



The Spectrum

Issue 6

June 2004

Words From The President.

Ruth Bigio, KB4LIF

I would like all of you to join me as CARS opens a new chapter in its history. Our new chapter actually begins with an ending: the successful completion of three amateur radio license classes. For the first time in South Hampton Roads, The three clubs, Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service, Portsmouth Amateur Radio Club and the Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club, cooperated to share instructors across the board and venue. Hampton Roads Planning District Commission was kind enough, under the guidance of Gary Schuchardt to allow us to use their conference center to teach all the classes and give the exams. The amateur radio community gained 14 new technicians, 16 generals and 3 extras. PLUS, the clubs gained new members from these classes (CARS included). Those people who did not upgrade plan to continue their studies and take the exams again. This was an unprecedented affair that is hoped can be repeated in the future at the same location (if offered).

Another part of this chapter is the most prosperous SpringFest ever under the very able direction of Leo Kusuda, KG4PWC. All of you worked very hard to accomplish that goal. CARS surpassed expectations because its members rose to the occasion.

An exciting announcement is part of the same chapter: CARS has hamshack2 (or old Fire Station #5) down by Great Bridge Locks. We have not abandoned our original Hamshack at all; in fact, we plan to continue its vital use with the club's repeater and materials plus one of the

repeater antenna's is still on the WFOS' tower. Hamshack2 is located at 116 Reservation Lane at the North end of Wilson Drive. This space is City-leased from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Chesapeake Fire Department Chief Stephen Best was instrumental in obtaining for our organization the second floor of this building. The use of this space will improve the ability of CARS to assist the City's emergency communications operations and support the citizens of Chesapeake. We have 900 square feet to utilize for the installation of our radio equipment, desks, charis, tables, bookcases, etc. Hamshack2 will be used as a gathering place for training hams and meetings. Just as we now se the current Hamshack for our Hamshack days for Kids' Days, Special Events like Skywarn Recognition Days and Minitor-Merrimac Days, as starting point for Fox-hunting, CARS board meetings, etc., the club will definitely use these premises for even more activities as we grow.

This wonderful location overlooks the locks, has plenty of parking and will have a security access only for members who have been cleared to work the radio equipment by the Communication Officer. The inside is a clear slate that needs some minor detailing to complete its functionality. Work parties are needed to install radios, antennas, coax, etc. We also need donations of furniture such as desks, chairs, and bookcases (expecially chairs for meetings). Hamshack Day is June 5th this month. We will be joining forces with the fire department auxillary and the other tenants to point the outside. Please come and join us for this painting party: BBQ Grills will be fired up for hot dogs and cold drinks are for lunch. After the outside is fixed up, we can then concentrate on the inside rooms upstairs.

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Don't Forget!!!

Hamshack Day is June 5th, 2004
Come help us prepare Hamshack #2
For use.

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Upcoming Events

CARS Meeting

June 7th 7:00 PM General club meeting at our new Hamshack 2. 116 Reservation Lane, North end of Wilson Drive next to the Great Bridge Locks Bridge.

CARS Shack Day

June 5th at HamShack 2! Time to be announced. Be prepped to help with painting and other tasks to spruce up the building.

June 6th Manassas Hamfest. Manassas, VA

June 12th Bronco Fest in Franklin, VA

June 19th Field Day Planning.

June 26-27th FIELD DAY!!! Great Bridge Lock Park. This is going to be a FUN weekend with great food and time spent with your fellow club members! Hope to see you all there!!!

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And now for the final part of this chapter, but not the end of our book on CARS – FIELD DAY! The last Saturday and Sunday of June are always loads of fun for everyone – young and old. This year CARS will be at Great Bridge Locks Park. With everyone joining in to run a station for an hour or two, or maybe help put up an antenna or two, or even bring a side-dish or drink or two – Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service will put the finishing touches on this chapter very nicely while having the most fun the members have ever had!

73's
Ruth



Dayton 2004

By Sonny Hood K4WYS

Well the great annual event has come and gone! Normally the trip is referred to as the annual trip to Mecca, but due to the current world events and the sensitive feelings that abound in the conflict in Iraq, a more politically correct phase is in order. The guys in the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service again visited the "Greatest Gathering of Hams in the World", we came, we saw, and we got wet as usual at the biggest hamfest in the world.

We arrived early Thursday morning to setup our display of items to sell to the multitude of other hams that were there to get an early bargain. It was a slow start this year, we could tell by the line at the entrance gate was not backed up for blocks as we have experienced in the past. We found our spot, under the light pole and spread out the stuff. The vultures, I mean the bargain hunters were slow to troll the bait, but they soon came by. Old friends and faces came by and repeated the usual comments "That's too much, I saw a guy over in the other part of the flea market with one for less". That was the clue for the group to spread out and check out the other twenty-five hundred flea market spaces for the great values.

