

New Bern Amateur Radio Club



W4EWN/R

146.610/ 146.010 PL 100 Hz.

444.900 / 449.900 PL 100 Hz.

Volume 27, Issue 4 April, 2004

Website: www.nbarc.org

Les, N4UPQ, our webmaster will be updating the site over the next few months, but it is viewable in its new format right now.

April Meeting -- Thursday, Apr. 1, 2004

6:30 PM at The Berne Restaurant

Program: Emergency Communications with a show and tell on how to build a "Get and Go", presented by Bill Sanford, **K4VHO**.

Both audio/visual and hands-on will be included.

Door prize: a collection of KITS from part of the education course Mr. Rodd had taken. See bk rpt section for more info.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Feb. 01, 2004 ----- Feb. 29, 2004

CHECKING

Balance @ Jan. 31, 2004 \$ 2,702.79

EXPENSES:

02/06 R.Bitely (text books) \$ 83.80

02/06 M.Eustler (tape) 159.00

02/09 Prog. Enrg. 47.78

02/19 Sprint 24.68

 Total (\$ 315.26)

 Subtotal \$ 2,387.53

DEPOSITS:

02/06 Dues \$420.00

02/06 Dr. Prz 61.00

02/17 Dues 60.00

02/18 CRMC (Test Reimbur) 143.80

 Total \$ 684.80

Balance @ Feb. 29, 2004 \$ 3,072.33

SAVINGS:

Balance @ Jan.31, 2004 \$ 1,145.08

Total \$ 1,145.08

GRAND TOTAL **\$ 4,217.41**

THE OTHER MARCH MADNESS

Three test sessions in the last half of March has increased the ranks of amateur radio operators in our area.

On the 13th exams were give at the end of the school at St. Andrews. There were 19 exams given resulting in 16 new Technician class hams. How's that percentage as a tribute to those teachers conducting the classes??

On the 20th, Mac, **WA0ZGL**, in Morehead gave three exams resulting in two new Generals. A husband/wife team earned their Tech licenses on the 19th and their General licenses the next day. That's 'speedy' upgrading !

On the 21st there were 11 test elements given at the Kinston Hamfest, resulting in two new Technicians, five new Generals, and one new Extra.

And you thought only basketball was featured in March? 73,

Charlie, **K4VC**

The Lighthouse Society

The April issue of "World Radio" has a very interesting article about the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society, formed in 2000. They held their 2nd convention at St. Simons Island Lighthouse in Georgia last year. Their 3rd convention is scheduled for October 8 and 9 at Kill Devil Hills, NC. For those who don't receive "World Radio," all the details are available on their web site at <http://arlhs.com>.

Two popular lighthouse field day events are the National Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (NLLW) held on the first weekend in August, and the International Lighthouse/Lightship weekend (ILLW) scheduled for a later weekend in August.

This sounds like a lot of fun and something that many of our club members might want to participate in!

73, Marijane, **NP2AZ**



John Cole, NWS, March Guest Speaker

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 5, 2004

The regular monthly meeting of the New Bern Amateur Radio Club was held on the above date, met at the Berne Restaurant, and the meeting was called to order by President Mac Eutsler, **WA0ZGL**, at 6:30pm. Roll call was made from the floor with 40 people present with roster attached.

The meeting was directed into a basic weather spotter training seminar which was conducted by John Cole, from the National Weather Service office in Newport.

Since the training was the extent of the meeting, no other business was conducted other than the door prize drawing which was won by Ken McCain, **N4KDM**. Bill Sanford, **K4VHO**, Skywarn EC, did have some comments pertaining to partnering of NWS and Skywarn, and solicited additional volunteers for Skywarn net control.

The meeting was over at 8:15pm.
Ray Hemphill, **W7OPH**, Secretary...

The ARES Angle

As I write, Spring is blooming at last. We had a freeze a couple of nights ago. I hope that's the last little blast of winter.

And with Spring, I start to think of a number of things, like fox hunting and severe weather. First things first.

