



The Spectrum



Issue 0206

February 2006

From The President

2006 looks to be a very interesting year for CARS. First off we have secured a larger venue for the 2006 Springfest! It is going to be held Sunday, April 2nd at the Moose Lodge on George Washington Highway in the Brentwood section of the city. We will have access to a large hall for inside vending as well as a very large parking/tailgating area. This will hopefully be our best Springfest yet! As always we are going to need the help of all of the members to pull this off without a hitch. If you are able to help please contact Leo, KG4PWC, ASAP! I'm sure he will be thankful for your support!

Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club will be holding a technician class starting January the 31st at the CARS QRM room. If you would like to assist with teaching a class or know of anyone who would be interested in getting their ticket, have them get in contact with VBARC's president, Jim Lindsey, AG4XT. Testing session will be Thursday, February the 16th. Yes folks, a weekday evening test session.

CARS will be sponsoring a general class starting the 21st of February. Right after Frost Fest in Richmond.

Speaking of the Frost Fest. It's February 19th at the Showplace in Richmond. Go to www.frostfest.com for more information. If you purchase tickets before the end of January they are \$5.00 a piece. You can purchase on-line if you'd like. After Jan 31st they go to \$6.00 a ticket. Grand prize this year according to their web site is a brand new ICOM IC-7000!!!!

We are going to need folks to help with manning the club table. Unfortunately, they are not including tickets with table purchases as in the past. So if you are able to help with the tables you are going to have to get your own tickets.

We had our first in what appears to be many CW practice sessions on 1-21-06. We had about 6 participants who showed up. Rich, WA4BUE, was our fearless leader as he pounded CW into our heads (get it, CW, pounded.... Ok.. I'll work on the puns). We are going to try and have a Saturday practice session each Saturday from 1:30-3:00 pm until these folks feel confident in taking their CW exam. If you are good with the key and would like to help with teaching, let us know. If you are wanting to learn CW or having problems come on out. It's fun!

Thanks to Gavin, KD7GHB and John, KI4MYZ, for starting the process of getting networked computer stations in the QRM room. Next step is working on internet connections for operating during contests, etc. Great job guys! We appreciate your efforts on Saturday!

Next club meeting is February 6th at 7:00 pm. Presentation and speaker is still being ironed out. Remember, March is the dinner meeting.

73's
Keith
KG4ZXK

Links of Interest

[Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Portsmouth Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Home - KG4ZXK.COM - IRLP and much more!](#)

[AMSAT - Suitsat Readies for Operation](#)

[AMSAT - The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation](#)

[Free Ham Radio Valentines day E-Cards](#)

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Upcoming Events

CARS General Meeting

Feb 6th 2006, 7:30 pm

VBARC

2nd January 2006, 7:00 pm

[Map of 717 Tucson Rd Virginia Beach, VA by MapQuest](#)

Frostfest

February 19th

www.frostfest.com

Springfest

2nd of April

"The Return of Smithfield Ham"

In the early 1960s, I was the editor of the "**Tidewater**", a newsletter published by the Tidewater Amateur Radio Club and later editor of RF 79 published by the Hampton Roads Radio Association. In both of these publications, I wrote an article centered around an over egotistical Ham that would do any thing to work the rare and exotic DX of the day, but like Charlie Brown in the Peanuts comic strips, never quite made it. It could be the story of many of our amateur radio lives.

So here today in the Spectrum, I would like to introduce you to **Smithfield Ham**.

As the stories starts

Today we find Smithfield Ham in his Ham Shack, pondering over his latest concocted amplifier. It is a pair of 4-100,000s. Completed just in time for the rare DX contest tonight on the new 5 MhZ band. We all know that the power limits and modes are restricted, but this is not going to stop **Smithfield Ham**. No way Jose!!!!

His last step before testing this magnificent amplifier, is to run the Heavy Duty power cable to the shack. **Smithfield Ham** has spared no expense and purchases and ran 22 miles of 00000000 cable to run directly to the Surrey Power Plant. He is now ready after 6 months of laying cable (*VDOT must have been the contractor! I am surprised the cable run is completed!*) to hook up and power up the rig.

