



# The Spectrum



Issue 07

July 2005

## Words From the President

Keith – KG4ZXX

Field Day 2005 is now a memory but I think most will agree this was one of the best Field Day events that CARS has hosted in awhile. Thanks to everyone who supported the club with setup and take down and also want to thank the folks who stayed and operated the radios for club points.

For those who were not able to attend you missed a good event, but if you were not here I hope you were able to find an event somewhere and get on the radio and make new friends.

We had over 40 people Saturday including Councilwomen Debbie Ritter and Patricia Willis. Thanks to the city for their support of CARS over the years.

A hearty thanks to our food crew. Paul, K4PRB and Dennis, K4DKR helped us get lunch off without a hitch. Big thanks to Rich, KI4EUM and his family for the wonderful dinner they served. Beef Tenderloin and shrimp with all the fixings. I would also like to thank Barry, W3AFH, Bill WF4R, Ricky Lee KC4RIC, Richard WA4BUE and everyone else that I can't list here in the column. Look forward to sharing the event with you all again next year.

Now the club gets to take a little bit of a breather. I think we have met and in some cases exceeded the goals that the board outlined in October of 2004. We have participated in several training classes as well as hosted Kid's Day and, of course, Skywarn Day. With the summer weather comes

vacations and doing things with family. Go have fun! Spend time with the family. The club will be ready for you after the kids get back in school (hi hi).

One thing I would ask you to keep in mind is that we are now in hurricane season. I know all of you remember Hurricane Isabel a few years ago. While no one wants to repeat what we went through then it helps to be prepared. CARS supports the City of Chesapeake with emergency communication assistance in the time of natural disasters. The use of the QRM room at 116 Reservation road shows how appreciative the city is of the efforts the club has done in the past. However, we can always use more volunteers. If you would like to find out more how you can assist the club when the city needs help please contact Leo, KG4PWC and let him know that you are interested.

Look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming dinner meeting July 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm. We will be meeting in the Western Branch section of Chesapeake at the Chesapeake Square Golden Corral located at the intersection of Portsmouth Blvd and Taylor Road. Please contact me and let me know if you are attending so we can make sure to have enough space for all.

Now get going! It's summer time. Go have FUN!

73's  
Keith – KG4ZXX  
President



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## Links of Interest

[Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Portsmouth Amateur Radio Club](#)

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

[RASON Home](#)

## Upcoming Events

### CARS Meeting

Monday, July 11th, 6:30 PM  
Dinner Meeting  
Golden Coral  
Chesapeake Square

## RASON UPDATE

By  
Matt Welch (KB1LCS)

On June 11, 2005, RASON participated with Norfolk Home Depot in their annual Hurricane Expo. The purpose of the Expo was to raise awareness of hurricane preparedness as well as to remind the community to stock-up on essential items needed for survival. Rich Davis (N2NMH), Larry Gump (W4LSJ), and Matt Welch (KB1LCS) volunteered to participate in the public event held at Norfolk Home Depot on Military Hwy. RASON setup an APRS station, a VHF/UHF station, and a weather scanner to demonstrate the usefulness of communications during a disaster. Matt (KB1LCS) stated, we felt the need to help out in the community in which we serve." "Not only were we able to recruit new members for RASON, but also for our prestigious hobby."

On June 12, 2005, the RASON VHF/UHF Net had its debut on the W4VB 145.330(-) PL 136.5 and the N2NMH 444.4750(+) PL 127.3 repeaters. The intent of the net is to provide training for new net controllers and to demonstrate to amateurs the advantages of repeater linking. The net is held on Sunday through Thursday at 7:30pm (1930) EST. The official count for the first week is 47 check-ins. Special thanks goes to Larry Gump (W4LSJ) for taking the role of Net Manager. RASON would like to recognize Stew Smokler (KG4KJW), Brad Taylor (KW4USA), Lynnette Welch (KB1LGB), Don Eaton (W2SBI), and Matt Welch (KB1LCS) for doing an outstanding job at net control. We encourage all amateurs to check-in and look forward to hearing you on the air.

Matt (KB1LCS) and Larry (W4LSJ) represented RASON on The Hampton Roads Perspective at WNVZ 104.5 in Virginia Beach. Tricia from Z104 In The Morning was a great host and was very interested in amateur radio communications. Matt and Larry did an outstanding job providing information about RASON and the hobby as well as hurricane preparedness. The 20-25 minute show was aired on Sunday 19JUN05 at 0600, 0630, 0700, and 0730 on four

different FM radio stations. [WWW.RASONVA.ORG](http://WWW.RASONVA.ORG) went from 180 counter hits before the broadcast to 822 hits after the broadcast.

For more information about the Radio Amateur Society of Norfolk (RASON), please visit our website at [www.rasonva.org](http://www.rasonva.org) or contact Larry Gump (W4LSJ) at [L.gump@cox.net](mailto:L.gump@cox.net) or Matt Welch at [KB1LCS@arrl.net](mailto:KB1LCS@arrl.net).

## SILENT KEY

Amateur Radio and the community has lost a great friend in John Maehu, KB1BBS. For years he has fought off pain and Heart disease, the last few years were really rough.

