

New Bern Amateur Radio Club



foto by W2RLG & WA0ZGL

Volume 32, Issue 2, February, 2009

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



Logo tnx to Eve, XYL of W2HVX

W4EWN/R

146.610 / 146.010 PL 100 Hz.

444.900 / 449.900 PL 100 Hz.

Next Meeting -- Thursday, February 5, 2009

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

It is past dues time again. My address is 1508 Kimberly Rd, New Bern, 28560, if some wish to send checks. I will have receipts and a list of those that have prepaid, which I will bring to the next meeting.

73,

Ray, **W7OPH**, Treasurer

President's Corner

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Due to not having a meeting in January we still need to wrap up a few club appointments at the Feb. meeting. I would also like to discuss weather the club wants to install a digi-peater and, if anyone would like to work with the hospital to keep the radio station operational and employees trained. Hope to see everyone at the meeting on Thursday.

Thanks for supporting the club and amateur radio.

73's Dave, **K4DJW**

Straight Key Night

See a nice video of operation during the SKN activities, New Years Eve & NY Day, 2009

<http://www.viddler.com/explore/GOATHiker/videos/10/>

Minutes of Meeting

There was no meeting, and thus no minutes for Jan., but our new Secretary has some words of wisdom for us all:

Ray, **W7OPH**, has been receiving some members' dues. If you have not sent them in yet he will be glad to accept them at the next meeting Feb 5th. Hope to see you all at the meeting.

Jim, **KS4O**, has compiled a spreadsheet style roster with the NBARC membership. It is very easy for us to update any information changes you each might have. Just let me know and I will be happy to keep this as current as possible.

N4CBC, Lt Col John H. DeWitt completed the first moon bounce (Earth-Moon-Earth/EME) transmission from Ft. Monmouth, NJ on January 10 1946.

Let's make 2009 a growing and successful year for the NCARC and the amateur radio hobby.

Bob, **KJ4HJH**, secy

ARES ANGLE

Random thoughts this month: My thoughts recently have been revolving around communications. There are a number of questions running through my mind, and I want them to run through your minds too. Here are a few:

Should we have a Craven County ARES VHF net? I'm thinking of perhaps a weekly net on the NBARC repeater where we could check in and perhaps talk about anything ARES related.

What would you like to do in 2009 for a Simulated Emergency Test (SET)? It's been a long time since we've had a real disaster. We had one SET in 2008, but all we did was attempt to get everyone to check in. Would you all support a SET in 2009 where we would do more? What could I/we do to increase participation? (Free beer is probably out...)

What's the best way to check out our antennas (and radios) at shelter locations? We have several Craven County shelter sites. Some have no equipment, and some have antennas. None have been used or tested for at least the last two years.

What's a good way to communicate with and update our shelter contacts? I expect some of our shelter contacts have changed and that they've forgotten who we are and that our on-site equipment even exists.

Should we pursue acquiring and installing antennas at all shelter sites? We have some shelter sites with no antennas. It seems to me that having a good outdoor antenna is particularly important if we want to be able to use simplex communications rather than depending on our repeater.

Do we want to make a special effort to encourage other emergency personnel to become hams? Let's face it... getting a technician license is really easy. But someone has to have the desire. What can we do to instill that desire?

Who in the club (not just ARES) is interested in digital modes, particularly APRS? We have a radio and antenna at Craven Regional Medical Center that lies unused. This system could be used as a digipeater on 144.39 (the national standard APRS frequency) rather than continue unused and untested. This would give us a local digipeater, and use of it would also assure us that the radio and antenna at CRMC continue to perform

adequately. The radio would still be available for voice use at any time.

I'd like to hear your thoughts on these and similar questions, either in person or via email (ks4o@arrl.net).

Thanks for your support this past year. I've made some mistakes, and I'll make more this year. I hope to learn from them. Feel free to remind me when I haven't.

