

New Bern Amateur Radio Club



Volume 24, Issue 3

March, 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

April Meeting -- Thursday, April 5, 2001

6:30 PM at The Berne Restaurant

April Program

The program for March meeting will be given by Dave Sousa, K2CQV, "A look at the Yaesu FT-817, all band, multimode, QRP, portable radio."

The door prize for the April meeting will be a beautiful print of ducks in flight. The print is in full color, signed & dated by the artist, Jerry Raedeke. This is the first of 4 prints to be given away as door prizes donated to the club by Ralph Bitely, N4RAB. Thank you Ralph for your generous contribution.

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

Upcoming Test Sessions.

April 9, Oriental - This is a new one. George Hurley, N2UCH, has a group there who have been studying together and wants to get them tested when they complete the course.

April 21, New Bern - Craven Community College

More details on these can be obtained from Mac, George or Charlie

Treasurer's Financial Report

For period	03-01-01/03-31-01
Checking	
Starting balance	\$943.91
Expenses	(\$76.64)*
Deposits	\$319.00
Ending balance	\$1186.27
Savings	
Ending balance	<u>\$1122.07</u>

NET WORTH as of 3-31-01 \$2308.34

* Expenses were:

3-08	CP&L	\$21.27
3-15	ARRL (k4vc)	26.00
3-19	Sprint	<u>29.37</u>
		\$76.64

73, Charlie K4VC

President's Corner

I could not resist borrowing these excerpts from my issue of Worldradio.

Amateur Radio is invisible.

Ask the average person on the street to explain what Amateur Radio is, based on their personal insights or knowledge of the hobby (an interesting question for a pollster; perhaps, one hired by the League). You will be shocked at the answers you receive. The average person is unable to provide a realistic summary or description of the Amateur Radio Service. Why is this so? WE ARE INVISIBLE.

A bunch of grumpy old men?

I once asked a young lady, recently licensed and 18 years of age, whether the CW requirement was a barrier or discouragement on her path to becoming licensed. Her response was straightforward. "It wasn't the code that almost frightened me off, it was all the grumpy old men," she said. Take a look in the mirror folks. Next time you attend a swap or an Amateur Radio event, observe the dress, behavior, and social skills of the vast majority of your brethren. Many of us can't even get along with each other; we're too busy complaining about the code requirement. Next time you see a radio amateur portrayed in the media, take note. Ask yourself these questions:

Is he dressed well?
Is his shack neat and well organized?
Is he using a unique mode of communications,
 OR - is he simply talking on 2 Meters?
How old is he?

Put your right foot forward and spread the word about our hobby.
HAVE FUN – wa0zgl

The ARES Angle Sign-Up Time

With the severe weather season on us, and hurricane season fast approaching, it is time to sign up for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. In order to be sure that we have a good, functioning ARES unit, and a good, functioning, phone tree, I like to wipe the slate clean every year. Here is the information I need: Name, Call Sign, Address, Phone Number. Then I need to know what kind of equipment you have (not brand names! Just whether you have HF, VHF, or UHF gear.) I need to know whether you are set up with some sort of emergency power (generator, battery) which will permit operation during a black-out, and if so for what gear -- most of us have a battery operated HT on the 2 meter band, right? Finally, can you deploy to one of our shelter locations during an emergency? And just as important, can you deploy during the aftermath. For instance, while not everyone can go work a shelter while a hurricane is actually happening, we may need to work shifts in the shelters for a couple days after the storm is gone if communications have not been restored.

THIS PART IS IMPORTANT: even if you cannot deploy at all, we still need net controls, liaisons to other nets, and so forth. So if you have any interest in ARES, sign up! We will find a way to use your talents!

You can get the information to me several ways. By telephone, call 633-9096 and leave a message. By email, write to barnold@coastalnet.com and answer the above questions. Or, if you come to the next meeting, there will be sign-up forms available. If you don't sign up, you will not be on the phonetree, so be sure to check in.

