

New Bern Amateur Radio Club



W4EWN/R

146.610/ 146.010 PL 100 Hz.

444.900 / 449.900 PL 100 Hz.

Volume 26, Issue 4

April, 2003

Website: www2.cconnect.net/newbernarc

View the Newsletter there in color

April Meeting -- Thursday, Apr. 3, 2003

6:30 PM at The Berne Restaurant

Program for the April meeting The Coastal Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross will present their new program "Together We Prepare", a five point program on emergency preparedness. Don't miss this timely and informative program.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mar. 01, 2003 ----- Mar. 31, 2003

CHECKING:

Balance @ February, 28, 2003 \$ 2,328.75

EXPENSES:

03/03 N8UTY \$ 48.15

03/10 C P & L 23.30

03/19 Sprint 39.45

Total \$ 110.90

Subtotal \$ 2,217.85

DEPOSITS:

03/07 \$ 135.00

Total \$ 135.00

Balance @ Mar. 31, 2003 \$ 2,352.85

SAVINGS:

Balance \$ 1,142.01

GRAND TOTAL **\$ 3,494.86**

Event Dates - Reminders:

April 6 -- MS Walk

April 26 -- NBARC Fox Hunt

May 17 -- Women's Shelter 5K Walk/Run

June 7 -- Neuse River Day

MS Walk, April 6

The MS Walk will be held in New Bern on Sunday, April 6. The walk itself will start at 2:00, with registration beginning at 1:00. We have been asked by Walk organizers to be present around 12:30. We will meet at the bandstand in Union Point Park.

As in past years, the Walk will begin and end in Union Point Park. There will be a one-mile loop and a

5-mile loop, with a rest stop along the 5-mile loop. We will have one operator at the registration desk/start-finish line, and another at the rest stop. The other operators will disperse over the length of the course. They have requested no shadows this year.

I myself plan to be bicycle-mobile, for a change of pace. Any others who wish to ride bikes are welcome to do so. Otherwise, you can use your truck or car.

Bruce, **N8UTY**



2002 MS Walk ops: Pete, **KA4SXX**, Ken, **K4KDM**, Bob, **W2HVX**, Howard, **AA4HR**, Preston **KF4YNK**

MINUTES 6 March 2003

The New Bern Amateur Radio Club met on the above date and the meeting was called to order by President Mac Eutsler, **WA0AGL**, at 6:50 pm. Introductions were made from the floor with thirty-six members present and a roster is attached.

Al Parker, **W8UT**, was thanked for untiring efforts in publishing the newsletter and he discussed the challenges he was having with getting it published and onto the internet. Mac mentioned the hamfest calendar with the Downeast Hamfest coming up on the 23rd, and the Raleigh Hamfest, Sunday, April 13th.

Bruce, **N8UTY**, mentioned that the progress on repeater coordination was ongoing and that there was some technical information needed. Also there was some discussion on the Riverdale site that problems with that repeater were likely in the antenna feed line.

There was some discussion on future community events which were covered by Mac, Bruce, and Bob, **W2HVX**. Those events were Neuse River Day, Hurricane Expo., and M.S. walk. The date for the

planned 'fox hunt' is set for April 26th, at 10am. Volunteer for the 'fox' was Ed Valentine, **W2YPM**. There is some communication help needed for the Sea Food Festival to be held in Carteret County. Those interested can contact that club. Plans are also slated for the Coastal Women's Shelter Run/Walk, which will be held on Saturday, May 17th. Info: Bob, **W2HVX**.

Ralph, **K4RAB**, mentioned that Nick Petro, **N3OET**, from the NWS, has a rig that is not frequency stable and was looking for technical repair from the club.

Robbie, **KG4MBQ**, requested from the club assistance in his eagle scout project of placing ham radio emergency communication capabilities in the hospital. The club gave Robbie its support for the project, and he will report next month on the progress.

Pete, **KA4SXX**, donated a cordless phone for the door prize, which was won by Bill Lindquist, **K2UFC**.

