



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

September 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 August meeting was called to order by Vice President Al, K4VHV at 7:35 PM with 7 members present. Motion made and approved to accept the August minutes. Greg, N4QLD reported on the Emergency management meeting. Discussion was held on proposed APRS TNC to replace ECLAN. Al is going to contact Dave, N1DP to find out the details about what TNC to purchase. A discussion was held on Greg, N4QLD's ad in QST for VISA. A short discussion was held on hurricane evacuation guidelines. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Next TAARS Meeting

Our next scheduled TAARS meeting is slated for Thursday, September 15, 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.

Upcoming Events

September 17th and 18th, Virginia Beach Hamfest and Electronics Flea Market. Located at Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, Va. More details available at www.vahamfest.com

The next quarterly TAARS Amateur Radio license test session will be held October 23rd, 2005 at 0900 local, at The College of the Albemarle in Building "C," room 110. The testing fee is \$14.00 for the session. Cash or check made out to ARRL-VEC is accepted. TAARS holds quarterly test sessions at this time and location the Saturday after the club meetings in the months of January, April, July, and October. We are *always* looking for extra Volunteer Examiners (VEs). It's very easy to become a badge bearing, certified Volunteer Examiner (yes, you *do* need badges) Just give me a call and I'll help you get started. 73, Dave N1DP n1dp@arrl.net, 252-336-4602.

APRS Node coming soon

Coming soon to Elizabeth City. NC4EC-4 APRS node is already on the air in a test mode. Dave, N1DP has been working on the programming and has the node up and running from his QTH. If all goes well it will find it's way to a new home in the next week or so. It will be transmitting from 175 feet. It should give APRS coverage along the 17 corridor, and fill in some holes on 168. More information on APRS along with position reports and weather may be found here. <http://www.findu.com/>

Katrina Response By "Old Fashion" Hams

I've not been able to jump off and help much at either work or Ham Radio and deploy to Katrina this time. Instead, I've been monitoring the activity on the HF nets and on the Web. The web has had for Hams, and the Coast Guard, some very glowing reports. I see similarities in both groups, but will focus more on us Hams. As you all know, we work with so called "old fashion" communication equipment. This has been the theme of most news items on the Web. Heck, a few of us are pretty old fashion too! What our fellow Hams have brought to this event is old fashion flexibility and dedication. Quite a bit of old fashion planning went into the many repeaters that survived in the area affected by the storm. Plenty of old fashion training, studying, and practice went into this too. Not always 100%, but quite a bit of old fashion operating discipline and courtesy went into the smooth operation of the many HF nets we could hear.

A few years ago, the League went through some kind of public relations convulsion and thought it was due a name change from the Amateur Radio Relay League to something less "old fashion." Well, I would submit that that name is as relevant as when it was first created back in the 200-meter spark gap days. It was several hams *relaying* information, eventually to the Coast Guard, that saved, I suspect, a very "old fashion" 81 year old grandmother off a rooftop in New Orleans.

One of our local hams, and creator of ugly antennas, busied himself by supporting his fellow Baptist Men's Feeding Units by piling together coax, ugly Yagis and other goodies for this team. Rumor has it he was also supplied by a neighbor with coax. I don't think he took it off of the neighbor's tower, but time will tell on that. Just another example of old fashion donations for the cause. I hope each of you reading this will take the time to donate what you can to help with event. There are so many good groups that came to our aid here in Northeastern North Carolina. I ate some of their food (no Herman not too much). I hope to return the favor to some other

family or smelly ham working a shelter or feeding unit. 73, and
88 for the homeless, Dave N1DP