KJ4AFU
Zachary Wimsatt	Pasquotank	KJ4AFS
Scott Adamson	Camden	KJ4AFQ
Jerry Burleson	Currituck	KC4ZLW

Herman/NO4Y

AROUND THE BANDS

Well for the first time in several months, I have actually been able to spend some time on the bands. It's been a really long and busy summer and I look forward to a little R&R courtesy of my recent double hernia operation. The doctor prescribed about 4 weeks of taking it easy, so I intend to do that as much as possible.

6 meters has been pretty slow lately, which is to be expected and most of my contacts have been via WSJT6 or 6 meter meteor-scatter. This is a great mode to operate at any time but especially when the phone portion of the band is dead. You can still work guys as far away as IA and FL and TX without a lot of enhancement. So for the guys who like PC's and digital modes, this is a lot of fun.

But there has even been little "normal" activity on the magic band. About two weeks ago, my buddy Vince N0VZJ up in MN, called and told me to get in the shack. He had just received an email alert for the possibility of some Aurora Activity. So I jumped over to 50.135, gave him a call and slowly the band

opened and we had a good qso. He continued working 6m and I went to check 10m and sure enough, 10 was wide open. For the next 60-90 minutes, I worked a bunch of guys from IL to PA and up to NY and NH. Then I went back to 6m and worked a guy out in CO and a few others before the band finally closed. This past Tuesday night, as I was doing something in the shack, I heard a voice starting to build up on 6m and all of a sudden, there was K0GUV in EN36 in MN. I worked him, got and sent 59 reports and that was it. Band closed, gone. I guess that's why they call it the Magic Band.

A couple of weekends back, was the CQ WWW DX contest and both 15m and 10m were open to Europe and Africa. Although I am not a contester or a big DX'er, I usually try to work these contests to pick up a few new country's. I am at 125 worked on 15m and about 105 on 10m and 6 more on 20m will give me and even 100 or 20m. I don't chase paper for DXCC so I don't have a lot confirmed but just trying to work these places is thrill enough.

Well I am waiting for the last big push for 6m in 2007. In December, we usually get a few weeks of Winter E's before the band takes a few months off to rest. Then we just sit and wait for the Spring Thaw and the next E Season. As the SunSpot Cycle starts improving, it should get better. Who knows, maybe this year we get numbers 49 and 50 on 6m WAS. I actually did hear HI this year and AK can't be far behind.

Remember, dust 'em off and key 'em up. This stuff is fun.

Ed/w4rzv