



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

March 17, 2005

Elizabeth City, NC 27906-1217

<http://www.taars.us>

WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655/444.300 PL 131.8 Packet 145.710

Minutes From February 2005 TAARS Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM, by President Ron, N4WYR with 18 members and 1 guest present. Self-introductions were done as we had several new hams in attendance and it was nice to see several "old" hams again. The minutes from Jan. 2005 were approved as printed following a motion by Al, K4VHV and second by Greg, N4QLD. There was no financial report as the secretary lost the email when he converted to XP from Windows 98. The last report indicated over \$2400.00 in the account.

Dave, N1DP gave a report on ARES activity in Pasq/Camden counties. He attended a demonstration on new equipment purchased and placed in the EOC. The new equipment is a radio linking system that allows 911 Communicators to tie several different departments together, such as Fire and Police. There is even a new Kenwood Dual-Bander in the rack. Dave also gave a report on the recent Columbia Area 1&2 meeting. There was a National Weather Service presentation made and the new repeater purchase that resulted in a repeater being given to the Greenville NC ARC was discussed. Also Pitt County representatives gave a list of recently purchased equipment that has been made available to the Northeast Region.

The last VE test session was discussed. There were 6 people who came to take various tests, with most people leaving with smiles. A special congrats to new ham, KI4IND, Canaan Forslund, son of Eric, N8XT. The next exam date is April 23, 2005 at COA beginning at 9am. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

P.A.R.K. Meeting – The PARK meeting was called to order by Al, K4VHV, who led a discussion on the suggested merger of the two clubs, PARK and TAARS. Al stated some reasons for merging such as 1 set of officers, 1 set of dues and 1 bank account. It was also mentioned that the combined bank accounts would total around \$2900.00 or more. After much discussion, the following motion was made by Joe, W4UEB and seconded by Dave, N1DP. *The PARK and TAARS Clubs should be merged and the resulting club to be called TAARS, The Albemarle Area Radio Society. Dues to be combined and will come due in June. Officers positions and duties of PARK to be assumed by TAARS officers and a new Trustee for the WA4VTX repeater will be appointed.* After some additional discussion, the above motion was voted on and carried unanimously. Ron, appointed a committee of George, KE4NBR, Herman, NO4Y and Al K4VHV to look at details such what the new combined dues will be and also to appoint a new Trustee for the WA4VTX repeater. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm. *Ed/kg4qmi*

Next TAARS Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled TAARS meeting is slated for Thursday, March 17 2005, at 7:30 PM at the College of the Albemarle, somewhere near room C109. Our dinner location is the Virginia City Buffet and Restaurant located near Office Max on Halstead at 6 PM

Next Exam Session Scheduled for April 23, 2005

The next regularly scheduled VE Test session will be held on Saturday April 23, 2005. It will be held at the College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City in "C" Building around Rm. 110. This is the normal Saturday after our monthly meeting. *Dave, N1DP Test Liaison.*

Tar Wheel Century Bike Race

The 2005 Tar Wheel Century bike race has been moved to the first Saturday in May: 7 May 2005. It was moved due to a conflict with power boat races, now scheduled for September. Mark your calendars for a fun TAARS support event.

Around the Bands

The last month or so has probably been the least active for me on the ham bands since I've had my ticket. A trip out to Wyoming followed by 2 intense weeks of web page design and building, have left little room for RF endeavors. With the bulk of the web stuff done, I hope to get back in the swing of things soon. One exception to all of this was the NC QSO Party. I did take time out to spend the day working the contest and, for the most part, did ok. I made more contacts and scored more points than in previous years but in general, I didn't think activity was as high as in the past. I only worked one county east of the Chowan River and that was Dare. A "3" call was working form down there. Other than a few 10m and 80m contacts, the logbook got a break this month. But the good news is, 6m seems to be showing signs of waking up after a long winter nap. There was a fairly decent opening from the mid-west into S. America. And even as I type this column, there's faint voices and cw being heard on .125. It won't be long and I'll be swinging the antennas east and listening for EU and AF and calling CQ DX 6m. *Ed/kg4qmi*

40 Year ARRL Certificate

Congratulations are in order to Al, K4VHV on recently receiving his 40-year Membership Certificate from the ARRL. First licensed in 1953, Al and Joe, KL7AML, were instrumental in bringing the first repeater to Elizabeth City. Al has continued as trustee of the WA4VTX repeaters since then and along with Chuck, WA4RMO/SK, helped establish the Columbia repeater. Al has assisted many new hams in getting started (thanks Al) and is a tireless supporter of TAARS, faithfully calling the Thursday Night Net. For many years of service to ham radio in the Albemarle Area, we say congratulations and Thank You.