



December 2003

# The Spectrum

*Fun, Public Service, and Learning using our Amateur Radio Licenses*

## CARS on the AIR

### At the Shack W4CAR HF & VHF

**146.610 MHz W4CAR Repeater**

**146.820 MHz W4CAR Repeater**

**444.000 MHz W4CAR Repeater**

### CARS Officers & Chair Persons

President: **Ruth Bigio KB4LIF**

Vice Pres: **Bill Runyon WF4R**

Secretary: **James Gwaltney KA4EDI**

Treasurer: **Sonny Hood K4WYS**

BOD: **Barry Goldblatt W3AFH**

Public Service Coordinator:  
**Leo Kusuda KG4PWC**

COM Coordinator: **Rick Smith KC4USH**

Home Page: **Leo Kusuda KG4PWC**

SpringFest: **Ruth Bigio KB4LIF**

Trustee of W4CAR: **Frank Duval K4PRR**

Technical Committee:  
**Bill Runyon WF4R**

## Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service

POB 6867

Chesapeake, VA 23323-6867

## Shack Day 2003 - A great time for all

The sun was shining on a cool November day when Sonny K4WYS followed by John N2WCR parked behind the Shack leaving the gate locked making one believe that no one was there. They had arrived 1 hour before the scheduled time and had already assembled the new tower to support the Cushcraft 6 meter/2 meter/ 440 beam when I arrived. The crew consisting of Bill WF4R, Rick KC4USH and Bob WA4SQL and the initial 3 rapidly disassembled the Cushcraft LPDA, and mounted the VHF/UHF beam. Being the most weight challenged individual, I, KG4PWC the "Roofer" (An epithet bestowed on me for scaling the roof during Field Day 2003) volunteered to go on the Shack roof to help pull the VHF/UHF tower into place. There was some discussion about the accuracy of the level used to plumb the tower. But "verti-

cal" is in the eye of the beholder, as is "true north" when calibrating the rotator calibration. Everything seemed to work. Bill, since he owned the only set of safety harnesses, climbed the main tower to inspect the old rotor and clean up the spaghetti shrouding the 40/80-meter trap dipole. Bill was very adroit and made the whole process look easy. The rest of us were happy to supervise with a cup of coffee in hand. Sonny's idea of QRN must be re-evaluated since he seemed to express great joy in hearing the sound of massive quantities of aluminum tubing falling into the bed of his pickup truck. To him it sounded like money falling into a metal bowl, for me, it was time to get another cup of coffee. Ruth, KB4LIF and Rose KD4ILS supplied food and coffee along with merry commentary and a string of one-liner riddles. To in-

Continued next column

Continued on page 4

Newsletter Editor  
**Rick Aldom W7STS**

## **Event Calendar**

December the annual Holiday Gala

December 6th, SkyWarn Recognition day. Details to follow.

SpringFest 2004 is being planned by Leo, KG4PWC, and Ricky, KC4USH, who may have a new call my then. The proposed date is April 17, 2004 at the Hickory Ruritan Club. Volunteer to Ricky or Leo and help make the 2004 SpringFest Best Ever.

## **CARS Net Activities**

### **CARS Sponsored Nets - Join us for CARS on the Air FUN**

SKYWARN Fridays at 7 PM on 146.820 MHz FM

CARS Monday Night Meeting on the Air (when CARS does not formally meet) 28.4 MHz USB at 8 PM

## **VBARC Calendar**

***No Events Scheduled***

## **ARRL Contests**

December 5-7  
160 Meter Contest

December 13-14  
10 Meter Contest

## **News from the ARRL**

### **UO-14 REACHES THE END OF THE TRAIL**

UO-14 has officially ended its long run as an Amateur Radio satellite, although it continues to transmit telemetry and respond to commands from Earth. The Mission Control Centre at the Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) Center for Satellite Engineering Research announced this week that the venerable and popular bird "has reached the end of its mission after nearly 14 years in orbit." Launched in 1990, UoSAT-OSCAR-14 pioneered the PACSAT communication concept as the first 9.6 kbps Amateur Radio data communications satellite, although it became best known in recent years as an FM "easy sat." "Since launch, UO-14 has completed over 72,000 orbits and as many charge/discharge cycles of its on-board NiCd battery," said AMSAT-UK Chairman Martin Sweeting, G3YJO. "However recently one of the battery cells has become exhausted and can no longer support continuous operation of the repeater." Sweeting said UO-14's transmitter shuts down shortly after it is com-

**Continued next column**

### **UO-14 REACHES THE END OF THE TRAIL cont.**

manded "on" due to undervoltage, so the microsatellite's mission has been terminated. "Thank you UO-14 for your long service!" Sweeting concluded. AMSAT-NA Board Member Bruce Paige, KK5DO, an enthusiastic UO-14 user, called the AMSAT-UK announcement "sad news." He said the loss of UO-14 leaves amateurs with SO-41 and SO-50 as the only two LEO FM voice satellites. He noted, however, that the planned 2004 launch of OSCAR-ECHO would help to fill the void. OSCAR-ECHO is set to launch next March 31. The popular and heavily used FM satellite's repeater quit working in August, but hope remained within the amateur satellite community that UO-14 somehow could be revived. Ground controller Chris Jackson, G7UPN, at one point was able to reset the satellite, but he later determined that UO-14 had suffered a primary power system failure that was causing the spacecraft to shut down during some eclipses. During its active

**Continued on page 4**

## SkyWarn Day December 6, 2003

Saturday, Dec 6, 2003 is the National SKYWARN Recognition day on which most of the NWS stations will be operating Ham Radio stations. This is a great way to make contacts since most of the 48 lower states are represented. If you want to be in the middle of a pileup, come out and be a part of a special event station.