The program was presented by Dave Sousa, **K2CQV**, on miniature CW keyers. Dave is an avid keyer collector, CW buff, and always has an interesting discussion on the subject. Dave has a vast collection of keyers, from the oldest to the newest, and largest to the smallest.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ray Hemphill, **W7OPH**, Secretary.



Dave, **K2CQV**, demonstrating his mini-keys at the March meeting. Pictured l/r: Dave, **K2CQV**, Bill **KA4KSB** (guest), Mary Carter, **KE4BSQ**, Michael **KG4MSU**, Bruce **N8UTY**, Dave, **KB4EBT**.

There have been several notices in recent issues of the Newsletter to the effect that 2003 annual dues of \$20.00 are due and payable. NBARC By-Laws provide that a member shall be dropped from the rolls if that members annual dues are not paid by March 31.

One member took this information to heart and sent in his check for two years, 2003/2004. Guess he figures he might forget it next year !!

The Communications Corner

With all of our public service events coming up, plus being in the spring severe thunderstorm season, I hope that all of you will take the time to condition your batteries. We have covered this before in the past, but it doesn't hurt to mention it again.

Rechargeables such as NiCads should be taken down to a state very close to exhausted after each use before re-charging. People talk about the so-called "memory effect". This is the often-observed fact that if you recharge NiCads after only half a discharge, you will only get half the amp-hours out of them. There is no magic to this. Nickel Cadmium has the property of forming crystals under certain conditions. These crystals do not react chemically by creating an electric flow. So the more crystals form inside your NiCads, the less room there is for the desirable chemical reaction.

The "memory effect" is not permanent, and the solution is simple. The crystals which form will melt with heat, returning the chemicals into a state in which they can once again produce current. So if your NiCads are losing their punch, discharge them with as heavy a drain as you can put on them. In a HT, for instance, you could put the unit on Scan (this takes more power than just sitting there monitoring a single frequency), and turn on the backlight for the display (many HTs have a setting which will keep the light on until it is turned off, instead of shutting it off automatically after a few seconds.) Then, you can also use it to transmit, which is the best way to put a drain on it -- have a rag chew with a friend! And don't forget to ID every ten minutes. All this drain creates heat, helping to melt the crystals. Recharging also creates heat, melting the crystals further. Repeat as needed. If you use your NiCads

completely every time, of course, you will not get crystal formation in the first place.

A "conditioning charger" such as the fine units made by Maha will do the same thing. They put the battery under a load so that it discharges rapidly, and then recharge fully. This is a fine piece of equipment to have if you rely on your batteries at all. Not just for ham radio, but flashlights, Walkmans, etc.

Nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) and lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries do not crystallize as readily. This is why they are advertised as having "no memory effect." You can safely recharge them after partial depletion without losing power, which is very handy. I have switched entirely to NiMH for most purposes. These batteries also benefit from an occasional conditioning though. My cell-phone battery, which is Li-ion, comes with a recommendation for a deep drain/complete recharge every couple of months or so. Most NiMH manufacturers suggest the same thing.

As far as I know, Li-ion batteries are not currently available in standard sizes such as AAA, AA, C or D. They are found in cell phones, hearing aids, digital cameras, and other dedicated applications. They will probably be made in standard sizes in the near future, though. Since they hold a charge longer and have higher voltage for a given size, this will be a welcome development.

Initially more expensive than alkalines, NiCad and NiMH batteries save you money in the long run because you can use them hundreds of times with proper care. Better for the environment also, since you are not throwing them into a landfill after every use. Keep a handful of alkalines around "just in case" -- they have a long shelf life, which rechargeables do not, so if you are ever in a situation where your NiCads run out and you don't have access to a recharger, your alkalines come in very handy.

Bruce Arnold N8UTY
NBARC Communications Officer
And Craven County EC

The Communications Corner (cont.)