Spring is the severe thunderstorm season for our area. The combination of warm and cold masses of air, plus moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, creates unstable conditions for us throughout this time of year. Most of the tornadoes that we see in eastern North Carolina occur during the months of April and May. So it's a good idea to check your emergency gear, make sure your batteries are charged, test your weather radio, and keep your eyes peeled.

Anybody want to have a fox hunt sometime soon? Seems like a pretty good idea. Let's talk about it at the next meeting and schedule one. I have an idea for a little twist which will make it a bit different, which we can talk about at the meeting.

David Warwick, **K4DJW**, has been contacted about the Emergency Coordinator position for Jones County. From our discussion last night on the Trenton repeater, it sounds like he is going to go ahead with it. I know he can count on all the support our club can offer. In Pamlico County, John Knauth, **KF4OIP**, is taking up the EC position. He and I plan to travel together on April 3 to the statewide ARES gathering.

And for now, that's the ARES Angle.

Bruce Arnold, **N8UTY**

Craven County EC

Technician level classes

The classes, organized by Ralph, **N4RAB**, with able assistance by many others, were a great success, as noted in the VEC report on page 1. You will recognize our members shown giving the second class and the license test.



Dave, **K2CQV**, Safety Practices



Bruce, **N8UTY**, RF Radiation Safety



Mac, **WA0ZGL**, License Instructions



Ray, **W7OPH**, FCC Regulations



the VE Team Tom, **KJ4IV**, Mac, **WA0ZGL**, Ray, **W7OPH**, Charlie, **K4VC**, and Bruce, **N8UTY**



Dave, **K4DJW**, Frequency Privileges



John, **KR4ZJ**, Repeater, RTTY, and Packet Rules

Book Reports

from the Estate of Mr. Richard Rodd.

Secrets of RF Circuit design By Joseph Carr 1991

This is one great book with subjects from RF Propagation to Building your own TDR (Time domain Reflectometer). Some of the subjects covered are RF amplifiers and preselector, Signal Generators, Antennas, as like Windoms, and even Spark Gap transmitters. Some nice pictures and lots of diagrams.

Troubleshooting and Repairing Audio Equipment by Homer Davidson 1993

A practical how to repair book on all types of Audio Equipment. The explanation of procedures to find the problems and where they are most likely to be. The repair of speakers is interesting too. Lots of pictures and diagrams and you will see your stereo amp or tape deck pictured here.

Door Prize this month is a collection of KITS from part of the education course Mr. Rodd had taken. You will need to get some perf board from Radio Shack on which to construct these circuits but the rest of the parts are included. The kits are:

- 1 Embedded Microprocessor Controllers,
- 2 Data Communications kit,
- 3 Graphic Display Systems,
- 4 Mass Data Storage Systems,
- 5 Flip Flops, Counters and Registers.

There is a wall transformer for 6 volts and probably a regulator would be needed. I didn't open any kits so I don't know if one is included.

Ed, W2YPM

Free Ham Radio Gear

Lets do our best to not let THIS future come to pass

Free Ham Radio Gear.... I hadn't been on the ham bands for many years when I saw the ad in the newspaper For Sale Column. I had struggled really hard to get my ham license as a teenager. But in my adult life I got involved in other things, and the radio gear on the bench had a fine coating of dust on it from inactivity.

The ad said -- "Giving away Ham Radio Gear. You pick up. No charge. Free to a good home!" Wow I thought - This sounds too good to be true! I had just the other day thought how much fun it would be to turn the radio on and make a few contacts both local and worldwide.

So I called the number and a pleasant older voice answered. I made arrangements and went over to see this gear. The radios ranged from older tube sets to a new HF/VHF radio. I asked the ham why he didn't want any money for the gear. He just smiled and said that he could not use it anymore. I thought that he might be selling his house and moving into a retirement community where they did not allow radios. I thanked him, packed the gear in the car and rushed home to try it out.