As the "D" layer goes away and the moon rises, the last connections are hooked up and **Smithfield Ham** is ready to turn on the amplifier and make his first squeals.

The amp is powered up. The tubes are glowing purple and

LOCAL NETS

SKYWARN NET Fridays 1900 hours.	146.820 MHz
CARS 10 Meter Net 2000 hours on Mondays CARS doesn't meet	28.400 MHz
Hampton Roads Public Service Net Mon-Sat 2100 hours	146.970 MHz
VBARC 10 Meter Net 2000 hours on Thursdays VBARC doesn't meet	28.400 MHz
Portsmouth "RagChew" Net Monday & Wednesday 1930 hours	146.850 Mhz
Southeastern Virginia Traffic Net Sun, Tues, Thurs @ 2000 hours	146.850 MHz
Portsmouth Amateur Radio Emergency Services Net Fridays 2000 hours	146.850 MHz
Tidewater Radio Association WT4RA net Thursday 1930 hours (code drill follows net)	147.195 MHz

read. The shack is heating up as **Smithfield Ham** turns on full speech compression and SQUEALS, CQ CQ CQ into his D 104 Vintage Microphonium.

BAM POP BAM - Fire Balls are all around, then it is total darkness, and in a faint shrill voice we hear, "**does anyone have a match?????**"

Do I smell burnt Ham Hocks??? Smoked Ham anyone!!!!

The Master Ham has done it again. While Homeland Security refuses to confirm, **Smithfield Ham** has struck again and saturated the Surrey Nuclear Plant.

Tune in another time to see if **Smithfield Ham** has his QRP rig on the air using ECHOLINK.

Okay, who will write the next eposode of Smithfield Ham?

Will there be another eposode?

Tune in next month as KI4EUM publishes the next issue of the Spectrum unless the Ice Cream Burns in KG4PWC's microwave oven and turns into an 807.

73

God Bless

R

WA4BUE

Hamfests

For better or worse, Internet shopping has taken the business away from many vendors. Although people, who were interested in Amateur Radio, started RadioShack, business and marketing analysis would support discontinuation of most items that Hams would most desire. Although, you can still buy some parts at local RadioShack stores, I would not be surprised if they stopped. Why should they pay for stocking of low volume, low profit items, when you can get many parts from vendors such as Jameco (www.jameco.com)? If anything, MFJ (www.mfjenterprises.com) has taken over as the primary source of many of the accessories, which RadioShack in the past stocked.

It is the New Year, and a new round of HamFests is upon us. The local line up starts with Richmond FrostFest (www.frostfest.com) and includes, Raleigh, CARS SpringFest, Berryville, Manassas, Timonium, Virginia Beach, Sperryville and Franklin, There are others which you can find at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>.

So start writing a list. Good stuff to get is connectors, PL259, BNC, adapters, Anderson Powerpole, etc. Cables, power cables, coax, ladderline and grounding straps. Used equipment, particularly mobile and base antennas, tuners, and Morse code keys are good bets. There are some good deals on new antennas but you might consider buying the wire instead, coax waterproofing supplies, Dacron or Kevlar rope, baluns and insulators and make your own. Coax switches, code practice oscillators, books, antenna analyzers and test equipment can also be found at the Hamfests. There can be good deals with radios, but you need to be careful, since you more than likely won't be able to check them out. Then there are the personalized caps, cups, buttons, license plate holders, etc. I encourage you to support the vendors. They won't come if they can't make any money. It always is nice to see items in real life and to see how big some items are. So you might be able to save a few dollars on line, but consider buying a few items from the vendors. Many of the smaller Hamfests cannot attract the larger vendors anymore because it is not profitable.