From: Bill Sanford - **KG4IUA**

Evening Folks,

As of about 20 minutes ago, things have started over in the sand box. I'd like to encourage all to pause for a moment to reflect on those that are serving in the many places and about to go forth into harms way. May the execution of their mission be swift and accurate. Above all, their safety will be subject of prayer from this shack and I invite you to share in that small attempt.

The horrible truth of the world today is that we now have to be mindful of the real threat here at home. Although not needed, I encourage everyone to take a quick look at your "To Go" bags, batteries that may need charging, over night kits and other areas centered around our ability to provide emergency communications support.

We are unable to forecast any type of situation that could come up. You all have read, heard and participated in the new types of worries or threats that we could be faced with. Should the need present itself, we may be called to provide the communications support that we train for. Perhaps in ways that we have not imagined.

It is hoped that there will not be a need for us to be called upon. I'm grateful for the group of Amateur "Professionals" that make up our groups.

No matter personal thoughts or political ideas, I'm sure everyone's thoughts and prayers will be with our sailors, airman, soldiers, coasties and Marines.

73,

Bill, **KG4IUA**

Log of s/v Pelago

Miami

Today is the 22nd of Feb, the Bahamas were just not in the cards for us this year. Many reasons. Weather has to be one of them, the "El Nino" factor has caused way too many cold fronts to come across Fla!!. These fronts cause the gulf stream to get very obnoxious, and the weather in the Bahamas is not very friendly this year. Many of our favorite anchorages have been very uncomfortable. High winds have dominated most of the area.

Another reason has been personal, the present situation with Iraq and other "deployments" have made me uncomfortable in leaving this country. No, I did not expect something to happen in the Bahamas, but if my

country was going to get in a shooting situation with Iraq, I did not want to leave. And the last time I was in Nassau I had some unfriendly Bahamians tell me that the "US got what it deserved on 911." I did not punch this asshole's lights out, but if I ran into this dickhead again and he said something like that again, I would punch his lights out!!! Like I said it is personal, and it is very doubtful if anything would happen to a American in the Islands, but I was just not comfortable

Key West is the route for us, we depart Miami probably on Monday AM and take "Hawks channel" down inside the reef to Marathon, then to Key West.

One other factor in not going came in to play, and that was that Tammy J..... got to work the Miami boat show, and I got daily free passes!!!!...

to be continued

5 March 2003, Key (hot and sultry) West (avg daily temp 85 degrees!!!!). We departed 02 March 2003 and originally headed for No Name Harbor (a movie location for the movie "They Were Expendable"), but decided to give the alternator and watermaker a good workout and actually sailed all the way to Pumpkin Key about 30 miles south of Miami in Key Biscayne.

Now is the time to reflect a little on this years experience with Miami and Miami Beach.. It seems as if the anchoring is getting a bit more unfriendly, and the Fla watercops are a real pain in the ass!!, in Miami, they are Cuban, they are rude and crude. Tammy and I got stopped b y one and he was arrogant and very rude and very "authoritarian" he asked "how fast does this boat go?" Tammy said "I don't know, maybe 20 mph." then he replied, "you failed the test, you must have full navigational lights on this vessel". His next words were "Where are your lifejackets?",

I replied "They are in the bag right there, and along with the jackets are flares, whistles and signal devices" His answer was "that is illegal, you must get to them within ten seconds". At this point I lost it.....and said "Bullshit" where in the regulations does it say that!, vessels under a certain size are required to have nav lights WHERE PRACTICAL, and if no full lights then a hand held light is sufficient" This arrogant asshole was looking for a way to write a ticket, but could not. He was rude and arrogant, and I told him so, and then asked for his commanding officer's name, and his rank. Since he could not find a violation he reluctantly left

The next day I called the number listed and talked to a dispatch, who was supposed to have some Lt, call me back, and of course he did not, so I called back and asked for the Lt's superior and got a Captains name, then asked for the Captains superior, It was some Major, then asked for the Majors superior officer and got a Colonels

name, then his superior and it was a MR!!!! I asked for him and twenty minutes later I got to talk to him. I really let him have it, and told him just how rude his troops were, and that he needed to have a serious talk to all of his commanding officers. The funny part was I really think that he has heard this before, then I requested a written report of the incident and how it was handled and the discipline action that has occurred as a result of the investigation. I have his name and number and going to be a thorn in his side for the next five years!!!!