My antenna farm was a tangled mess due to a number of frozen winter storms without repair. So I fashioned a crude antenna from a hunk of wire and stuck it to the back of one of the newer radios. I pushed the "on" button, with the intent of just listening to some HF Ham Stations, and was surprised what I heard.

There were signals there all right but not the ones I had hoped to hear. Instead the band was full of Short Wave and Data Signals. I turned to another band and heard the same thing. This is really weird I thought! Since this was one of those fancy newer HF/VHF radios, I tuned down to the 2 meter and 440 bands looking for the local repeaters. What I heard there were truck drivers and taxi cab companies talking to their dispatchers, and even a local hotel chain talking to their work crew about getting rooms ready. I thought to myself -- no wonder the guy wanted to get rid of this equipment -- the radio only gets the scanner channels. I'm guessing that he wanted to get rid of this radio, because he didn't want to go to the expense of sending them back to the manufacturers service center.

Puzzled by what I was hearing I decided to call the old ham and ask some information on what had caused this radio to receive the local scanner frequencies in the ham band segment. Over the phone he laughed out loud and said, "No those are the ham bands all right -- or what used to be the ham bands!" "What - do you mean used to be?", I asked back.

He went on to tell me that several years ago the FCC had closed those bands to hams due to inactivity by the ham community.

Those bands are now being used by land services and other business uses," he said. "You mean all the ham bands were given away?", I asked. "Don't be silly," he replied, " the FCC sold off those parcels of unused bands to the highest bidder! They simply put out a letter to all the hams saying that these bands were restricted to business only. And we were to never use these bands again under penalty of thousand of dollars in fines."

What he told me left me dumbstruck! "So let me get this straight," I said, "you mean that the reason you gave me this equipment is because there are no longer bands to use it on! "Yep! he said with a laugh, "It was simply that the FCC saw all those empty ham bands as a gold mine of potential fundraising for the government. With no one using the bands, and a unsupportive and ineffective ham radio lobby, hams just literally gave those bands away to be sold off!"

As I hung up the phone I thought of all the money I already had tied up in ham radio equipment down in the basement. I had purchased both old and new sets through the years and was quite proud of my ham radio station. All that money wasted with nothing to do now, but monitor the local Burger King asking if someone wanted fries with their Whopper.

A far fetched story? Not at all! Not a day goes by that you don't read in the newspapers about the government selling off frequencies to the highest bidder! A national radio communications magazine recently had an article by a columnist saying his good byes as he was closing his column after many years. Why? Well, he explained that with all the different agencies going to trunking, the average scanner listener could no longer listen to anything interesting on the radio. That facts are time had passed and so had technology. Suddenly he found himself with no one sending him emails about interesting local frequencies that he could pass on to his readers. With all the new systems out most of the old scanner units were as useless as our old early day computers.

There is a moral to this story of course. Anyone who has been around the activity for a while can see the handwriting on the wall! Have you listened to the repeaters lately,! during daytime, during drive time, or anytime at all? Remember the days when all your friends were on the radio just waiting to chat with you during the drive home or after dinner? Well, those friends are no longer on the radio anymore.

Some have said it was because their old friends had moved to other towns. Some said that their old friends got busy doing something else, and no longer had the time to talk on the radio. Some blamed it on the internet. While others decided that they just did not want to talk to the new people they heard on radio. Everyone had an excuse for no longer turning the radio on. Suddenly there was silence!

So when was the last time YOU threw out your call on the radio? When was the last time you turned on the HF radio

and enjoyed the thrill talking to another land? I didn't say TYPING on the internet to another land, I said TALKING on the radio to another land! When was the last time you came to a radio club meeting, and what excuse did you have for that? Was it because you were too busy? Was it because you were afraid you would have to talk to "those new people" face to face? It seems that today we all have so many excuses no longer being active on the bands. I am sure that you have heard plenty or perhaps made up a number of them yourself.

