

New Bern Amateur Radio Club



Volume 28, Issue 3 March, 2005



W4EWN/R

146.610/ 146.010 PL 100 Hz.

444.900 / 449.900 PL 100 Hz.

Website: <http://www.nbarc.org>

Next Meeting -- Thursday, Mar. 3, 2005

6:30 PM at Super China Buffet Restaurant, Glenburnie Rd. across fm Harris Teeter Groc.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jan. 01, 2005 --- Jan. 31, 2005

CHECKING

Balance: Dec. 31, 2004 \$ 2,794.02

Expenses:

01/08 Prog Nrg \$ 24.33

01/19 Sprint 23.80

01/18 Postmaster (stamps) 37.00

01/20 UPS Store (copys) 50.00

Total: (\$ 135.13)

Subtotal \$ 2,658.89

Deposits:

01/07 Membership \$ 400.00

01/15 Membership 100.00

Total: \$ 500.00

Balance @ Jan. 31, 2005 \$ 3,158.89

SAVINGS

Balance @ Dec. 31, 2004 \$ 1,930.14

Deposits:

01/07 Auction \$ 257.00

Balance @ Dec. 31, 2004 \$ 2,187.14

GRAND TOTAL; \$ 5,346.03

Charlie, **K4VC**, treas

MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2005

The regular meeting of the New Bern Amateur Radio Club was held on the above date and the meeting was called to order by President Mac Eutsler, **WA0ZGL**, at approximately 6:40pm. Introductions were made from the floor with thirty-two present; roster is attached.

Announcements were made that the Kinston hamfest would take place this year on March 16. Also, it was mentioned that the door prize were some hamsticks and speakers.

Ralph, **N4RAB**, and Ken, **K4KDM**, said that April 16, 23, and 30 are available at St. Andrews Lutheran Church for technician classes; there will be plenty of seats in a new facility at the church. They also mentioned that we could look further into the possibility of having the monthly meetings and St. Andrews Lutheran Church. It was decided to think about the issue for another two months and then decide on meeting at either the church or at the current location.

Bill, **K4VHO**, discussed a project he is currently working on with some governmental agencies including the Department of Homeland Security. The project involves putting an emergency response plan in place that is more widespread than just eastern North Carolina. He said that there would be an emergency simulation taking place in early August that would include blowing up a ferry, bridge, and setting off a dirty nuke (a device that knocks out most all electronic equipment in it's blast area); some ham participation may be needed in this exercise. It was said that the original emergency response plan was geared more towards cell phones and the internet; he is trying to get the system geared more towards amateur radio.

Bob, **W2HVX**, mentioned that the woman's shelter run would be sometime in May. Also, Neuse River day will be June 18; he will need about twenty-five operators for this event.

Mac, **WA0ZGL**, suggested that at the next meeting that the club should hold a contest for building a crystal radio receiver; at least six contestants will be needed.

Ken, **K4KDM**, drew Mac's ticket to win the door prize. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robbie Rikard, **KG4MBQ**, secretary

The pix this month (as usual) are from the camera of Bob, **W2HVX**. He says, "Frankly, I'm not very happy with them. I got mostly backs of heads trying to shoot around that gosh-awful white post in the middle of everything. Call it a photographer's nightmare. My apologies to those who didn't show up well."



The ARES Angle

How about a fox hunt?

Yes, it's been a year since our last one. It was a warm spring day in early April, just perfect for roaming around, sniffing out RF. So, let's have another.

First, we need a fox. Between now and the meeting in March, I hope some brave soul will take the plunge. It could be some brave soul who has done it before; we've had a number of excellent foxes over the years, and I am sure a repeat performance would be welcomed by all. Or, maybe someone has had the idea that they'd like to give a try. Now would be the perfect opportunity.

Second, we need enthusiastic fox-hunters. No horses or fancy clothing required, just a minimum of equipment and a willingness to have some fun. It would be great to see some of our new members give it a try. Maybe you'd like it and maybe you wouldn't, but it would be a classic ham radio experience to add to your growing collection. Kind of like your first

hamfest or your first Field Day, something to remember.

So let's talk about it at our March meeting and get a fox hunt on the calendar for April.

Speaking of Field Day, it's just over the horizon.

And for now, that's the ARES Angle.

Bruce, N8UTY

Craven County EC

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

In past years, we have participated in at least two Spring events:

*Coastal Carolina **Women's Shelter 5K Walk/Run** in May

* **Neuse River Day** in June

The **Walk/Run** has traditionally been held in mid-May. I don't yet know the exact date this year. We normally need 7-9 ops from 0700 to about 0930 positioned along the course. The purpose is to report locations of the leaders and stragglers, report any incidents requiring attention or assistance (such as police traffic control), answer questions the organizers may have, and to assist in coordinating activities (such as the SAG wagon) along the course.