John was a Commander in the NAVY, and brought his skills into retirement as President of the Hickory Kawians Club, Fund Raiser for his Church, and his volunteer efforts in amateur radio.

He was a husband, father, and grandfather and enjoyed his family.

John demonstrated his integrity and was not afraid to speak out if he had to, but preferred to be a mild quite gentleman.

We will miss John for all of these reasons and most of all.....because he was a friend.



## LOCAL NETS

<b>SKYWARN NET</b> Fridays 1900 hours.	146.820 MHz
<b>Old Dominion IRLP Net</b> Sundays 2000 hours. IRLP Node #4865 (Simplex Frequency)	145.600 MHz
<b>CARS 10 Meter Net</b> 2000 hours on Mondays CARS doesn't meet	28.400 MHz
<b>Hampton Roads Public Service Net</b> Mon-Sat 2100 hours	146.970 MHz
<b>VBARC 10 Meter Net</b> 2000 hours on Thursdays VBARC doesn't meet	28.400 MHz
<b>Portsmouth "RagChew" Net</b> Monday & Wednesday 1930 hours	146.850 Mhz
<b>Southeastern Virginia Traffic Net</b> Sun, Tues, Thurs @ 2000 hours	146.850 MHz
<b>Portsmouth Amateur Radio Emergency Services Net</b> Fridays 2000 hours	146.850 MHz

## **Controlled Mayhem, W4CAR Field Day, June 24, 2005**

Bees are genetically engrained with the ability to function in a coordinated effort to support the hive for the survival of the species. So I imagine Ham operators must have some genetic encoding to perform communications for the survival of the hobby even though on the surface the activities appear as total chaos. How else can one explain the ability of a dozen or so operators to set up 5 complete stations covering 2-meters to 80 meters, digital, CW and SSB without any detailed plan in under 4 hours with no single architect for this endeavor? Field Day 2005 for the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service (W4CAR) was even more impressive when you take into account that this is the first time we have used this particular site. The configuration was completely different from any done before.

The Amateur Radio operators both from the City of Chesapeake and from the surrounding cities duly impressed our city representatives, Councilman Ritter, Councilman Willis, Assistant Deputy for Emergency Management Hui-Shan Walker and Chesapeake City CERT Coordinator Ted Ambrose who were present at the start of communication activities. This year, the club Field Day activity was announced in the principal regional newspaper, The Virginia Pilot on the second page of the local section and in a write up in the weekly section

devoted to the City of Chesapeake. Councilman Ritter presented us with a proclamation by Dalton Edge, the Chesapeake Mayor, declaring the week of 18-25, 2005 as "Amateur Radio Week".

Like any busy hive, the W4CAR Field Day Station represents many things. It clearly demonstrated to the city that a very sophisticated communications station could be setup to support the city independent of local utilities. It is an educational experience. But most of all, it is FUN! This was never more clearly demonstrated by the quality and quantity of food brought to the event. HAMS do have it one better than bees. We have more variety of food! We started out with a joyous amount of picnic food, with hot dogs with homemade chili, hamburgers with fresh tomatoes and onions, potato salad and cookies. Next, thanks to Rich, KI4EUM and his family, the menu included beef tenderloin, mixed vegetables, shrimp and spiced mashed potatoes! If that wasn't enough, we had barbecue pork ribs. A few of the operators and visitors said they would be back next year, just for the food.

W4CAR consisted of one dedicated PSK31 radio, 2 SSB HF radios, a CW HF radio and a 6-meter radio. A separate 2-meter FM transceiver monitored the W4CAR repeater. The 6-meter beam was almost an after thought. It was mounted on a 25 foot TV mast that could be manually turned. The HF antennas consisted of one G5RV, two 80-meter Carolina Windoms and one 40-meter Carolina Windom. The 6-meter band came alive in the afternoon and 45 contacts were made until the band shut down around 0100 UTC. Final log results were not available at the time this article was written, but a rough tally showed about 100 PSK31 contacts, 115 CW contacts over 450 contacts on SSB. The furthest station was Hawaii. About ¾ of the sections were contacted.

Over 40 people showed up. To mention but a few operators who distinguished themselves, Barry W3AFH gets the award for the highest antenna and most SSB contacts (350), KI4EUM Rich gets the culinary award, and Bill WF4R gets the award for bringing the most radios and computer equipment. Paul K4PRB and Dennis K4DKR provided additional logistical support and lunch. Finally, Keith KG4ZXX our fearless President gets the award for most enthusiasm. A list of all the operators and visitors will be presented elsewhere. Rich's son Jake and Paul KI4IRL's grandson marveled and assisted with logging. Some of the older HAM's were upstaged at the computer keyboard by the youngest generation, but we all appreciated their interest.

Even the weather seemed to cooperate with temperatures being moderate. The rain stayed clear until closing time and the bugs mercifully avoided us. The whole event could not have been scripted better even if there was no script. It must be in the genes!

73  
Leo  
KG4PWC

# Morse code beats texting, thumbs down

BY MARTHA MCKAY  
THE RECORD (BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.)

