

New Bern Amateur Radio Club



W4EWN/R

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

Volume 30, Issue 1 January, 2007

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

Next Meeting -- Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007

6:30 PM at Famous Subs & Pizza, 2210 Neuse Blvd.

Program: Mac, **WA0ZGL**, will tell us all about the latest digital modes. (CW is the original digital mode.)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dec. 01, 2006 --- Dec. 31, 2006

CHECKING

Balance: Nov. 30, 2006		\$ 1,612.11
Expenses:		
12/07 Prog Nrg	22.08	
12/19 Embarq	25.19	
Total:	(\$ 47.27)	
Subtotal:		\$ 1,564.84
Deposits:		
12/15 Membership	100.00	
Total:	\$ 100.00	

Balance: @ Dec.31, 2006 \$ 1,664.84

SAVINGS

Balance: @ Nov. 30, 2006	\$2,691.63
Deposits:	
None	
Balance: @ Dec. 31, 2006	\$2,691.63

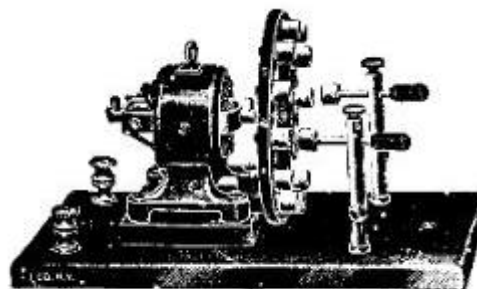
GRAND TOTAL: \$ 4,356.47

DOOS R DU

NBARC's fiscal year is Jan 01/Dec. 31. Our \$20.00 per year membership dues have remained constant for many years. Currently, there appears to be no necessity to seek an increase, even tho' we are losing members.

If you wish to renew via P.O. mail, the address is:
103 Outrigger Rd., New Bern, NC 28562

Due to an editorial glitch, the address has been wrong on the last page of the newsletter for several issues. Charlie's neighbor has been wearing a path to his door, bringing him the club mail.



Rotary Spark Gap

President's Corner

Well, it's all over. Another Christmas has flown right by. I hope all had joyous holiday and Santa brought you everything you had on your list. As club custom, we held our last meeting for the year on December 7 and the party was very merry. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the rag chewing and gift exchange. Santa was very good to all hams with the present delivered via the FCC.

I know most if not all have heard the news about the big changes brought about by the FCC for all hams. A very nice present indeed. The biggie, no more code requirements! Now all of those who have been putting off upgrading can charge forward. It may not happen, but I feel there will be a notable surge in the number of General and Extra licenses the end of February when all the changes become official. Happy New Year!



My vote goes for Bob, **W2HVX**, and Eve as the most festive couple at the party.



Mark, **W2EAG** and his XYL were a lovely couple as always.



Jamie, **KG4RU**, and his XYL Susan were back from their coast-to-coast RV adventure.



Is there a family resemblance? Sam, **KG4ZXB**, brought big brother to the party.



Uncle Ray, **W7OPH** and Robbie, **KG4MBQ** were there.



The whole gang was there. Sorry, ran out of space.

Hope to see everyone at our first meeting of the New Year. Be safe and have fun. **WA0ZGL**.

Meeting Minutes,

There was no meeting conducted in Dec., the party took precedence.

The ARES Angle

Well, it is the beginning of December, and the end of another hurricane season. This one was thankfully mild. We only had one mini-activation, early on. Does anyone mind? Reckon not.

It has made me think some about science and computer models. The early predictions were for a very active season, nearly as active as last year's. Those estimates were revised downwards part-way through the season. Even the revised estimate was too high. What happened?

If you are on the state-wide ARES email mailing list, you get a lot of weather-related mail. One of the most interesting occurs during an actual tropical system. Ricky Tharrington, who works at the port in Wilmington, sends out some information that he gets on his job. Some of the graphics show the likely path of the storm. The most interesting one shows the track which is forecast by each of 5 computer models. They are usually similar, with minor differences in speed or direction. Sometimes one of them will show a radically different track from the rest. Why?

Several factors are at play. First off, everyone recognizes that weather prediction is beset by the number of variables that have to be accounted for. No program ever written can account perfectly for how each of a million variables will interact with all the rest, and so there is uncertainty introduced by the very wealth of data which must be combed through. Another factor is inherent in the task of computer programming. Assumptions must be made in order to write a program at all. Choices have to be made in the design of the program, in the weight given to various data sets, etc. The relative consistency of the models shows that there is a fair amount of agreement about how to do this. The relative inaccuracy, and the frequency with which some model will give results radically different from the rest, shows how imperfect the current understanding is.

The best science works like this: you form a hypothesis, and then seek to disprove it. An experiment which disproves it, disproves it for all time. An experiment which proves it, may be a lucky fluke or have stumbled upon an exception to a rule, and hence does not ever really prove anything except that it worked that time. This is the problem with anecdotal data ("I had an uncle who smoked three packs a day all his life and never got cancer.")

Unfortunately, science (like so much else) is driven by funding and politics. In an area like hurricane prediction, they are pretty much free to pursue the truth -- which means, to get as close to the truth as the current state of the art will allow. In other areas, such as climate prediction, politics reigns supreme.

When the predictions were released this Spring for this year's hurricane season, saying it would be so active, many in the "global warming" community blamed it on global warming, and predicted gloomily that it will get worse as global warming proceeds. When the estimates were revised, due to the emergence of an El Nino which produces wind shear at higher altitudes which prevents hurricanes from forming, the same people said that we were having more El Ninos because of global warming. These two statements are contradictory. They cannot both be true.