Please note: the following people do not need to re-up, unless they have had equipment or contact changes. They are DRAFTED into ARES Service For Life unless their sentence is commuted earlier by a higher authority (work, spouses, health -- age is no excuse though): David KB4EBT, Mac WA0ZGL, Pete WA4SXX, Bob W2HVX, Charlie K4VC, Ray W2OPH, Ralph N4RAB (and Doris -- sorry, Doris, I don't remember your new call sign), Preston KF4YNK, and John KR4ZJ. Sorry, folks, you've done too good so far, just don't know what we'd do without you, so you really have no choice do you? And a reminder: When an emergency is impending, we will meet nightly on 146.61 at 2000 (8:00 PM) for updates. When an emergency is in progress, we will meet at 0800 and 2000 on 146.61 for updates. **SkyWarn spotter training:** Saturday, March 24th, 2:00 PM, at the National Weather Service Station on Roberts Road in Newport. If you haven't checked out the NWS-Newport home page recently, it has undergone major reconstruction. It is better than ever before, much more informative, with some wonderful products that are so avant garde they are being copied by other Weather Service home pages elsewhere in the US. The URL is <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/er/mhx/index.htm> so check it out. And for this month, that's the ARES Angle.

Bruce Arnold N8UTY
 Craven County Emergency Coordinator
Bruce Arnold, N8UTY
Craven County EC

Last Meeting's Program

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.

Hal Gordon gave us an interesting account of some of his experiences as a Radio Officer aboard ship in the Merchant Marine during WW II



How to make an RF indicator from a pencil.



A portion of the enthralled crowd

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.

Rick and Tammy Report in

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I have received several trip reports from Rick & Tammy since the last newsletter, I'll condense them as space permits, will get a few pix in - actually, the newsletter would be 10 pages long (without pix) if I didn't leave a lot out. If anyone would like the "whole story", send me an email, anchor@ec.rr.com, and I'll send it to you.

remember, from a previous report--
"We departed Miami 0430 16th Jan"
2/26/01

we are anchored near Walt and Mary Jean Tedford -
KD4JOW
2/24/01

We are still in George Town, Exuma Island...The weather has co-operated so far and no 'Northers have rolled thru. Some of the weather gurus have predicted them, but the fronts have not been able to hold together past New Providence island... We have had a few days of 25 knots but nothing serious....

This has been the year for alternator problems, but like everything else, you just gotta solve them. Now we have two 100 amp alternators, all the parts to rebuild them twice, a 60 amp self regulating alternator and the parts to rebuild that one. and we have two regulators.....don't have room for much else.

Once again I helped out on the annual Amateur radio exams. Spent a considerable time with some folks every day on the beach and taught them morse code... Have to admit that I am very

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.

To indicate your interest, you can contact me by e-mail, land line, or at the April and May meetings to sign up. Just getting a head start by bringing it up this early.

satisfied with the results...had 25 people every day for a month for an hour and a half or so,, results were great, 24 out of 25 passed with flying colors..had a couple of gals that copied 100 percent copy and not only was it correct, but the penmanship was perfect. Kind of satisfying to see those kind of results. Once again I am in charge of the variety show, and the acts and plans are progressing quite well.

A couple of observations:

South West Wind Power wind generator 400 watt model, what can I say, it works, as advertised and is doing a much better job than the old 300 watt model, real pleased.

Tammy has added to her shell collection with some new varieties and now I gotta find a place to store them....oh well
Going to save the "RAKE AND SCRAPE" story for next time, but Tammy was a hit in her new micro crochet miniskirt and top that she got in Nassau town...

Sun, 25 Feb. 2001

Once again a distress situation happened at the entrance to George Town. A thirty foot j boat hit the reef in bad weather and foundered.....

I spotted two figures in life jackets on Conch Cay early in the am and saw a fire where there should not have been one.....three pob on conch cay, boat on the reef (total loss J-30) all three rescued by boaters in the anchorage (Tammy J was part of the rescue effort), I handled the comm/coordination effort. all three rescued/no injuries.....

they only had a hand held!!!!!!

2/28/00

recovery efforts of damaged 30 ft Henderson 30 foot "TAMBU" (see pic)

she is being dragged 'capsized' by local 'salvor' to nearest haul out facility... Three crew left Ft Lauderdale enroute to Martinique (direct) and all offshore. They were 48 hours out of Lauderdale when heavy seas forced them to find shelter..... Just gotta say that these are three lucky guys, 'cuz ain't no way can this boat be described as an offshore passage maker, this was nothing but a racing sled!!!! I guess the good lord looks after sailors....

