

New Bern Amateur Radio Club

Volume 23, Issue 12

December, 2000

WD4JMS/R

146.610/ 146.010 PL 100 Hz.

444.900 / 449.900 PL 100 Hz.

Website: www2.cconnect.net/newbernarc

January Meeting -- Thursday, Jan. 4, 2001

Dues are Due - 2nd Notice

Charlie reminds us **again** that dues for the year 2001 may be paid at any time (the sooner the better). Dues remain at \$20/yr, checks may be mailed to the club at P.O. Box 12483, New Bern, 28560-2483, or to Charlie Gould, K4VC, at 103 Outrigger Rd., New Bern 28562, or will be cheerfully accepted at the meeting, January 4.

December Program

Mac, WA0ZGL, will give a program on the second half of soldering.

This time he will be covering the ins and outs of Surface Mount Technology (SMT).

A short video on the technical aspect of SMT soldering and desoldering will be included.

December Meeting Minutes

The Dec. 7 meeting of NBARC, was called to order by President Mac, WA0ZGL, at 7:05 PM. The meeting was designed to be a social one with a gift exchange. There were 18 members in attendance, along with 6 xyls and guests.

No business was transacted. A monetary donation was taken up and given to Shannon our regular meeting night waitress. She showed off her latest son, and announced that there is a possible brother for him, on the way. Mac was designated to have a talk with her so as to explain where these children originate.

The meeting was adjourned after the gift exchange and somewhat early since there was an early closing of the restaurant.

C. Gould, Acting Sec.

Recent News of Interest

AO-40 Sends Christmas Gift via S-band

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 26, 2000--Following a 12-day silence, AO-40 transmitted an S-band signal on Christmas day at 2145 UTC, in response to an L-band command sent by command station ZL1AOX.

Telemetry transmissions from AO-40 ceased December 13 while ground controllers were testing the onboard 400-Newton propulsion system. Some observers feared the satellite had been irreparably damaged.

Ian, ZL1AOX, received the S-2 beacon on 2401.305 MHz. He reported the signal strength as S5 to S6, comparable to the signal last received from AO-40.

taken from The ARRL website - for more info, see <http://www.remote.arrl.org/>

President's Corner

The Christmas Season is a wonderful time of the year. It is a time for family gatherings, remembering old friends and the pondering of times gone by. With all the bright lights and commercialism, it is easy to forget just what this time of year is truly about. The celebration of the birth of the Christ Child comes but once a year and we should not pass up the moment to remember and give thanks. We are so fortunate to be living the worlds greatest country. For many around the world our worst is their best. Be happy, be safe and have fun during this blessed season.

Merry Christmas and I'll see you next year. *WA0ZGL*

Finances

There follows a listing of items paid during the calendar year of 2000. With a membership of about 65, it is apparent that we are going in the hole. We have reduced the mailing expenses, which should help some. We had a problem with the electricity, and it is still high. There is a move to put the dehumid on a timer rather than running it 24/7, which also should help. Whether either will be enough is hard to say.

Dues are slow coming in—have only received one in the mail since the 12-7 meeting. Did have 14 pay at that meeting.

CP&L	Sprint	USPS	Misc.
39.34	29.21	66.00	26.00 Arrl
24.62	29.21		14.61 Rec.Bk
20.73	29.21		26.00 Arrl
21.44	29.87	66.00	25.00 Prize
20.73	35.21		84.80 Copies
21.44	34.40	66.00	325.00 Liab Ins
23.82	29.43	65.00	53.85 F/D Sup
43.57	29.34		100.00 F/D Pin
73.98	29.34		30.50 Lbls
41.01	29.34	33.00	187.00 Prop Ins
45.88	29.34		20.00 SERA
40.14	29.34		145.00 Dehum
			32.00 Arrl
416.70	363.24	295.00	1070.76

note: \$66.00 represents 200 stamps, \$33.00 represents 100
65.00 represents annual PO Box rental
73, Charlie - K4VC

GRAND TOTAL 2145.70

December Operating Events

Dec. 30-31 **ARRL** Straight Key Night
Jan. 13-14 North American QSO Party, CW
Jan. 20-22 **ARRL** Jan. VHF Sweepstakes
Jan. 20-22 North American QSO Party, phone
Jan. 26-28 CQ WW 160-Meter DX 'test, CW

Upcoming Hamfests

Jan. 13 Greenwood, SC
<http://www.W4GWD.org>
Jan. 21 Richmond, VA "Frostfest"
<http://www.frostfest.com>
Feb. 3 North Charleston, SC
<http://www.qsl.net/warusn/index.html>

For full info on above items, see the January

issue of QST magazine or web links

Greeting's from your Program Chairman

This is my second or third year as your program chairman. I gotta admit it's been fun and I've enjoyed doing it for you, the members. In any club or organization, programs are important. A great way to pass along knowledge, experiences, humor. For beginners and old timers too, there's always something to learn from each other. We do this through our programs. Besides, if we at NBARC didn't have a program at each meeting, what would we do for those 20 or 30 minutes? Probably engage ourselves in an awful food fight. Imagine coming home to our yl's covered with cole slaw, mashed potatoes, [with gravy], and chunks of fried fish! What would Shannon our waitress think of us?