Well, lets look at this another way! I remember a local AM talk radio broadcaster suggesting that we follow the money trail. Let's start with our side! We shelled out money for books and tapes to learn the needed information to pass the license test. We shelled out good money for the license, for the QSL cards, for the tower, the antennas, the base radio, the mobile radio, the HT's, the new keyer, club memberships etc. Look at all the money that you have spent on this great hobby. Count it up and you will soon discover that you have a lot of time and money invested in this activity.

Now lets return to the FCC looking for a way to make a buck by selling frequencies. You know they really don't care how much you personally have spent on radio hardware! They don't care how much time you took to get that license. In fact your personal interests are the last thing they are thinking about. They are only looking at all those "empty" frequencies that they could sell to big business. Remember the 220 ham segment that was sold off to United Parcel Service a number of years ago? It will happen again -- for the right price!

But wait you say! How about the need for ham radio during National Emergencies? How about 911, and the twin towers, and the terrorists who are lurking everywhere. How about the hurricanes, the tidal waves, the tornados and the floods? Let's be honest folks -- when was the last time that YOU participated in any of those events? If you haven't turned on the radio in years then isn't that just another excuse. Ham Radio is going to run out of excuses one day and suddenly YOU will be the one giving all your equipment away. You may think this is all far fetched, but you would be run. Remember that there are no guarantees that the ham bands will go on forever. Especially if they are mostly empty and there is a buck to be made.

Perhaps you would like to turn on the radio and check this out for yourself? Simon and Garfunkel put out a record talking about "The Sounds of Silence." This sound is not a good sound for YOU the ham radio operator! This is the sound of the wolves at the door just waiting to pounce on your ham bands! Oops - I meant to say on the FCC frequencies that were your ham bands.

This is a wake up call! Use them or lose them! Let me repeat that again so it sinks in: USE THOSE BANDS NOW...OR LOSE THEM TOMORROW!

Now is the time to dust off those radios, to throw out your call, to join a radio club, to support the ARRL efforts in your behalf, to do Field Day this summer and to return to the days when you made life long friends through a great hobby.

Or you can just! leave it the way it is now. Get that newspaper ad ready for some poor ham who hasn't been on the radio for a long time. It will save you leaving those boat anchors out on the curb for the trash man!

An editorial by Bob Fields, **KC6AOH**, President of the Delaware County (PA) Amateur Radio Club 73

SWAP SHOP

Many Thanks to Bob Coker, **W2IFX**, for his recent contribution of an almost new oscilloscope to the club. It will be checked out and more details posted when it is be made available to members for purchase, next month.

FREE STUFF

I would like to help the do it yourself-ers . I have the following wire free if you need some for a project.

Telephone wire 3 pair in white round PVC jacket.

Computer cad wire gray PVC. Some with connectors.

Balanced shielded 100 ohm coax. Size .4 inch dia.

W2YPM, Ed Valentine 637-3161

FOR SALE - **TenTec Corsair** model 560 transceiver, with TenTec Power Supply mod. 260. Purchased, used, from TenTec approx. 5 yrs ago, low air time, like new - mint cond., incl. manual for each, and microphone. Reduced price, \$500. Call Sonny, **W3ADD**, 252-633-1942

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

Close BPL Encounter with FCC Chairman

Mar 9, 2004 -- A Broadband over Power Line (BPL) home demonstration in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area March 5 provided an ideal opportunity for area amateurs to take their concerns to FCC Chairman Michael Powell face to face. While ARRL Public Information Officer Gary Pearce, **KN4AQ**, doesn't believe his brief encounter with the FCC head and longer discussions with Commission and electric utility staffers will stop or slow the seeming BPL juggernaut, they were valuable nonetheless.

For more info on this threatening subject, go to the ARRL website: <https://www.arrl.org>

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: The Jabberwock
Public Service/Photog: Bob Chamberlain, W2HVX
Emergency Communications: Bruce Arnold, N8UTY Assistant Em.
Comm.: Dave Warwick, KB4EBT

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 Thursdays
ENC Traffic: 146.685 mHz, 2030 daily
NBARC Ragchew: 146.61 mHz, daily, after ENC Traffic closes

The Newsletter Team:

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

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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