

New Bern Amateur Radio Club



Volume 24, Issue 4

April, 2001



WD4JMS/R

146.610/ 146.010 PL 100 Hz.
444.900 / 449.900 PL 100 Hz.

Website: www2.cconnect.net/newbernarc

View the Newsletter there in color

May Meeting -- Thursday, May 3, 2001

6:30 PM at The Berne Restaurant

May Program

Program for May: Always interesting and informative **Andy, W4ULD**, will speak on "loop antennas".

The door prize for May will be a copy of the book titled "Keys, Keys, Keys", by Dave Ingram K4TWJ. Lots of pictures, interesting history on all types of telegraph keys from past to present.

Tickets will be 1 dollar or 3 for 2 dollars, all proceeds go directly to the club treasury.



Ray and Robbie

Treasurer's Financial Report

FOR PERIOD 04-01-01 -- 04-30-01

CHECKING

Starting Balance **\$1,186.27**

*Expenses 51.46

Deposit 133.00

Ending Balance **\$1,267.81**

SAVING

Ending Balance \$1,122.07

NEW WORTH **\$2389.88**

* 4/9 C P & L \$21.98

* 4/19 Sprint 29.48

73, **Charlie K4VC**

April 5, 2001.....**Minutes of the meeting**
of the New Bern Amateur Radio Club regular
monthly meeting, which was opened by President
Mac Eutsler, WA0ZGL, at 6:30pm.

Introductions were made from the floor with
36 people attending, roster attached. The minutes of
the previous meeting were approved as published as
was the finance report which was given by **Charlie
Gould, K4VC**. Mac gave a repeater report and
mentioned that the tone was off temporarily. **Bruce,
N8UTY**, gave a report on the MS walkathon which
raised \$13,000. He thanked those that
communicated for the walkathon. Bruce also
requested those interested in ARES to resubmit an
equipment list and availability for this year's
hurricane season. **Bob Chamberlain, W2HVX**,
mentioned that Neuse River Days will be held on
June 2, and there will be a need for 12-15 hams to
coordinate those activities. Also there will be a 5k
run sponsored by Women's Shelter to be held on
May 19th which will be coordinated by N.B.P.D.,
Lt. Allen.

There was mention of an interest in having a
class for CW. Also mentioned was the possibility of
having another fox hunt. A big thanks went to Eve

Chamberlain for the creation of the club logos and
decals.

The door prizes (Ducks Unlimited prints)
were donated by **Ralph Bitely, N4RAB**, who won
the ball of solder. **Lou D'Arco, N2AME**, won the
Ducks Unlimited prints.

David Souza, K2CQV, presented the
program of product review on the Yaesu FT-817 all
band, all mode mobile transceiver. This radio
operates 160 meters through 440 MHz, at 5W. The
meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ray Hemphill, W7OPH, Secretary

President's Corner

After the License, Then what?

I had never really considered what takes place
after receiving that first new license until this past
week. My whole immediate family, nine in all, took
off for Disney World in Florida. Traveling in two
vehicles, my Granddaughter and I decided to take
our 2 meter handhelds to provide car-to-car
communications. Figuring it would be great to have
then to coordinate pit stops and pass some of the
boredom of the trip, we decided on low power and
52 simplex.

Having been so busy in school studies **Meghan,
KG4ISQ** had not the time to operate much since
receiving her license last summer. As it turned out,
both of us learned from the mobile experience. We
set up on 52 simplex and took off. We quickly
learned that low power and "rubber ducks" inside
vehicles severely restricted our working distance. If
we were separated by ¼ miles or more it didn't
work. Going to high power helped some, but not
much. We quickly decided that next time we would
use outside antennas. Both vehicles had cell phones
that didn't work half the time. All in all the
communications on 2 meters served a very good
function.

I was amused at a few things I discovered.
Meghan did not really understand the relationship
between power settings and receiver capabilities. At
first she thought that by putting the handheld on low
power that it also affected the receiving capability.
After walking her through the power, squelch, and
volume control functions she was off and running.
Using correct ID procedures she conquered her

MIC fright very quickly. After running the I-95 gauntlet going down and returning, I think KG4ISQ has built up her confidence and will be on the air more.

One of Meghan's planned activities this summer is to learn her code and be tested. She likes the idea of being able to talk to people at great distances. Meghan is also looking forward to her schools scheduled contact with the International Space Station (ISS). Application has been submitted and accepted for the event. Currently, Meghan and K9REB are the only Hams in their school. Yes, more "Elmering" is anticipated down the road.

Bottom Line – We need to be mindful that once a person receives his or her license does not mean they are ready to go it alone. Always make yourself available to answer questions and to assist that fledgling Ham. Not to be made fun of, this is serious learning for them.

