



# THE JUNKBOX



## The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

March 2010

Elizabeth City, NC 27906-1217

<http://www.taars.us>

WA4VTX Repeaters 146.655/444.300/147.330 PL 131.8 APRS 144.39

### **Next TAARS Meeting**

Our next scheduled TAARS meeting is slated for Thursday, March 18, 7:30 PM at COA building "C" C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6PM.

TAARS Regular Meeting February 18, 2010

### **Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by Al, K4VHV standing in for President Ron, N4WYR.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

### **Old Business**

The non-working 2 meter transceiver used for APRS has been replaced and installed.

KJ4FIN, Jim gave a report on SKYWARN activities during the recent winter storm. Wakefield SKYWARN ran a net that attempted to cover all 7 of the SKYWARN areas. In addition, access to on line reporting logs were turned off for this event in order to ensure that all SKYWARN Net Control Stations became familiar with paper logs and reporting.

Early in the storm event, this testing of procedures worked well enough, with an hourly call for RF reports from each of the areas. As the morning went on, and the storm intensified throughout the Tidewater VA areas, the steadily increasing volume of traffic resulted in a difficult, and at times, an unworkable situation.

There were simply too many repeaters linked.

Changes to the SKYWARN procedures were made shortly after the storm to insure that only 146.665 WA4VTX is listed as the primary Area 7 repeater, and any necessary linking for AREA 7 SKYWARN nets are done by TAARS.

### **New Business**

K4VHV, Al reported that TAARS received a letter from Ed Taylor thanking the club and members for help with previous Tar Wheel Century Bicycle races. TAARS again has the honor of being asked to help by providing rovers and SAG (Support & Gear) stop personnel for the 17th annual Tar Wheel Century bicycle race. The race will take place on Saturday April 24, 2010. The route will pass through the historic downtown areas of both Elizabeth City and Edenton, NC.

Please contact Herman, NO4Y, or AL K4VHV if you can help with this worthwhile event.

The next VE testing session is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2010, at the COA in Elizabeth City.

Field Day is coming up on the last weekend in June. This is June 26 -27, 2010.

Al K4VHV noted that the best time of year for DX is now through Easter.

The combined CERA, and Areas 1 & 2 ARES meetings, cancelled due to hazardous road conditions, will be held at the next regularly scheduled time; May 8, 2010.

In Attendance: KJ4FIN Jim, W4MUZ Ed, N4QLD Greg, K4VHV Al, KC4EEA Rick, K2IUN Champ, KG4SPH Cynthia, KI4BQI Albert, KG4SPP Katina, NO4Y Herman, KI4EIX, John, K4YF, Edgar

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Following the meeting, Champ, K2IUN gave a presentation on the design and construction of a Near Earth Long Wire Antenna. Thanks to Champ for sharing his expertise, and a congratulatory "good job" award for the excellent craftsmanship shown in the samples that he passes around.

### **Some Missing Q signals**

Original list by John Queen, KA0SEY & Mike ColyarK7ITL, submitted by our own WB1CZX Tom:

QBO – Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.

QBO? – Buddy, can you spare some soap?

QET - Phone home.

QET? – Has anyone called me from another planet?

QHI – I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going

QHI? – Are you leaving after only one transmission?

QOK – Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.

QOK? – Was my last transmission OK?

### **SKYWARN News**

Class participation size requested by Wakefield WFO for a SKYWARN class is around 15 students. So far we do not have close to that number. An on line alternative for us has been requested. Newport is working on restoring the Links to their on line training. Links to access Wakefield and Newport training schedules are listed below.

Wakefield : <http://training.wx4akq.org/>

Newport: <http://www.mhxskeywarn.org/training.php>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Thanks to Herman, NO4Y

March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia QSO Party

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Raleigh Hamfest (RARS Fest)

April 17<sup>th</sup> TAARS VE sponsored testing session

April 24<sup>th</sup> TarWheel Century Bike Race

### **Help NEEDED**

If you haven't done so please sign up to help with the TarWheel Century bike event. We still need rovers as well as sag stop personnel. The event begins at 8 am and support last until 5 PM. Contact Al, [k4vhv@arrl.net](mailto:k4vhv@arrl.net) or Herman [no4y@arrl.net](mailto:no4y@arrl.net)

TAARS has supported this event for numerous years and I hope we can continue to make this a club event.

### **HF IS IMPROVING**

After what seem like an eternity the HF bands are finally improving slowly. I recently worked the NC QSO Party, I manage to work 38 states on 20 meters during Sunday afternoon. The following weekend was the international DX contest. I only worked about 100 stations but manage to work 60 countries without any difficulty. I did most of my operating on 15 meters which was a pleasant surprise.