



# THE JUNKBOX



## The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

May 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, May 20, 7:30 PM at COA building "C" C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6PM.

TAARS Regular Meeting April 15, 2010

### **Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 by President Ron, N4WYR.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

### **Old Business**

Volunteers are still needed for the April 24<sup>th</sup> Tar Wheel Century Bike Race to man the SAG stops and work as Rovers. Please contact Herman, NO4Y, or AL, K4VHV if you can help with this worthwhile event.

The new APRS radio is providing good coverage from the 175' level on the tower.

### **New Business**

President Ron reported that a new version of AGWPE is available that addresses the problem that AGWPE has had in identifying sound cards. The new version is available at:

<http://www.kc2rlm.info/soundcardpacket/2agwget.htm>

It was noted that ARRL is redoing its website. You may receive the following:

"Please be patient as we are transitioning to a new website and Google is building a new search index. Results will improve over time."

Field Day is approaching; scheduled for the last weekend in June; this is June 26-27, 2010

Herman NO4Y, Chairperson relayed that Zeb, K4ZVM reported that facilities have been taken care of for field day.

Members expressed that T shirts should be ordered for the event and preferences will be taken prior to ordering.

Herman, NO4Y stated that a webmaster is needed to work on the TAARS website. Anyone interested should please call Herman. The website continues to increase in importance for TAARS communications.

Discussion took place about the Virginia Beach Hamfest, scheduled for Sept 11, 2010 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

It was noted that officer elections will be held next month at the TAARS regular meeting scheduled for May 20, 2010. Discussions were held on nominations.

Congratulations were offered to Rick KC4EEA on his participation and noteworthy standing in the Final Results of the 2009 New York QSO Party. Individual results can be viewed at: [http://www.nyqp.org/2009\\_Results/US\\_Overall\\_Ranking.php](http://www.nyqp.org/2009_Results/US_Overall_Ranking.php)

Full results are at:

[http://www.nyqp.org/2009\\_Results/](http://www.nyqp.org/2009_Results/)

In Attendance: KJ4FIN Jim, N4QLD Greg, K4VHV Al, KI4BQI Albert, KG4SPP Katina, NO4Y Herman, KI4EIX John, KB4TOH Mike, WB4FXD Terry, N4WYR Ron, KC4EEA Rick, AJ4NV David

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20

Following the meeting, Ron, N4WYR gave a presentation on Nuclear Enrichment and helped explain the news reports on the enrichment process going on in Iran.

### **SKYWARN NEWS**

SKYWARN Wakefield is planning improvements to the online reporting system that will replace Google Apps. Migration to the new reports is anticipated for around the end of summer. Area 7 Net Control Stations will shortly be offered access to the BETA version through a test environment. The following link will take you to an FAQ section about this change.

<https://sites.google.com/a/wx4akq.org/skywarn-ops/migration>

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Field Day 2010 June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at Northeastern High School  
TAARS VE testing session July 17<sup>th</sup> 2010

### **VE Testing Session**

Our quarterly TAARS VE testing session yielded 2 upgrades to Amateur Extra. Rick Bleil KC4EEA and John Hicks, KI4EIX, great job guys. Thanks to W4UEB Joe, KD4CEB Kerry, K4YF Edgar, and Ron N4WYR who served as examiners.

**Herman/NO4Y**

### **KC4EEA SILENT KEY**

TAARS member KC4EEA died on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rick had been a TAARS member for 3 years and had served as our TAARS photographer. He was always around to help with any club project and had become an avid contesteer. Rick will be missed by all of us.

**Herman/NO4Y**

## TAR Wheel Century

Thanks to everyone who helped and offered support for the Bike event this year. Our service was very much appreciated by the bike club.

Herman/NO4Y





## HURREX May 4/5 2010 state wide Hurricane Emergency Management/ARES Exercise

4 pictures from this: 2 from the Pasquotank Camden ARES EOC, 2 of the South Carolina ARES Winlink and Mobile operation center. Local Pasquotank Camden EOC, Christy Saunders Emergency Manager, Hurrex exercise had two parts over two days:

Day 1. Tuesday 5/4 was "state wide" simulation of the 3 day approach and landfall of "Hurricane Carolyn". During this day the county EOCs were activated as was Eastern Branch and Raleigh EM various messages were passed with decisions about evacuations and preparations etc, using Internet based WEB EOC software. The ARES station was manned by myself KD4CEB, and Zeb K4ZVM as observer. Only the Kenwood Dual band rig was operational but there is a Kenwood HF rig there but no antenna yet. We do have 4 hard lines from the ARES station to the roof to 4 GP3 dual band (see pix). South Carolina ARES Roger Mull KD4JQJ demonstrated the use of HF Winlink email messaging (using a Pactor encoded modem on a MARS frequency, see the 2 pictures one of their mobile control center (the satellite dish was NOT part of Winlink) and other showing the Winlink in action. Winlink was passing traffic thru HF, then onto Internet to Eastern Branch Winlink station.

Day 2. On the second day Wednesday 05/5 Christy had all the area Emergency Managers at the Pasquotank EOC and they ran exercises about hurricane aftermath and tornado damages in Pasquotank and how to coordinate assistance between the counties. I had the ARES station up for that but did not pass any "official traffic". Zeb was there and Champ K2IUN and Cynthia KG4SPH attended too. The other half of the South Carolina ARES Winlink team John Crockett KC4YI was there that second day to demo Winlink for the other emergency managers.

Overall very good exercise and gave us a chance to work on the Pasquotank Camden ARES station that has Dave N1DP original Kenwood dual bander "go box" from the old EOC moved to the new Public Safety building that Zeb and Jeff N4ZWQ originally setup couple years ago. This has never been used yet in real emergency. After consulting with Champ a simple 80 dipole may be the way to go for the HF part of the ARES station, maybe a GRV5 on the roof. We also plan to setup a Windows laptop with Internet based Winlink.

Any Pasquotank or Camden ham that may wish to help with ARES contact one of us and we can get to work on FEMA ICS training as 4 ICS courses must be passed to be able to work in any EOC after July! The courses are not hard just takes a little time and it is all over the Internet.  
-kerry KD4CEB

