



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

April 21, 2005

Elizabeth City, NC 27906-1217

<http://www.taars.us>

WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655/444.300 PL 131.8 Packet 145.710

Minutes From March 2005 TAARS Meeting

Meeting Called to order at 7:35 by Ron N4WYR with 9 members present. The minutes for the February meeting were unanimously approved.

Dave, N1DP made an announcement for the Raleigh Hamfest to be held April 16th at the State Fair Grounds, Honorable mention was made of Al, K4VHV for his 40 years membership with ARRL and a round of applause followed.

A brief discussion of the upcoming bike race was held. Herman NO4Y gave a committee report on club dues. The committee recommended annual dues raised to \$30.00. A motion was made by Greg, N4QLD and 2nd by Dave, N1DP to increase TAARS dues to \$30.00 beginning in June. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

After a brief discussion the club decided to get some volunteers together to install a low power FM station in the school system.

A discussion was held on APRS by Greg and Dave with a demo to follow at the April meeting.

Zeb, K4ZVM will take care of arrangements for Field Day as relates to getting permission to use NHS stadium. Zeb, K4ZVM also reported he is now on the 911 advisory committee. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm. *Herman, NO4Y*

A Word From The President

Hello TAARS members, it is time for our April meeting. Upcoming events include a VE exam this coming Saturday, the Tar Wheel Century bicycle ride, and we have more planning to do concerning Field Day. At the April meeting I plan to do a talk about the DX Lab suite of ham related software. Hope to see you there.

73, Ron N4WYR, TAARS President

Next TAARS Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled TAARS meeting is slated for Thursday, April 21 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. Items to be discussed include update on the WA4VTX/NC4EC license change, new officers for 2005-2006 and believe it or not, FIELD DAY '05. Plan to be there if at all possible.

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

6 meters offered a few opportunities last month as changing weather conditions sparked brief, but welcomed openings. LA, MS, WI, MN, TX, and FL were the states worked and we did manage to pick up a few new grids. Unfortunately most of the activity was west of the Mississippi and I watched with envy as mid-west and southwest stations worked into Central and South America and also worked OR, WY and UT which are three of the last 5 states I need for WAS on 6 meters.

My activity on the HF bands was a lot more limited as I spent a lot of time working on other projects. But I did manage to work a few of the State QSO parties as well as a DX Contest but only managed one new state, which was MT on 80m and one new country on 10 meters, New Zealand. But there were several good 40m QSO's mixed in late at night as the band goes long, making 40m my preferred band after dark. With the addition of MT on 80m that only leaves 5 more states to work and I'll have "worked" 5-Band Was.

Just a word about the Raleigh Hamfest this past weekend, the 17th. The loss of Communications HQ was definitely felt, in my opinion, cutting down on the number of new equipment dealers and there did not seem to be quite as many tables in the flea market section. But I did manage to spend some money, picking up just about everything I was looking for, so from that perspective, it was a success. But it seems to me that the Internet has hurt the average hamfest, with websites like EBAY and others, offering a much wider audience for the "antique gear". And in many cases, a much higher price, many times with used items selling for new item prices. A phenomenon I still don't get. Oh well, at least you can go to the hamfests and take your son along and see old ham buddies too. Try that on EBAY.

Ed/kg4qmi