Some thoughts for the New Year...of course our usual club auction. Here is where one can bid on

some of the finest, most up to date, high tech, state of the art equipment. Gear to make the XYL proud she married a ham radio operator. Also on the agenda, I would like to have a new gear product review. If any of you purchase new equipment, tell us about it. Does it work well, is it easy to use, etc. etc. This however, does not include gear purchased at the club auction, nor steam irons, microwave ovens, toasters. Some if not most of you have very interesting backgrounds. I think a profile program would be a way of sharing your life's experience with the club.

Please, no true confession's here. I'm also open to suggestions from all. So please, stay in touch let me hear from you. After all it's for you and about you. Happy New Year, gud DX es 73, Dave K2CQV

EDITORIAL

Well, I'll take keyboard in hand again, and hope not to put you to sleep. I also hope that I don't make this a monthly column, but there are several things which I'd like to mention.

First, finances. Charlie has provided a chart of the last year's expenses to the club, preceded by a reminder that annual dues need to be paid. Two meetings ago, Charlie brought the subject up for discussion - basically, we are spending more than we take in, what can be done? We do have a savings account, which will have to be tapped sometime during the coming year, it looks to me. That can and should be done by the treasurer if/when necessary.

Our income comes largely from dues, and is pretty much fixed. At about 65 members, and \$20/yr, that brings in about \$1300. Our expenses in 2000 were about \$2100 (the final amount for December may change from the chart). If we look at the costs, the repeater took about \$1100, half of the total expense. The newsletter took about \$420. I would have thought more, since copying and mailing costs are about 60 cents per issue per person, or \$7.20 per year per person, if all were mailed. That amounts to over 1/3 of the dues we pay.

Obviously, we don't want to give up these benefits. Most of us use the repeater, and it provides public service, which is one reason for the existence of amateur radio and the club. I hope most of us use the newsletter and look forward to seeing it each month. What can be done to reduce the costs of these benefits? Electric power and telephone are the main costs of the repeater. The fone cost is almost always the minimum, so very little can be done there. I understand that air conditioning is a large part of the power cost. It has been suggested that the A/C could be limited in the cooler months. Maybe so, maybe not. We have reduced the cost of the newsletter some by sending it out by email to those who have that service. I don't like to read a lot of information on the screen, but it can be printed out if I want to do that, and I'm glad to save the club 1/3 of my dues.

There is little else we can do to reduce expenditures. I think most of us would agree that we don't spend un-necessarily.

So, What can be done to increase income? We could increase dues, but that might reduce the number of members, and be counter productive, if not just be plainly unpopular. The club auction brings in a little. 'what else can we do? All suggestions are

needed. I think this needs to be a topic for clear thinking and discussion at several meetings. Many of us don't come regularly to meetings, maybe email is a way to share our views.

We have about 50 of our 65 members with email capability. If you've read this far, I'm glad. There is a way to get together via email, but I will not go into it here and now. If you want to hear about it, drop me a line at anchor@ec.rr.com and I'll tell you more.

On the other subject, this newsletter is shorter than the last, mainly because there has been little in the

way of "contributions" to be written. This editorial fills up space which I had hope someone else would use, and the following items about "boatanchors" are some that I have saved up for use as "fillers", and have more which can be used in the future if needed and appreciated.

So, I hope you have read, and will share some of your views, in person at meetings, or by email.

73, Al, W8UT

And remember; "-They don't make tubes nowadays like they used to..."

What are Boatanchors?

Big....Heavy....Old....Fun !

"Boatanchor" is a fond term for vintage tube-type ham radio and communications gear. Manufacturers like Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, National, Johnson, RME, Heath, Collins, etc. made this gear through the mid 1960's. Also included is tube-type military radio gear, homebrew gear, station accessories like microphones and keys, and test equipment of that period.

Why Boatanchors ?

by John Brewer WB5OAU/4, Clayton, NC

Some may question the desire for 80 pound receivers and 100 pound transmitters, both with filaments sitting there getting hot and wasting power in this day of microprocessor based, mega-memored miniaturized transceivers! Although modern radios are extremely good at what they are designed to do, they are about as interesting to operate as a toaster oven. They have no soul.

