



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

February 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 January 2005 TAARS Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM, by President Ron, N4WYR with -- members present. After some discussion, it was decided to table the discussion concerning P.A.R.K and TAARS. It was felt that we needed a larger turnout of members, which was hampered this month by inclement weather.

Dave, N1DP discussed some issues involving CERA, the Columbia Repeater group. At their last meeting, it was decided to purchase a new repeater for Columbia and give the old repeater to the Greenville Amateur Club, this was to assist the Greenville Club who has been having problems with system.

Ed, KG4QMI reported on ARES activity in Perquimans Co. New antennas have been installed at the EOC located on W. Dobbs St. in Hertford. A radio and TNC for digital operations will just about take care of the most pressing needs at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and Ed, KG4QMI gave a demonstration on the tri-band, rotatable dipole he made for portable ops. It works 6m, 10m, and 15m and requires no tuning in the field. Colored tape on the individual sections keeps the pieces in proper order and also act as tuning guides. By being pre-tuned, all that is need for assembly in the field is a 3/8" wrench to tighten the hose clamps.

Ron, N4WYR also gave a demonstration on an HF wire antenna that he has installed at his QTH. It is a variation of the G5RV and has a section of coax in each side of the center-fed antenna. On one end the shield is shorted to the center conductor and on the other end the shield is not terminated. Early reports indicate a good match on all bands from 10-80.

Next TAARS Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled TAARS meeting is slated for Thursday, February 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

A Word from the President

Here we are, time for the February meeting. The main order of business will be the proposed merger of TAARS and PARK. Other upcoming events are the Tar Wheel Century, and Field Day is just around the corner. We met for dinner last month at the Virginia City (Chinese) Buffet, on Halstead just down from

Office Max. I thought it was pretty good. Dinner at 6, meeting at COA at 7:30.

73 to all, and see you at the meeting.
Ron N4WYR

Next Exam Session Scheduled for April 16, 2005

The next regularly scheduled VE Test session will be held on Saturday April 16, 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.*

CERA Meeting

The Columbia Emergency Repeater Association and ARES Areas 1 and 2 meetings were held on Saturday, 12 Feb 2005. A presentation from Newport National Weather service reminded everyone of the importance of reporting severe weather events. NWS is always welcomes weather info from Spotters. Lunch was provided by Katina, KG4SPP. The Columbia meeting was full of interesting information. We talked about the Greenville Repeater, and took a tally of ECs and how they will use the linking system during our next storm event. It was felt that most of the time, local repeaters would not stay connected to the backbone via VHF, but ECs would monitor the Columbia Backbone on 443.300 to listen for information from Kinston. 145.27 in Farmville would stay linked up to provide a continuous link to Columbia from Kinston/Eastern Branch. We had a good turn out and informative discussions. 73, *Dave N1DP*

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.

January Exam Session

Six candidates challenged amateur radio exams at our last session on 22 January 2005 KI4IND Canaan Forslund, son of Eric N8XT, is a proud new ham! We had a Fire Fighter from the Outer Banks, and folks from the Tidewater area. Many thanks to the Volunteer Examiners that keep the TAARS quarterly Test sessions going: Ed KG4QMI, Ron N4WYR, Herman NO4Y and Joe K4UEB. We can always use new Volunteer Examiners, especially Amateur Extras. 73, *Dave N1DP*

Around the Bands

This past month has been slow for me on some of the bands. I haven't spent much time on HF other than the weekend of the 12-13th of Feb. I finally got around to putting my RTTY setup back in operation and managed to make a few contacts in the WPX contest. 6 meters has opened briefly on several occasions as well as 10m and I managed to make a few contacts on both. The big news for me I guess, is that I need only 6 more states on 80m to finish up "working" 5 Band WAS. Thanks to the North American QSO Party in Jan., I was able to pick all but the last 6 states I needed. But there are a lot of states left to get cards back to "confirm" the award so I'll still be looking around on 10m and 40m as well. The other "news" was a big opening on VHF and UHF back on Feb.8th. Unusual conditions along the coast caused ducting to occur right along the coast from NC as far north as NY and MA. SSB as well as FM simplex contacts were made from around dusk on Monday night until after sunrise on Tuesday. I made quite a few contacts on 2m FM simplex as well as working a 70cm repeater in Queens NY using my 5w Icom HT and my 11-el UHF yagi.

But most of my activity has centered on ATV. I've had a lot of fun doing "visual DX" as N1DP dubbed it. Several of us, most notably, Mike KB4TOH, Dave N1DP, Greg, N4QLD and myself have taken to the vehicles at night and shining a variety of different lights at the ATV camera located on the Columbia tower at 1200'. Sightings have been made from several locations in Hertford as well as Camden and also from Mike's living room in Columbia. Given the cold weather over the last few weeks, this has been quite challenging. Sometimes the biggest challenge was getting Dave outside.

If you're not familiar with ATV or Amateur Television, it is just another one of the many different options open to you as a ham radio operator. Technicality all that is required is an antenna pointed at Columbia and a TV that will tune to Cable channel 58, 427.25mhz. If your close enough and the antenna is high enough, you can "see" a picture while others turn the camera. If you have a 2m rig in the shack, you can go to 145.75 and actually control the camera and try your hand at finding distant objects. Finding things in daylight conditions and then finding them again at night is quite an adventure. And for the cost of a "very bright" hand light, you can become a Visual DX'er.

Like I said, ATV, along with APRS, Packet, SSTV, satellites, HF, DX, contests and just plain old "rag-chewing" on .655 are just a few of the many different things you can do and all of these are what make me say, "Man, this stuff is fun"!!!
Ed/kg4qmi

Date nears for NC QSO Party

Beginning Sunday Feb. 27 at 1700z (12:00PM) and running thru Feb. 28 at 0300z (10:00PM) is the 2005 edition of the NC QSO Party. Sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, this is an opportunity for you to spend some time on the ham bands and also support our State QSO Party. Active bands are 80-10 meters and both CW and Phone are acceptable modes. There is a 100w power limit on all qsos.

Categories are SO/In-State Single OP/Out of State and QRP versions of both. Mobile In and Out of State and Club In and Out of State. You can find a full set of the rules at www.w4nc.com.

And just in case you need software for the contest, Scott, N3FJP has just finished the NC QSO Party contesting program. Knowing Scott and his other programs, the NCQP program will be first-rate. He writes the Field Day Network program we use. If you're interested in the NCQP program or any of the other programs Scott puts out, visit <http://www.N3FJP.com>. From ACLog, the general logging program to contesting software for almost every imaginable contest, Scott probably has what you want.

Newsletter Deadline

If you would like to submit an article or announcement for the TAAR's newsletter, please have it in by the Sunday before the Club meeting. Items to be included can be emailed to kg4qmi@earthlink.net or sent via snail mail to Edward Leicester, PO Box 575, Hertford NC, 27944

Upcoming Events

Feb. 19-20 – ARRL International DX Contest - CW
Feb. 26-27 – CQ WW 160-meter SSB Contest
Feb. 26-27 – Miss. QSO Party
Feb. 26-27 – N. American QSO Party - RTTY
Feb. 27-28 – N. Carolina QSO Party
March 5-6 – ARRL International DX Contest – Phone
March 12-13 – OK QSO Party
March 13-14 – WI QSO Party

The Rotatable 6m, 10m, 15m Dipole by kg4qmi