Monday 3 March 2001

Well this is as good as any time to talk about anchors.....wind speed outside is 35 gusting to 40... boats are dragging all over the anchorage One boat was put on the beach, another almost on the rocks before all the cruisers went to its rescue. It was a 45 footer called on "N-Joy", he was waiting for some transmission parts, and was without a transmission.... got real close before he was rescued. A Whidby 42 called "Volaire" tried to anchor with a "fortress" with 30 ft of chain and another thirty foot of rode and he almost went on the beach...

Blowing like "stink" outside, we are holding on a 35 lb. delta with 90 foot of chain and 60 foot of rode. The biggest culprit for dragging is the fortress and the bruce...the weather report looks like the winds will continue for a while. Lots of boats moved to the west side of the anchorage, but we decided to stay where we were because as soon as the wind clocked to the N/W and N we would be in a much better position.....

A weather front came through at about 1400 local and the winds shifted from west at 30 knots to n/w at 30 knots, and the tendency now is for the winds to slightly clock to due north....lots of rain, and lots of wind.....

But damn that "delta" is a impressive anchor.... most of these boats that are having problems spend lots of money on "fluff" but not on ground tackle....

but we could be in NY and see snow.....

s/v "Pelago" George Town, Exumas, Bahamas

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6 march 2001

RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE
CAUSED BY ADLER BARBER
REFRIGERATION, WHO NEEDS A EPIRB,
WHEN YOU GOT A ALI-BABA??? these damn things cause so much rfi, that you have to turn the fridge off to use ssb, and the older dc units you have to turn it off to use a simple vhf radio.... here where we are (George Town) there are so many

radiating adler barber systems that it is worse than vhf intermod in Miami and that is going a ways!!!!
MARINE SINGLE SIDE BAND/HAM
RADIO.....

If you plan to go more than fifty miles offshore for more than a week,,,,, don't leave home without it....there are too many types and models to describe, I prefer Icom, but what in the hell do I know....but here is another observation, some of the yahoos (I like that word) here spend two (freaking) grand and more on a radio, and use hardware store wire and will not spend a nickel on the antenna.....once again go figure!!! there is just so much that can be written about some if the installations here that I could write a book on HOW NOT TO INSTALL A RADIO..... the very best radio, is a hunk of junk without a antenna!!!!
LETS TALK A LITTLE ABOUT BATTERY CABLES.....

8 gauge wire is not a battery cable, 4 gauge wire is not a battery cable, automotive wire is not battery cable.. 00 or 0 gauge marine grade, tinned, crimped, soldered, and shrink tubed is a battery cable... there is also a product called "CRC BATTERY TERMINAL SPRAY" comes from auto parts store and works great..... Enough of my ranting and raving for now....it is all still working, but requires scheduled maintenance to keep it going, this is a tough environment, but worth all the trouble...

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Trip report 12 March 2001

The cruising regatta started Friday 9 March with quite a bang, registration for all of the events started at 9 am and concluded about noon. The official boat count is 418, I think that it is inflated somewhat, but what do I know.... anyway there were lots of people signing in for all of the events. Someone might say that with that many boats there is not even room to turn around, but they are quite mistaken. Elizabeth harbor here in George Town, could handle the entire 7th fleet. the anchorage area is many many miles long, and that does not include the various nooks and crannies that people find. Believe me there is lots of room here..... Friday night the Bahamians put on a host party, free food and drink for all the folks that came, turn out was around five hundred...I do not think that there is a live chicken within 100 miles of this place.. Barbecued chicken, ribs, cole slaw, macaroni and cheese (macaroni and cheese