Neuse River Day (NRD) will be on June 18 this year. That is a bit late in the month due to a scheduling mix up by the city. In the future, the hope is to have the first week in June designated officially as "Neuse River Week," with the full day celebration on the first Saturday.

This event has required about 22 or more ops at fixed sites, as shadows, and aboard boats. NRD organizers have said emphatically that they could not conduct the event safely or efficiently without our communications.

These events are great opportunities to brush the cobwebs out of our gear, exercise our batteries, and generally sharpen up for the "big one."

More details will follow as the times draw nearer.

73, Bob, W2HVX

Presidents Corner

Wow! Winter is almost over and I haven't finished getting my DXCC or anything. I read an article somewhere that said the reason time passes faster as we age is because we aren't experiencing anything new. If we are engaged in new activities time slows down. If this is the case, we need to get busy and thereby live forever. Anyway, I know several of our members who are and have been busy since our last meeting. Yep, those airwaves are being trapped by new crystal radio sets being built by our members. Would you believe, some of our HAMS have never built a crystal set before. Those who are in the process have done research and have run upon some very interesting facts and information. It isn't too late to start your own project and have a chance at a very unique trophy to be awarded at our next meeting. The homebrew handy work brought in by those pioneer spirits will be judged on three categories. They will be judged on physical appearance, operability report, and log sheets. If you had gotten started earlier the following add might have been valuable to you.



Popular Radio December 1922

As with any radio, the antenna system is everything. I would not recommend the following even if it were still available but, an interesting idea. Has anyone ever heard of a system as advertised here? It would be an interesting topic to bring to our meetin.

I must confess. I am building a crystal set. Yep, I shot a 125 feet of wire up in my only pine tree and the "almost" first thing I heard was "this is a test of the solar highway advisory radio system". What the heck is this? It's amazing what you can hear on the AM broadcast band these days. I never realized there were so many Spanish speaking stations around. And gospel stations?

Antenella
(No Antenna or Aerial Needed)



Does away entirely with antenna and all outside wiring, lightning arresters, switches and all other inconveniences. ANTENELLA enables you to enjoy Radio pleasures in any room in your house. Place your receiving set anywhere and merely attach Antenella to any electric light socket. No current consumed.

At your dealer's—\$2.00

If he can't supply you send purchase price and you will be supplied promptly without further charge.

CHAS. FRESHMAN COMPANY, Inc.
290 Hudson Street New York City

Popular Radio December 1922

So, radio fans, I will be looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting. Stay busy and live long.
WA0ZGL

Looking For a Few Good Hams

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is looking for volunteer amateur radio operators to become members of its Auxiliary Network. This network is a backup network to the Coast Guard's primary VHF communication and as a primary network in no-coverage areas. contact : <http://www.cgaux.org> for more info from NB Sun Journal, 2/21/05, tnx to Mj, **NP2AZ**

The Tube is Dead. Long Live the Tube

“The vacuum tube has been obsolete for decades- and it's here to stay” by Mark Wolverton

-- an interesting on line article about tubes.
<http://www.inventionandtechnology.com/2002/02/tube.shtml> -- part of the article.....
"Then you look over at the nightstand, and see the orange glow behind the Atwater Kent giving the only light in the room, and even under the sheets you can feel the reassuring warmth of the radio's

tubes, and you know Shepherd is right. Your mom's new transistor set doesn't sound nearly as good as the Atwater Kent, or a real hi-fi with tubes. How could some dinky little gadget that doesn't even light up replace all that?"

Check out the article on line.

thanks to John Dilks, **K2TQN**

Storage Battery Advancements

There have been some recent advancements in the care and feeding of many types of batteries. Great quantities of batteries are used in portable computers, camcorders, cameras, cell phones Ipods and the like. If we could extend the useful life of them it would help the environment saving resources and your cost of maintaining the equipment. The lead acid liquid electrolyte deep cycle batteries used on boats and also at home for emergency Ham Radio Transmitting stations are my subject for this month.

Most batteries are discarded when they won't take a charge, even though they are perfectly good mechanically. The problem is due to lack of use being in standby mode or not maintained with proper care and left in a discharged condition. The plates have a sulfate coating insulating them from the electrolyte liquid and they are useless in that condition.

A pulse generator was developed that will remove the sulfate crystals and return the battery to service. Reports have been reported that examination of the plates with a microscope showed them to be whisker clean after years of service using the pulse device. That tempted me to investigate this and build a device to try it out. So far it seems to work. I had a standby storage battery 6 years old that would only take a one amp charge. After three weeks it accepts ten amps the limit of my charger.