Additionally, many find a zen-like feeling in taking an old, misused ratty old radio and carefully restoring it back to health. Like cars of the era, boatanchor radios were made to be worked on, modified, and tinkered with. Many think of it as Real Radio in this era where fixing a transceiver is accomplished by boxing it up to send to the manufacturer for a custom VLSI chip

replacement. Indeed, a warm soldering iron is almost a requirement for operating a vintage station.

Others claim that boatanchors SOUND better than their silicon descendants, and this is generally true. The audio from a Hammarlund or National receiver, or a Johnson transmitter can sound much better than the 300mW audio coming out of the 2" speaker in the typical transceiver.

Watching the flicker of 807 modulators in a Viking I as you speak into a D104 mic, is certainly more stirring on a winter night than considering hole and electron flow. If truth be known, much, if not all of the above, although true, are merely justification for the insatiable hunt for more and more of these old boxes, simply because they are just too NEAT to have and operate!

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: AT&T Safari Laptop; 386, 20MHZ, 80Meg HD, 3.5 Floppy, Mouse, & AC 12volt power supply (batteries dead). Windows 3.0 OS. Has jacks for external Keyboard and Monitor(comes with HP Mono graphics monitor) \$200

John A. Jaskolka, KR4ZJ

jjask@coastalnet.com

FOR SALE: Texas Instruments laptop computer, Travelmate 5000 with owners manuals. Pentium processor with 16 MB ram. Set up with windows 95 and MS Office. External modem, printer (with new cartridge), mouse and carry case included. Computer needs work, sometimes it works fine and sometimes you get error messages and it shuts down. \$200.00.

Dave Warwick, KB4EBT

warwick@cconnect.net

FOR SALE: Heath Kit Seneca VHF-1. 2 Meter/ 6 Meter CW and AM Phone Transmitter w/ Condensed Manual. Any reasonable offer.

Mac, WA0ZGL

wa0zgl@coastalnet.com

WANTED Will Buy -- Old tube-type ham equipment or test gear -- working or even preferably not working. I enjoy fixing stuff, and operating vintage equipment. I presently operate Hallicrafters, Drake, Central Electronics, Johnson eqpt weekly, always interested in "changing the scenery". Will buy tubes for use in getting & keeping things going. Will help anyone who wants to get tube type equipment working and on the air.

Al, W8UT

anchor@ec.rr.com or 636-0837

The Newsletter Team:

Al Parker, W8UT, Editor

Charlie Gould, K4VC, Data Base/Labels/Finance

Ray Hemphill, W7OPH, Duplication/Distribution

The NBARC Newsletter is the newsletter of the New Bern Amateur Radio Club, Inc., PO Box 12483 New Bern, NC 28561. NBARC is an affiliated club with the ARRL and ARES.

Any inquiries, comments, items for Swap Shop, suggestions, contributions, and letters for inclusion should be sent to the editor, W8UT, at e-mail: anchor@EC.RR.com

2001 NBARC Officers:

President: Mac Eutsler, WA0ZGL

Vice President: Pete Koonce, KA4SXX

Secretary: Ray Hemphill, W7OPH

Treasurer: Charlie Gould, K4VC

Communications: Ben Epting, N4NOA

Trustee: Tommie Phelps, WA4EME

Assistant Secretary: Doug Whitford, KF4YHG

Assistant Treasurer: Ralph Bitely, N3XID

Program Chairman: David Sousa, K2CQV

Public Service/Photog: Bob Chamberlain, W2HVX

Emergency Communications: Bruce Arnold, N8UTY

Assistant E. Comm.: Dave Warwick, KB4EBT

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Selected Local Nets

Club Net Manager: Billie Morton, KE4YMA

Craven County ARES: 146.61 MHz, 2000 before threatening wx; monitor during ARES activations

Waterway Radio Cruising Club: 7268 kHz, 0745 daily

NC Morning Net: 3927 kHz, 0745 daily

Carolina Slow Net (CW): 3715kHz, 1800 (5wpm) daily

Coastal Carolina Emergency Net: 3907 kHz, 1900 daily

Carolinas Net (CW): 3573 kHz, 1900 (25 WPM), 2200 (12-15) WPM) daily

Carteret County ARS/ARES: 145.45 mHz, 1930 Tues./ Emerg Traffic handling 1st Tues. after 4th Sat., monthly

NBARC Traffic: 146.61 mHz, 2000 Tuesdays

Skywarn: 145.21 mHz, 2100 Tuesdays

ENC Emergency: 146.685 mHz, 2100 Tuesdays

ENC Traffic: 146.685 mHz, 2030 daily

NBARC Ragchew: 146.61 mHz, daily, after ENC Traffic closes

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P.O. Box 12483

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