Last year we ran the NWS Wakefield National SKYWARN Recognition Day affiliate station from the W4CAR station from 0900 to 1500. This year, W4CAR will be using the WX4AKQ callsign from 1000-1600. Our beam antenna at the W4CAR station was damaged and plans are to operate using 3 antenna systems.

- 1) 40/80 meter trap dipole
- 2) Vertical Antenna for 20/15/10 meters
- 3) Beam antenna for 6 meters and 2 meters

We will operate 75/ 40/ 20/ 15/ 10/ 6/ 2 meter bands using Phone. From 1000-1200 we will operate (band conditions permitting) on 75

**Continued next column**

meter and 20 meters and VHF. From 1200-1600 we will operate 40 and 20/15/10 and VHF.

We will accept walk-in's. All are welcome and Technician operators will be allowed to operate HF under the WX4AKQ call sign just as in Field Day To keep bunching to a minimum, it would be nice to know how many will be operating in the morning, mid day and afternoon.

All logged QSO's will be entered on EQSL at a later date. Information and log sheets will be available at the Shack. The above times are not written in stone. We have gotten approval from KO4RK, NWS Wakefield SKYWARN Coordinator and Bill Sammler, the NWS Wakefield manager. Please send all inquiries to me at [kg4pwc@arrl.net](mailto:kg4pwc@arrl.net).

For links and information check the CARS web page or go to <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>.

**73's**  
**Leo Kusuda KG4PWC**

## It's Been Fun! But...

In August, I dropped a note to Bill Sammler of the NWS not knowing that it would put me in touch with a great group of Hams. Being an active SkyWarn volunteer in Arizona, I thought I would stay active and learn more about weather of a different sort when I relocated to Virginia Beach. How different I didn't know when I arrived but it's turned out to be quite the ride. Hurricane Isabel stormed into the tidewater bringing opportunities to volunteer at the EOC and to meet many great and dedicated city employees and to work many hours with many of you, as a net control operator.. It's with mixed emotions I have to announce that I am returning to Arizona having accepted another position at Lockheed Martin. I have greatly enjoyed being a member of the Chesapeake Amateur Radio club, but it's with happiness that I am going back to my family. I would like to thank all of you for the warm welcome you have shown me.

Have a great, happy and wonderful holiday season!

**73's**  
**Rick Aldom W7STS**

# Field Day 2003

The Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service (CARS) received the following scores:

There were a total of 2,065 entries for this years Field Day from all over the country submitted to the ARRL.

CARS received a score of 2,202, for our Category, which were 5A. We had a power Multiplier of 2, and the Section in which CARS is in is VA. We had a total of 25 participants that made Field Day all the more fun.

The score above ranks us 748 out of the 2058 entries submitted to the ARRL. We made a total of 515 contacts for the entire 24-hour period. This score ranked us 52nd out of 75 for the 5A Category overall.

Some down time was caused by two bothersome thunderstorms that came through during the late afternoon and evening. Once they cleared we were hard at it again.

Further break down of our 5A Category puts us 4th overall in the Roanoke Division, not bad coming in

**Continued next column**

4th out of 75 entries for our division.

Field Day was a wonderful experience for me, since it was my first. I am looking forward to Field Day 2004.

**73's,  
RickyLeee  
KC4USH**

## **Shack Day - Cont. from pg 1**

spect the work, Paul K4PRB, Dennis K4DKR and Keith KG4ZXK came by and had some good ideas to spruce up the shack. The Shack is more than 20 years old. Unfortunately the Shack was not cleansed by the washing, Hurricane Isabel gave it. All in all it was great fun, the radios worked and we hope to have a new LPDA antenna up before National SKYWARN Recognition Day, December 6, 2003.

**73's  
Leo Kusuda KG4PWC**

## **UO-14 REACHES THE END OF THE TRAIL cont. from pg 2**

lifetime, UO-14 served several roles. After some 18 months as a PACSAT, UO-14 was switched to non-amateur frequencies for humanitarian use by Volunteers In Technical Assistance, which used it for messaging into Africa. After the store-and-forward communications computer proved no longer able to perform that task, UO-14 was turned back to amateur use as a single-channel FM voice repeater. UO-14 again served a humanitarian role in early 2001 when hams assisting with earthquake relief operations in the Indian State of Gujarat took advantage of the satellite to provide communication from the stricken region. The beauty of UO-14 was that it required minimal gear to make contacts—typically 5 W and modest antennas would do the trick. Operators with dualband handheld transceivers and “rubber duckie” antennas often could make QSOs via UO-14.