In his "History of England", Thomas Macaulay notes that those who must always have something to view with alarm, first opposed the standing army in 1699 because they saw it as an enemy of the people's rights, and then clamored for the reinstatement of the standing army when they saw Louis XIV becoming more powerful and feared he would invade England. They were partly right and mostly wrong, both times. Both times, they were driven by their disposition to alarmism.

Thank goodness the hurricane prediction people work more on the scientific method. They do their best, and use their mistakes to improve their assumptions and their models, knowing them to be such. Too bad the global warming folks do not operate on the same basis. To have claimed that global warming is certainly man-made and will get worse, rather than to state that their preferred model indicates this to be a likelihood, is just the opposite of science. Rather than form a hypothesis and disprove it, they have chosen to form a hypothesis and prove it. Innate human desire is bound to skew the results.

We can see the same thing at work sometimes in the ARES community. Since we train for emergencies, and since it is a natural desire to want to use a tool that one has prepared with so much time and care, I have at times seen some of our brethren "view with alarm" the approach of various disasters, both natural and man-made. Our local group is not so beset with this attitude, for which I am grateful. But you can see it at times in ARES as a whole.

And for now, that's the ARES Angle.

Bruce, **N8UTY**
Craven County EC

Member News

MJ, NP2AZ, & Vince, N6JIB, said: We are leaving on Monday, 11/27, to see if we can catch some military space A hops back to Southeast Asia. If any of the club members express any interest in my journal, tell them to send me an e-mail so that I can put them in my Contacts list, and then they will be sent the update notices. mj

Their website is at:

<http://www.mytripjournal.com/GIW/WebObjects/MyTripJournal.wa/1/wo/9gPAjOcjgvJKqwo98LPeg/6.1.3>

the password to get in is mj's call.

Hamfests

Jan. 6, 2007, Sat. – Winston-Salem FirstFest Swapfest

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club <http://www.w4nc.org>

Talk-In: 146.64 (PL 100); 145.47 (PL 100)

email to: hamfest@w4nc.org

Plan ahead – Charlotte in Mar., Kinston in Mar., Raleigh in Apr.

With all the recent changes in licensing and band plans, the following might renew the memories of many of us, and might provide insight into “old time” ham radio for some relative newcomers.

Celebrating the Most Fun Year(s) Most Hams Had in Ham Radio

from: <http://www.novice.bappy.com/index.html>

For most hams, the year(s) they spent as a Novice was the most fun they had in ham radio. They discovered the hobby. Everything was new and exciting! Other hams went out of their way to help and teach them. This page celebrates that joy by sharing American Novice stories.

Many of American hams were first licensed as a Novice from 1951 to the 2000. Almost every Novice will tell you, her/his Novice year(s) was their happiest in ham radio. This is when we discovered ham radio and were excited by it. This is when we had the thrill of making our first contact and getting our first QSL card. Most everybody was real nice to us as a Novice. They went out of their way to help and teach us.

In 2000, the FCC stopped issuing new Novices. Those holding Novices may continue to renew. However few actually renew. The rate of non-renewal of Novice is the highest amongst all license class. Even though there are Novice holders still on the rolls of the FCC, almost none are on the air. The Novice has become a museum piece.

The Novice license served an essential function as a learner's permit. Even with all the encouragement available for a new ham, most new hams are intimidated by the technology. They need a period of time to learn. These days in our hyperactive society, everyone is in a rush. Consumerism is the rule. Most people want an appliance they can operate and are unconcerned about how it

works. They want a walkie talkie that is easy to use. They have no patience to get on CW at 5 words per minute.

The Novice Historical Society is founded to preserve the Novice experience which we consider as an important aspect of the history of amateur radio in the U.S. We invite former American Novices to share a story of the joy of their Novice year to be posted on this website.

A story can be on any Novice experience you had: how you discovered ham radio, nervousness sending Morse code during your test, eager anticipation waiting for the license to come, (mis)adventures building/assembling your first rig and antenna, your first QSO, your most memorable QSO, operating field day for the first time, hams who were generous to you.... Do send us, to the email address below, a photo of yourself as a Novice or some other Novice artifact, if you have one. If you have a link to your personal ham radio webpage send that along too.

73s,

Cliff Cheng, PhD, KI6CM

The following is a tongue in cheek article which does not necessarily reflect any local opinions.

Kellogg's & FCC Sign Pact

Washington D.C.-

It was announced today that Kellogg's and the Federal Communications Commission have signed a pact to issue Amateur Radio Licenses on specially marked boxes of Corn Flakes. In this unprecedented move the FCC believes this will not hurt amateur radio but allow all individuals to receive an amateur radio license without having to demonstrate any skills with the exception of being able to use a pair of scissors to cut out their operating permit from the breakfast cereal box.

Kellogg's spokesperson commented that they were proud to have been selected by the government to be the issuer of licenses for amateur radio in the US and hope to soon make an agreement with other cereal loving countries. They also expect that will be issuing certificates of achievement for DXCF for confirmed contacts with 100 corn flakers.



Don't despair, summer's coming

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
Public Service/Photog: Bob Chamberlain, W2HVX
Emergency Communications: Bruce Arnold, N8UTY
Assistant Em. Comm.: Dave Warwick, K4DJW
Program Committee Chairman: Bill Lindquist, K2UFC

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., 104 Outrigger Rd., New Bern, NC 28562. 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

Selected Local Nets Times are local time, unless otherwise stated

Club Net Manager: position open
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: 3926 kHz, 0745 daily
Carolina Slow Net (CW): 3571kHz, 8PMET (5wpm) daily
Coastal Carolina Emergency Net: 3908 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
Pamlico County ARES: 147.210 MHz, tone 151.4, 1930 Wed.
ENC Emergency: 146.685 mHz, 2100 Thursdays
ENC Traffic: 146.685 mHz, 2030 daily
NBARC Ragchew: 146.61 mHz, 2000 daily

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