Italian restaurants in South Beach.... there are tons of 'em, and all have one thing in common, they are as Italian as My Aunt Mary!!!, none of them have cannoli!!!!hell none of em speak English, and they do not even speak Italian, only CUBAN!!!! Do you all remember the Emperors New Clothes, well it seems as if there is some similarity there... crowded with people saying how good the food is and how good the service is (wrong).. I ate in five of 'em, service was poor to fair, food was also poor to fair, but did have one thing in common expensive, all of 'em.....

Since we had some alternator problems Tammy got asked to work the Miami boat show, and I got free passes!!! Huge show, tons of boats and gear, never have I seen so many electronics, and the navigational computerized systems were something to see. The more expensive the boat, the deeper the cleavage, and the silicone was directly proportional to the size of the boat.... When you got to the 80 foot sport fishing boats the models were buck naked, with huge bustline!!!!, well it seemed that way anyway....I did see some neat displays and some huge diesels, and actually bought something. A new Penn rod and reel for trolling!!! Penn Senator 114H and rod. Also got some stuff for cleaning the dink, and it actually works, but will include that in the "what worked and what did not report"

From Pumpkin Key we selected "Angelfish Creek" as a route to get out to the ocean and to Hawks Channel. Had some doubts about this route, but we never saw less than 7 foot on a rising tide. From Angelfish to Marathon Fl was about 60 miles and we made it in about 8 1/2 hours and was in Marathon at 6 pm. Tammy and I went out for a steak dinner that night. We stayed in Marathon for five days, There are more waterfront bars and restaurants there than you can imagine. you can go to a different one every night for 9 days then start all over again. 54 restaurants in Marathon, can not attest for all of 'em, but the ones we went to were first rate... Even went out on a "head boat" had to throw back 22" grouper!!!! caught over a dozen like that but the limit is the limit, but brought back 20lbs of snapper fillets.

Left Marathon on the 2nd made Key West in about six hours.

We trolled with a deep running lure all the way to Key West and hooked a 45 lb jack, and it took 45 minutes to get the damn thing in, and after all that, we find out that it is not a good food source and we had to turn it loose. Wore my ass out!!!

More from Key West later, but will say that the two things in abundance are queers and Harleys!!!, Hell they even got a "gay walking tour"

Rick and Tammy, SV/Pelago Key West Fl 5 Mar 03

"WHAT WORKED AND WHAT DID NOT"

"Pelago has been cruised pretty hard, and these reports (7th in a series) are a pretty accurate description of the equip. on board and how it worked (or in some cases) did not!"

Rick has sent a long report on "what works --" I have re-formatted it to get it down to 5 pages. It's a bit much for the newsletter, but your editor will send it to you by email if you send a request to anchor@ec.rr.com (ed.)

February Operating Events

Apr 12 - Sopchoppy, FL: Celebrate the 3rd Annual Worm Gruntin' Festival. Sportsman's Paradise Amateur Radio Club, **W4G**. 1600Z-2000Z **Apr 12**. 28.350 14.260 146.550. QSL. Sportsman's Paradise ARC, PO Box 1840, Crawfordville, FL 32326-1840.

Apr 26-27 - Farmville, NC: Brightleaf ARC, **W4AMC**. 1200-2400Z **Apr 26** and 1200-1800Z **Apr 27**. The 16th Annual Farmville Dogwood Festival. 28.440 21.340 14.240 7.240. QSL. Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835.

