



The Spectrum

Issue 1

January 2008

Words from the President

Wow, we have had a lot happen in the past month. Not the least of which was surviving Christmas. I hope Santa was good to you.

CARS started our new fiscal year November 1, 2007. For those of you who have not renewed your membership by paying your annual dues, that is becoming an urgent need, for both you and the club. Our new By Laws require that memberships be terminated if not renewed by January 31, unless there are unusual circumstances which would justify an additional 30 day grace period. If you haven't paid your dues for the new year, please mail them to CARS, PO Box 6867, Chesapeake, VA 23323, or pay them in person at our January 7 Club meeting.

We had a good turnout for the Special Event operation commemorating the Battle of Great Bridge, and made a lot of contacts. Bill WF4R and Sean W5CDR have been busy filling out the certificates which the City printed for us. Many thanks to all who turned out to operate the radios.

I believe every one of the nearly forty members attending our annual Christmas dinner meeting December 3 had a most enjoyable evening. If you weren't there, I hope you can attend the next

dinner meeting. Other than the food, the highlight of the evening was awarding the Robert Armstrong Ham of the Year award to our past President Keith Ainsley, KG4ZXX. Congratulations again, Keith!

On Saturday, December 8, CARS again turned out in force, this time to help lower the tower and antennas of silent key Earl Selover, W4LPF. Again, thanks to all who participated, and a special thank you to Terry K14RXC and Marshall A14CM who did the really hard work at the top of the tower. Nice climbing guys. I'm especially happy to report the event was 100 % safe – not even a skinned knuckle! Sonny K4WYS as usual had the task well planned.

Mark your calendar for Monday, January 7, CARS' next club meeting at the QRM room. Also Saturday, February 2 for Frostfest in Richmond (new location, see their website for directions).

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Links of Interest

[Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Portsmouth Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Home - KG4ZXX.COM - IRLP and much more!](#)

[South Hampton Roads Sky warn Net](#)

[ARRLWeb: New US Amateur Bands Chart](#)

[ARRLWeb: FCC ULS Modifies Customer Support Hotline Hours](#)

[QRP Amateur Radio Club International - Home](#)

[QRZ Ham Radio](#)

[FrostFest 2008](#)

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Upcoming Events

Board Meeting

Wednesday, Jan 2nd at 7:30 pm

CARS Public Bus. Meeting

Monday, Jan. 5th at 7:30
116 Reservation Rd.
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Shack Day

Saturday, Jan. 19th at 10:00 to ??

Frost Fest 2008

Saturday, February 2, 2008, from 8:30AM until
3:30PM
The Richmond Raceway Complex
<http://www.frostfest.com/>

ARRL Amateur Radio Online Training Courses

The ARRL run a number of Online Training courses to further Amateurs' knowledge of subjects such as Emergency Communications, HF Digital Communications and Propagation.

Courses are interactive, students log on to the course via the Internet, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback.

Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present - allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. The average student will spend 20 to 25 hours over the 8-week period working on a typical course.

To learn more, visit the [CCE](#) Course Listing page or [contact](#) the Continuing Education Program Coordinator.

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration (Jan 2, 2008)

Registration remains open through Sunday, January 6, 2008 for these online courses beginning on Friday, January 18, 2008:

- Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 ([EC-002](#))
- Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 ([EC-003R2](#))
- Antenna Modeling ([EC-004](#))
- HF Digital Communications ([EC-005](#))
- VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater ([EC-008](#))
- Radio Frequency Propagation ([EC-011](#)).

Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes.

ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Course Listing
<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>

LOCAL NETS

SKYWARN NET Wednesday 2000 Hours.	146.820 MHz
CARS 2M Net Sundays 2000 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

NEW MULTIMETER

Santa was very good to me this year. Just as my not-at-all-old #&*+@#^ Triplet DVM became less and less reliable – and that is another story as to why almost no retailers no longer sell that wonderful old brand of many years ago – Santa delivered a nice new Fluke 87-V DVM. Either the meters are getting smarter or I'm getting dumber – but this is the first multimeter I've owned in fifty + years which forced me to read the instructions before I could use its many features.

The Fluke 87-V and I are rapidly becoming friends. I respect its complexity, and it respects my stupidity by telling me when I set it up incorrectly, such as trying to measure line voltage when the test leads are plugged into the current jacks. It has a very convincing alarm sound.

By the way, the Fluke DVM came from a local retailer – Cain Electronics / Norfolk Wire. It might have been a few (only) bucks cheaper from a mail order or internet seller, but Cain and Priest Electronics are the guys that know us by name on sight, appreciate our business, give us the best price they can, stand behind the quality of their goods, and display CARS' posters for Licensing Classes, Springfest, etc. (Thank you Bernie, Terry, and Charlie and Fenton.)