As the day pasted the once empty parking lot turned into

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IRLP Operating in Portsmouth

For several years now the Peninsula has been one up on the Southside by having access to the IRLP, or Internet Radio Linking Project. Keith, KG4ZXX, has started an IRLP node in Portsmouth on 145.600 MHz simplex.

The IRLP is an inexpensive way to link VHF/UHF repeaters together without the expense of lease lines, UHF links, etc. The system has been up for over a week now and is running great.

For more information on this check out the web at <http://www.irlp.net> or contact Keith, KG4ZXX at kg4zxx@arrl.net.

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a field of dreams. Tents, flags, antennas, towers and a pair of size 75 shorts were raised and venders covered the horizon. This is truly the day of bargains.

Friday starts with the first sight of the area being filled to the brim with venders, the population has tripled since we left for dinner Thursday evening. At eight o'clock the gates are opened for the general public. Now that is a misnomer, there is nothing general about a bunch of Hams, hell bend on finding the stuff that they think that you have hidden in the bottom of the cardboard box that you pushed under the table in your space. The knowledgeable look down at an item that they recognize and say, "I haven't seen one of those for years" or "I got one of those, how much do you want for it?" Some even pick up something and say, "What does this do?" Some just smile and move on to the next guy's stuff and continue to look for that great deal.

Saturday never starts because the cold front from the Midwest slams into the moist jet stream from the south and the rain sets in all day. You have heard of the hams that are so cheap that they can't buy soap, but will save pennies to buy old used Motorola stuff to convert to the ham bands, those guys were here. Ten thousand Hams wet from the rain cram into the

Harra Arena and display halls. The aisles between the inside venders are filled with Hams three and four deep. The humidity is thick and the temperature is up there and you can't move faster than a crawl. But the deals are to be made, buy a new radio and get it for less than twenty-five percent off of the Internet prices. Push your way into the crowd and touch that new radio that sells for \$10,500.00 in US Dollars. But wait, there is another dream radio by the competition and it is bigger, it has more bells and whistles and the price (when it is built) will be only \$11,500.00 in US Dollars. The sales representative says "look for it sometime in December, this year or next year!"

Oh yes the rain stops, thirty minutes before the closing time, but by then the flea market has been reduced to a few tents and piles of wet surplus Motorola stuff.

Sunday begins with a thick fog and thus begins the long drive home. The events and observations are discussed during the trip. Was it as big as last year? Were there as many bargains as last year? Will there be another Hamfest net year? Will it rain again net year?

I guess it was as big as last year; I got tired and missed a lot of stuff that the other guys saw. Yes there were bargains; I just missed out on them! Yes, they announced over the PA system to plan on next year for May 20, 21 & 22 to be the dates for 2005. Oh yes it wouldn't be the Dayton Hamvention® if it didn't rain, blow or snow!

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 19:30 hours	146.850 Mhz
Portsmouth Amateur Radio Emergency Services Net Fridays 1930 hours	146.850 MHz

USA ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS COMING TO CALIFORNIA IN MID-JUNE

Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) enthusiasts across the US are gearing up for the fourth annual national ARDF Championships next month.

ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, says, the sport--also known as radio-orienteeing or foxtailling--is an all-on-foot "adventure in the woods" to see who can track down and find the most hidden transmitters in the shortest time. The Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club (SBARC) <<http://www.sbarc.org>> will host the competition.

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ARRL NEWS BULLETINS

WHITE HOUSE GIVES ARRL DELEGATION ASSURANCES ON BPL INTERFERENCE

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, headed an ARRL delegation during a May 20 White House visit to discuss concerns about broadband over power line (BPL). Haynie, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, met with Richard Russell, the White House associate director for technology in the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The ARRL officials asked the Bush administration to heed its own experts at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and back away from its support of BPL in favor of less troublesome technologies. The NTIA's Phase 1 BPL study acknowledged BPL as an interference source. Haynie said the meeting was both revealing and encouraging.

"He assured us that based on the NTIA report, the interference issues would be addressed," Haynie said. "That was one of our main purposes for being there." Haynie said, however, that he remains "absolutely" convinced that a political agenda is driving the BPL proceeding. Russell told the ARRL contingent that the administration is "very excited" about BPL and is committed to finding ways to make it work.

