



THE JUNKBOX



The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

February 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, February 18, 7:30 PM at COA building "C" C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6PM.

TAARS Regular Meeting January 21, 2010

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by President Ron, N4WYR.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one correction noted from the November minutes, where NO4Y was incorrectly cited as N4OY.

The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Old Business

President Ron reported his experience with installation and use of Windows 7. This was a positive experience with several old problems being fixed by Windows 7. He also commented on a CQ Magazine article reporting that sunspots are at the lowest level in 50 years.

New Business

A motion was made, and seconded for the club to obtain a 2 meter rig to replace the current machine being used for APRS. Herman NO4Y will follow up.

Champ, K2IUN provided information on ham radio operators in Haiti as follows:

Haiti Maritime Net 14.300

HH2JR Gene, speaks French & English and will translate

HH3/KE4URC James

ZS6RSQ/HH Bruce

HH6JH Father John; runs an orphanage

Andrews Global Command 14.265

Also, messages for U.S. State Department can be left at: 888 420 4947

In Attendance: KJ4FIN Jim, N4WYR Ron, WB1CZX Tom, W4MUZ Ed, KD4ISA Jim, N4QLD Greg, K4VHV Al, KE4NBR George, K4ZVM Zeb, WB4KZW Gene, KC4EEA Rick, K2IUN Champ, KG4SPH Cynthia, KI4BQI Albert, KG4SPP Katina, NO4Y Herman

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

VE Testing

Saturday January 23 TAARS sponsored a VE testing session at the COA. Successful candidates included:

Joseph Harverson and Robert Hamilton, new Technician Class licensees; Albert Ryder, KI4BQI, new Extra Class licensee; and Richard Marlin, K4HAT, new General Class licensee. Our VE team consisted of Herman, NO4Y; Ron N4WYR; Edgar, K4YF; and Tom, WB1CZX..

SKYWARN NEWS

Do you know how to find and understand the key local NWS reports? They are:

Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) - Provides a brief recap of active watches, warnings, and advisories (WWA) and a quick look at key hazardous weather threats over the next several days.

Area Forecast Discussion (AFD) - Issued several times daily, this product gives a narrative of current and forecast weather conditions and offers a lot of insight into the thought process behind the forecast. Sometimes the AFD is written in highly technical terms with lots of abbreviations (most of which are linked to an online NWS glossary for easily decoding),

Short Term Forecast (NOW) - Also commonly called the "NOWcast," this product is usually issued during the onset of severe weather in the CWA. It provides more specific guidance of severe weather threats over the forecast area, typically during a 30 to 90 minute window.

Special Weather Statement (SPS) - Provides information on marginal and sub-severe weather situations within the CWA. May be issued instead of or in addition to a warning or advisory.

Upcoming Events

The Saturday February 13th CERA meeting including Areas 1 and 2 ARES meetings was cancelled due to hazardous road conditions. Rescheduling plans will be announced when available. Bylaw changes are on the schedule to be adopted along with election of CERA officers. WB1CZX Tom is the current CERA President and has done an excellent job. More info can be found at <http://taars.us>.

Sunday February 28th The NC QSO Party takes place. Operations from all over NC are encouraged and especially from Northeast NC. More info can be found at <http://www.w4nc.com/2010ncqsoparty.html>