comes with every meal here)..... I also think that we put a serious dent in the 'Barcadi population here in George Town....There was kind of a worry, for a while. We had had some nasty winds for a while, then the Island ran out of BEER!!!! no one was sure if the freighter would make it in time for the party with more beer, but he did and there was plenty of Kalik (Bahamian beer). The Bahamian Tourism board supplied the party with a "DJ" and the place really rocked all night long.. Saturday, there was another party, this time on the beach at "Volley ball beach", this was the opening night ceremony party and had many events... the two highlighted ones that I will "attempt" to describe are as follows. Conch horn contest, longest blow, and group blow, (music) believe me, the Bahamians have nothing to worry about on this accord. The next little jewel, was a "lip synch contest" featuring music from the fifties and sixties, Yours truly was part of the Monument Beach Yacht club entry featuring the "Lollipops" singing what else "Lollipop" I did the "Ba boom boom boom" part.....yup we won second place, after "Chuck Berry" doing "No particular place to go". . any way it was quite a party and was a lot of fun.... Sunday was tennis, and today was small boat events and sand sculptor..... if anyone is interested in what happens try this web page <http://www.ornot.com/regatta> (it's neat, ed.)

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Monday 19 March 2001

The 2001 George Town Cruisers Regatta has concluded. The final event that I participated in was the Variety Show, it started at 6:30 PM at Regatta Park with the High School Junkanoo band,,,,,, Junkanoo has to be seen and is a very old tradition that dates back to slavery in the Bahamas. Once it was even outlawed and normally takes place during Christmas. The High School band marched in 'formation' and beat their drums for thirty minutes,,, something that has to be seen and heard, a description, just would not do justice to it. All in all there were 22 skits, acts, song events, musical productions involving cruisers and local Bahamians. It really was quite a variety. We had, of course, guitar and keyboards, even a 'marimba' (he hauls that around on a 27 foot boat!!!!) and a saxophone. The kids here were also included in the show, one heart stopper was a little 6 yr old doing a poem. One of the kids acts featured the song, "A Whale of a Tale"

from the Walt Disney movie of nearly forty years ago Jules Verne Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea with Kirk Douglas..Tammy Jones even had a song, she sang with the "MONUMENT BEACH YACHT CLUB". Got her on video... It was a fun night.

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Friday, March 23, 2001 3:26 PM

we will be departing Georgetown Sat morning and starting the trip north just thought I would send a position report for Tammy (KG4APR) (this is for you Tom!!) and for all the folks that have been getting snowed and rained on>>>>>

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KG4APR



Anchorage



Dinghy Bridge



Salvage Efforts

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5K run/walk on May 19

I plan to join my wife in some volunteer work on May 19 with a 5K race sponsored by the Coastal Women's Shelter. I plan to help with directing traffic. This is not a function related to amateur radio and they have not requested help with communications, but it is a local non profit event that is looking for volunteers. Perhaps we can demonstrate the value of our type of communications if several of us participate and bring our handitalkys.

Pete Koonce, KA4SXX

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.

April Operating Events

- Apr. 13-16 QRP ARCI QSO Party
- Apr. 13-16 Slovak Low Pwr Spring Sprint
- Apr. 21-22 Michigan QSO Party
- Apr. 21-22 Holyland DX Contest
- Apr. 21-22 TARA PSK31 "rumble"
- Apr. 28-29 Florida & Nebraska QSO Parties
- Apr. 16 - 17, Norfolk, VA: USS *Wisconsin* Radio Club, N4WIS, for opening day of tours aboard the battleship *Wisconsin* at the Nauticus National Maritime Center. 7.035 7.235 14.035 14.235 (editor was aboard & at the club stn in Dec.)

See Apr. QST for details

Upcoming Hamfests

- Apr. 8 Raleigh, NC
k4hf@arrl.net or www.rars.org
 - Apr. 21 Chesapeake, VA
melody@infi.net or www.qsl.net/cars
 - new one - May 19, Williamston, NC
K4SER, Steve, (252) 792-1368
- For full info on above items, see the Apr. issue of QST magazine or web links

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- President: Mac Eutsler, WA0ZGL
 - Vice President: Pete Koonce, KA4SXX
 - Secretary: Ray Hemphill, W7OPH
 - Treasurer: Charlie Gould, K4VC
 - Communications: Ben Epting, N4NOA
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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

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March Meeting -- Thursday, Mar. 1, 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

New Bern Amateur Radio Club

www2.cconnect.net/newbernarc

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