73 de Jim, **KS4O**
Craven County ARES EC

VEC Activity

There will be a License Exam session on Saturday, Feb. 21, in Bldg. C at Craven Community College. As always, walk-ins will be welcome and VEs will be needed.

73, Bruce, **N8UTY**

QST Magazine Archive Access

ARRL is pleased to announce that online access to the QST archive <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html>> will be expanded.

Beginning February 1, 2009, ARRL members will be able to search and view QST -- from December 1915 through December 2005 right from their computer. With an additional year -- 2005 - - added to the viewable archive, this valuable benefit is available free to all ARRL members.

HAMFESTS

Feb. 7, 2009 Richmond Frostfest at The Richmond Raceway Complex <http://www.frostfest.com/>

Mar. 14 & 15 Charlotte Hamfest, new location, in Concord, NC <http://www.w4bfb.org/>

these are still a bit off, plan ahead

Apr. 5, 2009 Kinston Down East
<http://downeasthamfest.org/>

Apr. 11, 2009 RARSFest
<http://rars.org/hamfest/>

Practice Ham exams online

KD0FN, Hamilton Carter, has created a set of free online exam practice tests that he hopes hams will find useful.

Online study resources are provided for many of the questions. You can see all the practice tests at:

<http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/> Please let him know if you find it handy, or if you think of any ways to make it better.
hcarter333@gmail.com

VERTICAL ANTENNAS AND HF MOBILE ANTENNAS – ADDENDUM

ANDY GRIFFITH, W4ULD

Throughout my series on vertical antennas I referred to the advantage in gain of a rotatable dipole over a vertical antenna unless the vertical is mounted very high. As previously stated, I was talking about gain when working DX which depends on the initial orientation of the vertical antenna being lost as the wave is reflected from the ionosphere.

In the CCARS meeting this morning (2-23-08) I was reminded that the local ARES organization is shifting much of their local communications to 28.36 MHz. using vertical antennas. The polarization of the wave leaving such antennas is vertical. Communications are by ground wave; thus, the received wave will also be vertically polarized. Therefore, it is important that the receive and transmit antenna at the remote station be a vertical. Under these conditions a rotatable dipole will perform poorly.

In the November 2007 issue of QST, pg. 30, an article rated several mobile antennas. Generally I agree with the ratings. However, the motor driven or “screwdriver” antenna was given a poor rating which is contrary to my experience and report in my series on HF Mobile antennas. However, the article did not make it clear to me that they were rating the miniature motorized antenna sold by several manufacturers. This is recognized by the picture of evaluated antennas on page 32. They were not talking about the full size motorized antenna made by most manufacturers. My home brew vision is “full size” and has an efficiency just below the open coil “bugcatcher”. I have closely examined the *Tarheel* and the *High Sierra* full size antennas but have never made critical measurements. I feel sure they perform about like my homebrew unit. The only way I see that they can improve their efficiency a little is to extend their mast so that the loading coil will be just above center of the antenna. They probably selected their lower location so that the antenna would cover 3.5 to 4.0 MHz. My homebrew unit will not tune below 3.9 MHz. because I cannot install enough coil.

Cast of Characters:

President: Dave Warwick, K4DJW
Vice President: Pete Koonce, KA4SXX
Secretary: Bob Melle, KJ4HJH
Treasurer: Ray Hemphill, W7OPH
Emergency Communications: Jim Wright, KS4O
Assistant Em. Comm.: Dave Warwick, K4DJW
Public Svc/Special Events/VEC: Bruce Arnold, N8UTY
Trustee: Billy Morton, KE4YMA
Program Committee Chairman:
Photography: Mac Eutsler, WA0ZGL

The Newsletter Team:

Al Parker, W8UT, Editor
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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): 3571 kHz, at 8PM ET (5wpm) daily
Coastal Carolina Emergency Net: 3908 kHz, 1900 daily
Tarheel Emergency Net: 1945 kHz, 1930 daily, exc. Mon. on 3923kHz
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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