



# THE JUNKBOX



## The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

February 2017

<http://www.taars.us>  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheAlbemarleAmateurRadioSociety>  
WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655 / 444.300 / 147.330 PL 131.8 \*\*APRS 144.39 (off air)

### Next TAARS Meeting

Our **March 2017** TAARS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16th, 2017, 7:30 PM at the COA Building "c" C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Coral at 6:00 PM.

### Minutes

The club president, Al, K4VHV, called the February meeting to order, approx. 7:30 PM.

The Treasurers Report and Meeting Minutes were both read and approved.

William gave a brief discussion about his trip to the Orlando Hamfest.

Thirteen (13) Amateur Radio Operators were present for the meeting.

### Old Business

- ❖ Nothing mentioned.

### New Business

- ❖ Kerry, KD4CEB, is coordinating another micro-maker fair at the SouthGate Mall which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- ❖ The club would like to send letters of appreciation to both Monty and Jake for their Wind Farm presentation at the January 2017 meeting.
- ❖ Ron, N4WYR, is going to be ordering some K4WO Club QSL cards.
- ❖ The 2017 Tarwheel Century Bike Race is scheduled for April 22, 2017 which falls on the same Saturday that we are scheduled to have a VE session at COA.
- ❖ The Packet Station on the International Station is back in service on 437.550 MHz.

### Attendance

Kerry Krauss, KD4CEB; Albert Onley, K4VHV; Ron Thomas, N4WYR; Steve Bontempo, KU4BY; Coleman Motes, KG4FSE; William Burden, WB4YNF; Charlie Pencinger, KA2GXJ; Greg Terranova, N4QLD; Herman Cox, NO4Y; Ron Thomas, N4WYR; Stewart Braunagel, KM4APN; Tom Cristopoulos; Doug Stoddart.

After the conclusion of the official portion of the meeting, Ron, N4WYR, gave a presentation on WSPR, which stands for Weak Signal Propagation Reporting. He gave a brief intro to the setup and use of the software and how you can use it to check your propagation on the wsprnet site which can be found at <http://wsprnet.org/drupal/wsprnet/map>.

Then Al, K4VHV, gave a Show 'n Tell with his broken 4:1 300W balun which caused serious signal loss. He also discussed the best way to hang antennas from trees without losing the balun due to the growth of the tree.

The informal portion of the meeting concluded approx. 8:45 PM.

### Upcoming Events

- ❖ Our next testing session is scheduled for 9am April 22<sup>nd</sup> at COA. Contact Herman, NO4Y for more information.
- ❖ The Tarwheel Century Bicycle Race also on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. [http://rivercitycyclingclub.com/tarwheel\\_century.html](http://rivercitycyclingclub.com/tarwheel_century.html)
- ❖ ARRL Field Day – June 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> 2017.

If you have an idea for the newsletter or would like to submit your own article, send an email to [ku4by@arrl.net](mailto:ku4by@arrl.net).