



# THE JUNKBOX



## The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

August 2005

Elizabeth City, NC 27906-1217

<http://www.taars.us>

WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655/444.300 PL 131.8 Packet 145.710

### Minutes From July 2005 TAARS Meeting

The July meeting was called to order by President Ron, N4WYR at 7:35 PM with 9 members present. A motion was made by Greg, N4QLD with a second from Cynthia, KG4SPH to accept the June minutes as published. Motion was carried. George, KE4NBR gave his Treasure report stating that 468 dollars in membership dues had been collected so far and our balance was \$3032.17. Zeb, K4ZVM read a letter he had drafted to Herman Little at Northeastern High thanking the administration for the use of the facilities during Field Day. Cynthia informed us that Hertford was having an Emergency Management meeting on Thursday July 27<sup>th</sup>. Mention was made that the quarterly meeting of CERA is Saturday August 13 in Columbia. The meeting was adjourned at 8PM and open discussions followed.

### Next TAARS Meeting

Our next scheduled TAARS meeting is slated for Thursday, August 18, 2005 7:30 at COA. Our dinner location is the Virginia City Buffet and Restaurant located near Office Max on Halstead Blvd. at 6PM.

### 2005 Dues

Haven't got those dues in yet? Well it's not too late. Dues for 2005 are \$30.00 plus \$2.00 for additional family members. They cover not only TAARS but also the repeater fund. Please help support our club. If you can't attend the meeting make your check payable to TAARS and send it to P.O. Box 1217-27906 Elizabeth City NC, 27906.

### From the President

Well, it is time for the August meeting. Unfortunately I won't be able to attend, we are having revival services at our church all week and our band is playing. You all are welcome to come out, it will be every night August 15 through 19, at 7 P.M. The location is Moyock Assembly of God, located in the Ranchland subdivision. Herman and Ed have been there, see them if you need directions.

Ok, enough for my free commercial. I figure I can do anything I want until you throw me out of office. ....

I would like all of you to keep Dave Perham and his family in your thoughts and prayers. It is easy to be quick to help, when something like this first happens, but their need is ongoing. Give him a call, and offer to help out. If he says they don't need

anything, have something in mind so you can say, "how about if I do such and such for you".

The VE exam session in July went well. Herman was exam liaison and he can give the statistics. As most of you know, the FCC is considering doing away completely with the Morse code requirement. Some are predicting doom and gloom for the future of ham radio, but I see it as an opportunity. I also predict that there will be a last minute rush of people wanting to upgrade to General while the code requirement is still present, just as I was one of the last people to upgrade to Extra while the 20 wpm requirement was still in effect. I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it.

So, 73 to all, and I hope to see you at the September meeting. Ron N4WYR

### Around The Bands

Well, this has been a very different month. I missed last months meeting due to making final preparations for my trip to Wyoming. Had good intentions but decided that 2 extra bags were not worth it so I packed the 6m mobile and a mobile antenna and headed west. And I made 1 contact, and that was with my HT on 146.520 on the last night there. Oh well, that wasn't the reason for the trip anyway.

As I write this I'm calling CQ on 6m's, still looking for WY oddly enough to finish up 6m WAS on the Lower 48. A look at the log shows mostly 6m contacts but there are a few 10m qso's as well. And if the 10m QSL cards from GA and NJ get here this week, that will confirm the 4<sup>th</sup> band (10, 15, 20 and 40) in my attempt to do 5 Band WAS. The only other contacts are a few CW (yes CW) contacts on 6m and 40m. I'm actually beginning to get up nerve enough to call CQ.

But while prepping for the WY trip, I worked on a new antenna. Many of you have seen my rotatable, 3-band (6, 10, and 15) dipole. But I've worked up a new version based on the buddipole. I will bring the antenna to the meeting Thursday night.

The first shows 2 - 11m, top-loaded 4' antennas that have been cut and retuned to 10m. The difference between the old design and the new was very noticeable. The second picture shows that I used two mirror-mounts, bolted together and facing opposite directions. One side is grounded while the other side connects to the coax. Time did not permit a comparison test with the Field Strength meter but that may happen this week. The thought behind this antenna is to screw two antennas into the mount and increase the fwd gain. All I need is one more 40m Hamstick to

find out. This ought to make a heck of a rotatable antenna. See you Thursday. Ed/W4RVZ



### **TAARS SPONSORED TESTING SESSION**

The next TAARS Amateur Radio test session will be held October 22nd, 2005 at 0900 local at the College of the Albemarle.

Here are some results from the July session:

We served five candidates. One upgraded to Extra, one to General, and a new Technician license was achieved. One candidate earned credit for Element 3 (general written) also.

Our volunteer team was comprised of Herman NO4Y, Ron, N4WYR, and Joe W4UEB.

### **APRS and Weather Stations**

There are several area weather stations on the air, you can view them on 144.39 using one of the APRS programs available and any 1200 baud packet TNC. You can also check out the weather data on the web by going to

<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=NO4Y>  
<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=N4QLD>  
<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=KB4TOH-11>  
<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=WA1TSS>

There may be others that I am overlooking.

### **Upcoming Events**

Shelby Hamfest  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Cleveland County Fairgrounds  
Shelby NC

Virginia Beach Hamfest September 17 & 18  
Virginia Wesleyan College  
Virginia Beach, VA

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Special Radio Event Award  
October 1, 2005  
Information: <http://arlhs.com/cgaward.html>

73 Herman  
NO4Y