Contests [none listed for April](#)

Hamfests

Apr. 13 – Raleigh, Raleigh ARS

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, Phone: 919-872-6555

Email: k4hf@arri.net

<http://www.rars.org/hamfest>

Apr. 19 -Morganton, NC, Catawba Valley Hamfest

McDowell ARA

Contact: Larry Withrow, AF4HX

Email: af4hx@worldnet.att.net <http://cvhamfest.org>

May 10 29th Annual **Durhamfest** is on again this year at a brand new time and a brand new location. The

event will be on Saturday May 10th at the N. C. National Guard Armory on N. Duke Street, across from the Durham County Stadium.
Joseph Fields - KF4QYY (919)-596-3738

SWAP SHOP

A Bargain? I am sending you a link with pricing on brand-new dual-band HT for less than \$100 each.

Feel free to forward this as you see fit. I have one of these rigs and I really like it.

For my use, one of the most important things is strong AF. A lot of HTs have very weak speakers and since I only hear out of one ear, I simply cannot hear the speakers. The HT included here is VERY loud -- I can hear it even on the street with lots of other noise.

http://www.aesham.com/display_pages/vx1r.shtml

Anyway, just food for thought.

73, Ken Clifton, **KJ4HF**, Salisbury, NC, RARS

WANTED: Will buy tubes & parts for use in getting & keeping tube eqpt 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

This may not be as much of a concern now, but –

==>WILL HAM RADIO BE SHUT DOWN IF WAR IS DECLARED?

Some amateurs have been wondering if the FCC will shut down Amateur Radio in the event that war breaks out in the Middle East. The short answer is "no."

Just prior to the Gulf War, §214.4(b)(4) of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations was deleted. This section had mandated the closing of all Amateur Radio stations except Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations in the event that the president proclaimed a war or national emergency. The last time Amateur Radio was shut down was during World War II, although the FCC continued to give Amateur Radio examinations.

While the Amateur Radio Service will not automatically be shut down if the president invokes the War Powers Act, Amateur Radio licensees must continue to observe any directives the FCC may issue in the interests of national security and of making spectrum available for government use.

The FCC is directed to work in coordination with the National Telecommunications and Information

Administration (NTIA) to issue "appropriate rules, regulations, orders and instructions" for use of the spectrum "as may be necessary to ensure the effective use of those portions of the radio spectrum shared by government and non-government users." Amateurs share most UHF allocations with the US government.
from The ARRL Letter Vol. 22, No. 11 Mar. 14, 2003



"No Greg went to the ham auction this afternoon, to get rid of a couple old radios that were cluttering up the place...Oh I think I hear him pulling in now!"

QST de W1AW ARRL Bulletin 26

From ARRL Headquarters, March 26, 2003

FCC Proposes to Hike Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee The FCC proposed March 26 increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30 this fall. The Commission included the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2003" (MD 03-83), released today. The closing date for comments on the new fee schedule is April 25. Reply comments are due by May 5. "We estimate that 9800 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in FY2003," the FCC said in its NPRM. That's up by 800 from FY2002. It expects to collect revenues of nearly \$160,000, an increase of almost \$30,000 from FY2002.

Cast of Characters:

President: Mac Eutsler, WA0ZGL
Vice President: Pete Koonce, KA4SXX
Secretary: Ray Hemphill, W7OPH
Treasurer: Charlie Gould, K4VC
Communications: Bruce Arnold, N8UTY
Trustee: Tommie Phelps, WA4EME
Assistant Secretary: Doug Whitford, KF4YHG
Assistant Treasurer: Ralph Bitely, N4RAB
Program Chairman: (could be you)
Public Service/Photog: Bob Chamberlain, W2HVX
Emergency Communications: Bruce Arnold, N8UTY
Assistant Em. Comm.: Dave Warwick, KB4EBT

The Newsletter Team:

Al Parker, W8UT, Editor
Charlie Gould, K4VC, Data Base/Labels/P.O.mail
Bob Chamberlain, W2HVX, graphics & pix
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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

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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