It's not always true, but sometimes older is faster. Two Morse code men recently bested a fast-fingered teen "texting" a message via cell phone in a digital duel that aired on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno." There is something satisfying about a venerable 170-year-old technology beating out an upstart.

In the showdown, ham radio operator Chip Margelli used Morse code keys to dit and dah the sentence "I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance" to Ken Miller, who received and translated. Like all Morse code experts, Miller didn't read the dots and dashes, he listened to the sound of the code the way you would listen to a foreign language.

Seated next to Margelli, Ben Cook, a Utah teen who recently won a contest "texting" a 160-character sentence in 57 seconds, tapped the same message into a cell phone while a friend sat opposite ready to receive on another phone.

The Morse code duo handily beat the teens. Full disclosure here: Text messaging always seems tedious to me – punching tiny phone keys four times just to get the letter "S" on my cell phone screen.

Teens who have grown up using instant messaging on their PCs are more inclined to use text messaging, and carriers are undoubtedly pleased with the 10 cents they typically collect for a maximum length 160-character message.

Text messaging, which is wildly popular in other parts of the world, is finally gaining a critical mass in the United States. Cingular boasted 4.4 billion text messages delivered over its network in the first three months of 2005, a figure that included plain text as well as ring-tone downloads and other forms of data.

So far, the most popular uses for text messaging seem to border on the frivolous. More than 40 million text messages and downloads were sent by people voting for their favorite "American Idol" during the recent season, Cingular said.

Those figures dwarf the world's estimated 2.5 million amateur radio operators, most proficient in Morse code.

"There's magic to it," said Allen Pitts, spokesman for the National Association for Amateur Radio. "That's something that cell phones are never going to match."

Maybe so. There could come a day when old-timers look back on text messaging with similar fondness. But it's hard to imagine text messaging, which owes much to the shorthand made popular by vanity license plates, rivaling the gravitas of Morse code.



## **Minutes for the June 6<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service, Inc.**

**Meeting Called to Order** at 7:31 PM EDT by President Keith Ainsley

**Self-Introduction** was made with 1 guest and 15 members present

**Health & Welfare** Bob, WA4SQL, is in the hospital, due to failing condition.

**Program:** “June 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> ARRL Field Day” Ricky Lee Chairman of the event began with asking those present to indicate with a show of hands “Who would be Participating?” A list was sent around for those interested to sign-up. Copies of the rules were pasted out to those interested. All phases were discussed with names added to functions. A site visit was scheduled for Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM, to check trees for antennas and the shelter we have reserved.

**Secretary** last months meeting and the June BOD meeting minutes were read and approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Rich read a general report of past receipts and expenditures. A short review of the current budget was made. Rich is to adjust some items in the Springfest columns, however there was no change to the revenues from the function.

**Communication Officer’s Report** – The new 160 meter Carolina Windom will be on hand by 6/7/05, in case needed for Field Day. A motion to purchase satellite antennas was made after the cost was debated; motion failed.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Repeater Committee Chairman-** Relocation of the 61 repeater is pending Bill can’t get response from City. No comment on when to have PL on the 82 machine. Bill wanted to know balance of Rpt funds, maybe to buy a new controller that has active PL and voice system.

**Newsletter Editor-** June issue is on Keith’s Internet site is working fine. Rich still requested copies of past pictures to setup a computer disk of club activities.

**Public Service Coordinator-** No action on emergency plan.

**Springfest Chairman-** Still looking for a new site with more room.

**Sky Warn Coordinator-** Dee-Dee has a link for Skywarn on HR.com now.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. None was brought up due to Field Day being the major interest of the meeting.
2. Ruth brought up a comment on the pending agreement for use of the Corps of Engineers towers & Bldg. next door. The secretary was aware of the status but saw no change to the pending matter.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. It was brought up that the board should look at a programmable thermostat for the A/C because it had been left on accidentally and we may have future rent charges for the utilities.
2. It was announced that the

**Time and Place of the next Meetings:** Dinner meeting July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Golden Coral in the Chesapeake Square Mall area. Show up at 6:30 PM and meeting to start at 7:30 PM. Board of Directors meeting July 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30 PM EDT at the QRM room.

**Adjournment:** at 9:30 PM EDT

## The Spectrum

Monthly newsletter of the Chesapeake  
Amateur Radio Service (CARS)

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**Newsletter Editor:**  
Rich Graham – KI4EUM

**Webmaster:**  
Leo Kusuda – KG4PWC

### **CARS : Repeaters**

146.610 MHz  
146.820 MHz  
444.000 MHz

**W4CAR Trustee:**  
Bill Runyon WF4R

## **CARS OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS**

**President:**  
Keith Ainsely KG4ZXX

**Vice President:**  
Reggie White W5SSB

**Secretary:**  
Sonny Hood K4WYS

**Treasurer:**  
Rich Graham KI4EUM

**Communications Officer**  
Paul Buckwalter, K4PRB

**Past President:**  
Ruth Bigio KB4LIF

**Public Service Coordinator:**  
Leo Kusuda KG4PWC

**Repeater Committee Chairman:**  
Bill Runyon WF4R

**Spring Fest Coordinator:**  
Leo Kusuda KG4PWC

## **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.