If you have stuff to sell, plan on selling it through a club table so you can enjoy seeing the rest of the Hamfest. If you have a lot of stuff, get your own table, but you will have to have someone there at all times. Although most hams are very honest, there are those who come by who are less than scrupulous. My favorite venue is the tailgaters. However, weather can greatly affect how many are present.

You will run into many friends and many of the vendors are a great source of information. Some hamfests will have exam sessions. So even if you don't buy anything, you can learn a lot.

Finally, thank the organizers. Having been the SpringFest chairman the last 2 years, I can say that there is a lot of work involved, which are all done by volunteers.

73
Leo
KG4PWC



[Free Ham Radio Valentines day E-Cards](#)



Ten-Ten International Winter Phone QSO Party--sponsored by Ten-Ten

0001Z Feb 4 - 2359Z Feb 5, 10-meters only

Exchange: Callsign, name, QTH, and 10-10 number (if a member).

QSO Points: nonmembers--1 pt, members--2 pts. Score: total points.

For complete rules: <http://www.ten-ten.org>. Logs due by Feb 20th to tentencontest@alltel.net or, Steve Rasmussen. N0WY, #68684, 312 N 6th St, Plattsmouth, NE 68048.

The PL tone has been taken off the 146.82 repeater

A lot of folks who may not have been able to access the repeater due to a tone issue should now be able to access it with no problem. If you already have tone programmed into your radio you do not really have to take it off. It will not cause any problem with it on. But if you feel that you must, please go ahead and take it off.

If you read this note in the newsletter and have not been able to check into the Skywarn net on Friday evenings at 7 P.M. Please rejoin the net. You should now be heard.

CARS CLUB MEETING MINUTES 1/9/06 (Not yet approved by membership)

Meeting convened at 7:30 pm. Attendance: 26

Paul, K4PRB, read minutes of the previous meeting. Ruth KB4LIF moved to approve as read. Seconded and approved.

Rich, KI4EUM, read the treasurer's report : Ruth moved to approve as read. Seconded and approved.

Repeaters: Keith reported he had received no response to his email to Bernie Reasor of the City.

ARES: Meetings are temporarily shifted from Thursdays to Wednesdays.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim KI4WOJ moved to have club meetings start at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30 pm. Seconded and approved.

Keith, KG4ZXX moved to approve the membership applications of James Hardee, WB4UVH, John Wilde, KI4MYZ, and Brian Bodnar, N4BJB. Seconded and approved.

Plans for repeater improvements and new installations were discussed.

Plans for Springfest and the need for volunteers were discussed.

Rich KI4EUM moved the club use the same location at Great Bridge Locks Park, if available, again for Field Day this year. Seconded and approved.

Bob Zogg, KI4MNC volunteered to be Field Day Chairman this year.

Keith KG4ZXX announced VBARC's technician class will be held at the CARS shack Tuesday and Thursday evenings and a Saturday VE exam 1/31 – 2/16. CARS General class will start February 21.

Keith KG4ZXX announced the CARS 2 meter net will begin Sunday January 29 at 8:30 and will be held weekly at that time on Sundays and Tuesdays.

Don Snipes, KB4NKP, presented the club with a MFJ 130RC clock which is linked to WWVL.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE - Never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL – Offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through with Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE – With knowledge abreast of science. A well-built and efficient station, and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY – Slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED – Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC – Station and skills always ready for service to country and community.

The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M.Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

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Monthly newsletter of the Chesapeake
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CARS : Repeaters

146.610 MHz (PL 100.0)
146.820 MHz
444.000 MHz

W4CAR Trustee: Bill Runyon WF4R

CARS OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

President: Keith Ainsley KG4ZXK

Vice President: Bill Runyon WF4R

Secretary: Paul Buckwalter K4PRB

Treasurer: Rich Graham KI4EUM

Communications Officer

Reggie White W5SSB

Past President:

Ruth Bigio KB4LIF

Public Service Coordinator:

Leo Kusuda KG4PWC

Repeater Committee Chairman:

Bill Runyon WF4R

Spring Fest Coordinator:

Leo Kusuda KG4PWC