Have Fun – wa0zgl.

The ARES Angle

Our Walkathon for Multiple Sclerosis on April 1 went very well. 9 hams from the club took part in providing communications for the event. There were over 100 walkers and runners, who raised more than \$13,000 for research. We are proud that NBARC was a part of this effort, and made some good new friends for ham radio that day.

I have received five sign-ups for ARES, in addition to the 'usual suspects' (Mac, Ray, Charlie, David, Bob, Pete, John, Ralph, Preston.) There are some folks who have helped in the past who I will contact personally to see if they are still interested. I have received names and addresses of our new licensees and will also contact them (except for the ones who have already signed up!) So it looks like we will have a good, active ARES group again this year -- let's hope we are not needed.

And for now, that's the ARES Angle.

Bruce Arnold, N8UTY
Craven County EC

NEUSE RIVER DAY

by **Bob, W2HVX**

For the past two years, **NBARC** has provided communications to support **Neuse River Day**. This year the event will be held on Saturday, June 2. We have promised between 10 and 15 hams, as in the past, to be posted both on land at on the water. Our "thank you" letter last year said they couldn't get along without us, and I believe it.

There is a strong effort this year to increase the number of rafts, kayaks, and canoes competing for prizes. The water races tend to be the biggest "draw" for spectators. And our ham communications among the chase boats and to shore tend to be the most important contribution we have made in the past.

Land-based hams who can watch for and report any condition or incident are also highly valued. Although at times it may seem that there's not much

to do, our presence and ability to call for assistance is an important factor in reduction of potential event liability.

We would like to increase the number of NBARC members who participate in these public service events. It's a win-win-win situation: we have a lot of fun, we contribute to the event, and we gain preparation for emergencies.

Last year during such an event I discovered a mag-mount antenna that failed. A spare put me back in business, but I would rather find my equipment weaknesses in a benign situation. You never know if you don't get out and exercise your whole system once in a while. Those tired batteries may be more arthritic than you think.

Please strongly consider setting aside June 2 and helping us out. If you've never participated in this type of operation before, fear not: it's a piece of cake -- straight forward directed net procedures, or

whatever the net control station wants. Or come out and just observe the first time around.

NEUSE RIVER DAY 1999 & 2000



"Neuse Group" taken in 1999



"Neuse Tent Group" in 2000

Rick and Tammy Almost Home

I have received several trip reports from **Rick, WB6LNH**, & **Tammy, KG4APR**, since the last newsletter, no more of the great pix this month. They may be home by the time you read this.

Thursday, April 05, 2001 9:06 PM

Well Pelago is tucked in at Ribovitch/Spencer for some repairs before heading to North Carolina.

To indicate your interest, you can contact Bob by e-mail, land line, or at the April and May meetings to sign up.

Bob, W2HVX

rchamber@coastalnet.com

638-9299

"Neuse Boat Group" in 2000



"Neuse Net Control Station" in 2000

remember, from a previous report--

Friday, March 23, 2001 3:26 PM

we will be departing Georgetown Sat morning and starting the trip north

Monday, April 02, 2001 11:52 AM

sitting in Nassau waiting for a weather window to cross to Florida, looks like there will be a window starting Tuesday to enable us to sail from here straight to Florida

We departed Nassau 0700 Tuesday the 3rd of April. 30 miles out of Nassau, our rudder stuffing box completely let go and we were taking on water at the rate of about 8-10 gallons a minute.... some quick emergency repair by Tammy, (she was the only one that could get under the cockpit to reach the stuffing box) and we were underway... The damned thing had completely separated from the fiberglass collar and the force of the water lifted the stuffing box out of the glass tube...

Got a little hairy for a while, and two of the boats that we were traveling with stayed with us for the entire 30 hour trip...

And we set up radio steeds with Ed back in NC in case things went south. but the actual crossing was kind of dull (best kind), and we were off the Palm Beach sea buoy at 1200 on the fourth.....

Going to head north tomorrow morning.

Rick and Tammy sv/Pelago

Friday, April 13, 2001 8:13 PM

still moving north, we are in St. Augustine Fl for the weekend. will head north on Monday, should be in Georgia Tues. night

Sunday, April 22, 2001 6:47 PM

barefoot landing (Myrtle Beach SC) moon, Carolina Beach Tues., Gottschalk Marina Wed. barring weather and complications

Rick and Tammy sv/Pelago



What they left to come back

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5K run/walk on May 19

The Coastal Women's Shelter is looking for sponsors, volunteers and participants for its third annual "Run for Shelter: Stop Domestic Violence in its Tracks" 5K run/walk on May 19. The race takes place in downtown New Bern. Volunteers are needed to guide the participants as they run/walk the route of the race. The race starts at 8am in front of the Sheraton Grand. This will take about 3 hours (about 7am to 10am) of your time. If you would rather run/walk, you may enter the race at a cost of \$18. All proceeds from the race will support the programs of the Coastal Women's Shelter in New Bern. For further information contact Vicky Koonce at 633-3788 or call 638-4509.