To find more information on this subject and how to construct a unit look up these sites and references.
<http://www.kalepa@shaka.com>
<http://www.pulsetech.com>
<http://www.vdcelectronics.com/desulphation.htm>
<http://members.shaw.ca/pferlow/desulfator.htm>

73,
Ed Valentine, **W2YPM**

Operating Events

Feb. 27-28 (may be too late) **North Carolina QSO Party** - CW/Phone - sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, 1700Z Feb 27 -- 0300Z Feb 28 For more info: <http://www.w4nc.com>.

Mar 5 - 6 - ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) 48 hours - Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2400 UTC Sunday. for full rules and info see: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/intldx.html>

Mar 5 Battle of the Ironclads, 143rd Anniversary. Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service, **W4CAR**. 1500Z-2100Z 28.362 21.362 14.062 7.262 7.062 PSK31. for info see: <http://www.qsl.net/cars/>.

Hamfests

Mar. 6, Kinston - Down East Hamfest Lenoir County Fairgrounds for more info <http://www.downeasthamfest.org/> or email Jean DuPree, **KB4OHX**, jeanhd@icomnet.com

Mar. 12-13, - Charlotte North Carolina State Convention for all info: <http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest>

Apr. 17, North Carolina Section Convention, Raleigh info: <http://www.rars.org/hamfest>

SWAP SHOP

WANTED: Heathkit Crystal Receiver, Mod. CR-1. Call Sonny, **W3ADD**, 633-1942

FOR SALE: Cushcraft R-6000 Vertical antenna, 6-bands, 20m-6m. Was \$329 new, asking \$150, reasonable offers considered. Call John, **W4SSG**, 745-5062

Raytheon RAY100 VHF Marine hand-held scanning transceiver, 1 or 5 watts out, waterproof, 10 weather channels. New, unused. \$75. Call Joe, **AA4CO**, at 633-9962 or e-mail joegar@pobox.com

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 <http://www.thecompendium.net/radio/>

Air Force moves radios to narrowband

by Gerald Sonnenberg
Air Force Communications Agency Public Affairs

2/15/2005 - SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) -- As the demand for radio frequencies continues to grow, so does the need to increase efficiency. Air Force Communications Agency officials here helped create more

capabilities by providing the roadmap for moving the Air Force away from wideband to narrowband radios.

Land mobile radio systems enable military forces to quickly establish command, control and other critical communications during training and deployed operations, and they are critical components of the global information grid, officials said.

In 1995, National Telecommunications and Information Administration officials mandated that federal agencies operating radios in selected UHF and VHF frequencies move from a wider emission band of 25 kilohertz to a narrower emission band of 12.5. Radios accessing the 162 to 174 megahertz frequency range were given until Jan. 1 to move.

Radios accessing other frequencies have until 2008 to move.

This gave Air Force officials the difficult challenge of converting 151,600 radios in its inventory. Not doing so could affect mission-critical radio communications support, officials said.

The Air Force manages its radio inventory at the base level, and it turned to agency officials to develop a plan to transition the entire, decentralized radio fleet to the narrowband configuration.

Agency officials said they worked with those of the Air Force Frequency Management Agency, major commands, direct reporting units and other field operating agencies to take the first steps and keep security forces and first responders in business.

The conversion plan broke down radio equipment into three categories: mission-critical, mission-essential and mission-support.

Mission-critical radios included force protection, medical response and airfield operations. Mission-essential equipment covered activities such as transportation and supply logistics. Mission-support assets encompassed activities that contained base services.

"What the Air Force is doing is replacing radios and infrastructures or reprogramming equipment for narrowband compliance," said Master Sgt. Reginald Sanders, of the communications agency. "Each radio can then be programmed by the base (radio) manager. The amount of labor depends on how many pieces of equipment need to be replaced and programmed."

Cast of Characters:

President: Mac Eutsler, WA0ZGL
Vice President: Pete Koonce, KA4SXX
Secretary: Robbie Rikard, KG4MBQ
Treasurer: Charlie Gould, K4VC
Communications: Bruce Arnold, N8UTY
Trustee: Billy Morton, KE4YMA
Assistant Treasurer: Ralph Bitely, N4RAB
Program Chairman: Fair A. Day
Public Service/Photog: Bob Chamberlain, W2HVX
Emergency Communications: Bruce Arnold, N8UTY
Assistant Em. Comm.: Dave Warwick, K4DJW

Selected Local Nets

Times are local time, unless otherwise stated
Club Net Manager: Vito Hughes, KB8VCZ
Craven County ARES: 146.61 MHz, 2000 before threatening
wx; monitor during ARES activations
NC ARES Net, 3.923 MHz, 19:30 daily
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
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, 2000 daily

New Bern Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.nbarc.org>

P.O. Box 12483 New Bern, NC 28561-2483

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. Material contained herein may be quoted, copied, folded, torn, spindled, mutilated, etc., as long as proper credit is given. 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