



# THE JUNKBOX



## The Official Newsletter of The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society

Post Office Box 1217

November 2011

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, November 17, 2011, 7:30 PM at COA building "C" C109. Our dinner location is the Golden Corral at 6PM.

TAARS Meeting October 20, 2011

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Dave AJ4NV. The minutes of the previous meeting, as posted on the TAARS website, were approved. The Treasurer's report was read.

#### **OLD Business**

Antenna Progress – A definite cause has not yet been identified. The new antenna has been installed, the coax has checked out OK. Analyzer has not indicated a problem, and SWR is 2:1. Popping and cracking continues even when not transmitting. The climber has done all that was asked to do. Another spare hard line cable has been identified if needed, and another climber has been lined up if needed, however transportation and hourly rate are being looked at. The next step is to bring out a radio to do testing from the ground and make another review before engaging another climber.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote to authorize Herman and Albert to do what is necessary to resolve the problem.

#### **New Business**

The next test session will be held on Saturday, 9: AM, October 22, 2011 at College of The Albemarle in Elizabeth City, Building C.

Report on the Virginia Beach Hamfest is that it was not as good as last year. The number of vendors was lower.

Education – Mike KB4TOH displayed examples of early electrical wiring used in the Columbia NC area. The wiring is known as Knob and Tube. It is made with copper wire passing through studs and joists within protective porcelain tubes and supported with porcelain knob like insulators. A clear example of a very labor intensive installation and manufacturing process.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm.

In Attendance: KJ4FIN JimB, NO4Y Herman, AJ4NV Dave, KI4BQI Albert, KG4SPP Katina, KB4TOH Mike, KR4DHR Jimmie, N4QLD Greg, N4WYR Ron, KK4CRD Dean, W4UEB Joe, W4MUZ Ed. KD4CEB Kerry, WB4FXD Terry

### First National EAS Test

Though mostly favorable, some mixed reviews followed the test at 2:00pm on November 9, 2011.

A few summaries can be found at the following links:

<http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/emergency-alert-system-nationwide-test>

<http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/24967?c=communications>

### Repeater Update

Our engineering experts are continuing to work at resolving the receiver problem on 146.655

### SKYWARN News

Please see the following note from Bill Sammler to Steve Crow RE: training.

On 11/15/2011 9:33 AM, Bill Sammler - NWS Wakefield wrote:

Hi Steve,

From our meeting minutes: For now, we will continue to advertise our "on-site" spotter talks as the preferred method of certification.

ACTION: A link to this new COMET course will be put on our SKYWARN page for those that are interested in the program but cannot make a scheduled talk.

We do have a separate sign-up form for those who take the online training, and want to either become spotters, or renew their certification. Those who take the online course will need to contact myself or Mike Montefusco to obtain the form, so we can add them to the database, or update their information.

Bill S.

Please check the following links for SKYWARN training scheduled in other nearby areas.

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/akq/spotterinfo/skywarn.htm>

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/mhx/>

Upcoming Events Please see the link below for details on Frostfest 2012, to be held on February 4, 2012 at the Richmond Raceway Complex, in Richmond VA.

[http://www.rats.net/jml/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=97&Itemid=54](http://www.rats.net/jml/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=97&Itemid=54)