We need to support those resources whenever we can. Radio Shack has a very unfriendly, anti-Ham "NO POSTERS" policy at all of their stores. And there is no substitute for being able to obtain a fifty cent part of known accuracy and reliability in the time it takes to drive a few miles and not pay for shipping, handling, and a \$25 minimum purchase price / fee, and have to wait for the postman. And the above named gents are knowledgeable professionals who know what they are selling and are willing to help the buyer get what he needs.

An old saying is that "One hand washes the other." It is in our best interest to follow that good advice. Buy locally from the professionals whenever possible. We would miss them terribly if they weren't here to support us.

Paul K4PRB

Speed up Firefox

1. In the address bar type **about:config**. This will display Firefox's configuration menu
2. Type **network.http** in the filter field to shorten the configuration list
3. Click on **network.http.pipelining** so it displays **true** in the value column
4. Double-click on **network.http.pipelining.maxrequests** . Change the integer value to **30**
5. Click on **network.http.proxy.pipelining** so it displays **true** in the value column
6. Right-click anywhere in a blank area in Firefox
 1. Select **new** then **integer**
 2. Give it a name of **nlayout.initialpaint.delay**
 3. Set the integer value to **0** . That is the number zero.

Firefox should be displaying the web pages faster/snappier.

Firefox web browser: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>

73's Ken KI4RUI

Don't know where to get trade Magazines? Here is how you get them for free!

[Tradepub.com](http://www.tradepub.com) has a dizzying array of trade magazines and white papers.

All you have to do is fill out a subscription survey. If you match in the demographics they are looking for, they will send you a full subscription to the magazine.

I haven't paid for any of my trade magazines in years.

TradePub.com: <http://www.tradepub.com/>

73's Ken KI4RUI

Letter from the Editor

From now on the newsletters will not be emailed out, but placed on the website only. I will send out an email notifying everyone the newsletter is done and the link. I will still mail out the newsletter to those who don't have an email address. Please submit articles prior to the 15th of the month, so I can get the newsletter to the club members in a timely manner. When Submitting articles please submit in word format (.Doc) My email address is wrightwon_itt@hotmail.com
Thanks Gavin KD7GJB

December 8th Lowering of Earl's Tower and Antenna's

Lowering the Boom



Tower Jack



Mark For Disassembly



Supervisors



At The Tree Line



Tower Slayers



Important Postal Rule Change Information - Please Read

On May 14, 2007 the United States Postal Service (USPS) adopted a new rate structure. For the first time in history, the USPS is taking into account the shape and uniformity of an item rather than just its weight, as was the case previously. This is part of an effort to improve the efficiency of their automated cancelling processes by screening out ahead of time items that won't pass through the machinery without jamming it, thereby requiring human intervention.

For that reason we can no longer recommend envelopes with clasps on them because for certain classes of mail this may mandate an automatic surcharge of 17 cents. For those of you who already have envelopes with us here in the Bureau, don't worry! Your envelopes are still able to be used but given the new rates we may not be able to put as many cards into them as we could have done previously. When your sorter sends you your last envelope, then the following paragraph should be used in determining how you re-supply us with envelopes.

Every United States Post Office sells envelopes named "Ready Post". The product code of the Ready Post envelope which is suitable for QSL Bureau use is number 93009258. This is a 6-inch by 9-inch envelope without clasps. For 90 percent of bureau users this envelope should be perfectly satisfactory. If you put a 41 cent "forever stamp" on this envelope it will be sent to you when five cards have accumulated for you. If you put a total of 58 cents postage on this envelope, you will receive it back with 14 cards inside.

By mentioning the above envelope we are simply trying to be helpful. We accept any envelope provided by our users, but we may have to adjust the number of cards we can put into an envelope depending on the particular envelope provided.

For those who wish to receive more than 14 cards at a time, there will be a considerable jump in what you pay in postage because the shape and uniformity rules push your envelope into the "large envelope" or "flat" class regardless of weight. For 24 cards, you will pay \$1.14; for 34 cards, \$1.31; and for 44 cards, \$1.48. Some shipments may even be considered parcels which would add another 33 cents to each of these respective postage amounts.

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Monthly newsletter of the Chesapeake
Amateur Radio Service (CARS)

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CARS : Repeaters

146.820 (PL 162.2) MHz
146.610 MHz (PL 100.0)
444.000 (PL 100.0)MHz

W4CAR Trustee: Bill Runyon WF4R

CARS OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

President: Paul Buckwalter K4PRB

Vice President: Gavin Wright KD7GJB

Secretary: Marshall Denny AI4CM

Treasurer: Barry Priddy K5VIP

Communications Officer

Sean Gorman W5CDR

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Bill Runyon WF4R