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HAM RADIO NUMBERS SHOW POST-RESTRUCTURING GROWTH SPURT

Amateur Radio is experiencing a bit of a growth spurt in the wake of amateur license restructuring. FCC licensing statistics as of the end of March--the most recent complete figures available--show a net gain of approximately 6600 current licensees, or about 1%, from last April, when restructuring went into effect. Prior to that, the number of amateurs had remained relatively stable since 1998. ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the full impact of license restructuring--including the elimination of the 13 and 20-WPM Morse exams--is slowly making itself felt within the amateur community. "For the first quarter of 2001, ARRL VEC test session statistics show that new and upgrading amateurs continue to earn licenses at a rate stronger than that of first quarter 1999 and first quarter 2000," he said. "This is a positive trend that we expect will continue over the coming months." As of the end of March, according to statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, show growth in the number of Extra, General and Technician licensees from year-earlier figures, while the number of Advanced, Tech Plus and Novice licensees declined. Jahnke says comparing the ARRL VEC's first quarter 2001 numbers shows that interest in the Extra class license is up by as much as 30% over the first quarters of 1999 and 2000. "Extraordinarily, interest in the General license is up 450% to 650%!" he said. With the change to a new, 50-question Extra class written element that combines material formerly covered in the 90 questions contained within the old Advanced and Extra tests, some predicted the Extra test would be easier to pass. That's not proving to be the case this year--at least at ARRL VEC-sponsored sessions, where the Extra pass rate has declined by nearly 7% from 1999. Technician and General pass rates this year have been up on the order of 10% to 12% from pre-restructuring rates, however, at ARRL VEC sessions. Licensee numbers compiled by Speroni show that the FCC issued nearly 5400 new licenses in the first quarter of this year--more than 2230 in the month of March alone. That compares with around 3730 new hams in the same quarter last year. As would be expected, the vast majority of the

newcomers entered the hobby as Technician licensees. March was one of only three months in the past year where the number of new licensees exceeded 2000. For more information, visit Speroni's Amateur Radio Education Web Site, <http://ah0a.org/AH0A.html>

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LOCAL TEST RESULTS -

Another group in Oriental that had opened their books !!!

Test session held on 040601 resulted in six new Techs, and one new General. Again, the missed questions were very few.

They should all have their new call signs by the time you read this.

Next test session was scheduled for April 21, at Craven Community College. Contact **Ray, W7OPH**, or **Charlie, K4VC** for further information



Previous class

May Operating Events

May 5 Ten-Ten Spring CW QSO Party
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/may.html>

Also **May 5-6** State QSO Parties, Indiana, Connecticut, Massachusetts and **May 12-13** Nevada, Oregon for more info, see:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/may.html>

May 26-27 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW.
see March *QST* page 114.

Upcoming Hamfests

May 5 Greenville, SC
South Carolina State Convention
Blue Ridge ARS
<http://www.brars.org>

May 18-20 Dayton Hamvention
Dayton ARA
<http://www.hamvention.org/>

new one - **May 19**, Williamston, NC
K4SER, Steve, (252) 792-1368

May 27 Durham Hamfest
big flea market
no info at press time, but contact W8UT,
anchor@ec.rr.com later for info

June 9 Winston-Salem, NC
Forsyth ARC
<http://www.w4nc.org>

For full info on above items, see the May. issue of *QST* magazine or web links

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Apple color monitor -- the price is right! **Call K4VC** for details, 633-3178

WANTED: Will Buy -- Old tube-type ham equipment or test gear -- working or even preferably not working. Will buy tubes & parts for use in getting & keeping things going. Will help anyone who wants to get tube type equipment working and on the air (I work free, or for junk).

Al, W8UT anchor@ec.rr.com or 636-0837

President: Mac Eutsler, WA0ZGL
Vice President: Pete Koonce, KA4SXX
Secretary: Ray Hemphill, W7OPH
Treasurer: Charlie Gould, K4VC
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Al Parker, W8UT, Editor
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Tom Hill, KJ4IV, Acrobat Handler

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

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May Meeting -- Thursday, May. 3, 2001

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

Fairfield Harbor Cruising Net, 7224, 0730 M-F

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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