Imlay said the League's problems were not with broadband access but with the "rush-to-judgment" approach the FCC seems to be taking in the BPL proceeding. As one example, he cited the timing between the release of the extensive NTIA study and the comment deadline on the BPL proceeding just a few days later. The Commission denied requests from the ARRL and others to extend the comment deadline. While somewhat sympathetic, Russell suggested that his office was in less of a position to influence the FCC than it was the NTIA.

Rinaldo also told Russell that

representatives of the BPL industry have been double-talking their way around interference claims. Imlay pointed out that the FCC has yet to address dozens of BPL-related interference complaints from amateurs.

The administration does not want a flawed technology to result from the BPL proceeding, Russell said at the session's conclusion, and he offered assurances to the League visitors that the NTIA would work to address the interference.

"We did get listened to," Haynie said afterward. "Did I leave there feeling euphoric? No, I didn't, but at least I have a better feeling now of the overall big picture, of where BPL's coming from, and I hope that I can take to the bank the fact that they're going to address and continue to address aggressively the interference issues."

EXPERIENCED HAMS MUST NURTURE NEWCOMERS, HAYNIE TELLS FORUM

It's up to today's Amateur Radio veterans to cultivate the younger generation, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, told the ARRL Forum at Dayton Hamvention 2004 May 15. Calling the statistic "shocking," Haynie cited ARRL survey data showing that more than one-fifth of new amateur licensees never get on the air. He suggested that too few experienced amateurs take new licensees under their wing to help them get started.

"Amateur Radio is what you make of it once you get your license," Haynie continued. Getting a ham ticket doesn't make anyone more intelligent, and learning the ropes usually begins after someone already has a license in hand.

"You learn by doing," he said.

- End of ARRL News

SKYWARN

AMATEURS AID AS TORNADOS DEVASTATE NEBRASKA COMMUNITIES

From storm spotting through recovery support, Amateur Radio operators were on duty this week, aiding tornado-stricken communities in Nebraska and elsewhere in the Midwest. A May 22 tornado virtually destroyed most structures and was blamed for one death in Hallam, a town of approximately 300 some 20 miles south of Lincoln. ARRL Nebraska Section Emergency Coordinator Reynolds Davis, K0GND, said Lancaster County ARES/SKYWARN spotters activated the evening of May 22 in response to a report of an approaching front. Within a half-hour, W0NWS at the National Weather Service office in Valley already was receiving tornado damage reports via the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club K0KKV repeater.

"When the system moved into Lancaster County shortly after 8:30 PM, it destroyed almost every structure in the town of Hallam," Davis said, leaving the residents homeless. The NWS rated the tornado that struck Hallam as an F-4 on the five-point Fujita Scale--207 to 260 MPH.

The storm also severely damaged the high school in Norris and plucked the tower supporting the K0RPT repeater's south receiver from the ground. The tower remains missing. The tornado went on to destroy additional homes to the northeast, and its path of destruction finally ended south of Bennet, he said.

More than 50 amateurs participated in the SKYWARN net, said Davis, who also serves as Lancaster County Emergency Coordinator. The National Weather Service Omaha office logged dozens of weather and storm-damage reports from radio amateurs in several Nebraska counties on May 22.

Once the SKYWARN Nets closed, the K0RPT VHF repeater was put into service to support Red Cross communications among the tornado scene, the chapter house and a shelter set up in a Lincoln high school for residents displaced by the storm. Two ARES nets activated May 23 to coordinate damage survey and

assessment, and reports logged via K0EOC at the Lancaster County Emergency Operations Center.

Davis said that by the time both damage survey nets shut down, 41 operators had driven nearly 2200 miles and surveyed 100 square miles. Gov Mike Johanns declared a state of emergency after more than a dozen tornados swept several southern Nebraska counties.

In Missouri, Grundy County EC Glen Briggs, KB0RPJ, reports that Amateur Radio groups in the northern part of the state relayed severe weather reports to the National Weather Service and to local emergency management and law enforcement officials May 22. Hardest hit areas were near Chillicothe and Brookfield. After one repeater was knocked off the air, amateurs switched to backup repeaters and simplex. Some 18 operators in nine Missouri counties participated, he said.

Receiving Hazardous Weather Information

Spotters, both point and mobile, should have access to reliable hazardous weather information. Many spotters have access to amateur radio networks. These networks will likely have one or more radio operators stationed at NWS offices for providing radar and other meteorological information to the net. Spotter networks not affiliated with amateur radio groups should consider having one or more members monitor NOAA Weather Radio and other outlets for weather information. These networks may wish to select a liaison person who could work with nearby amateur radio groups or the local NWS office.

Another means of receiving hazardous weather information is the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN). EMWIN is a low-cost, low-speed data stream of NWS products (warnings, observations, etc.) provided as a service to local emergency managers. The signal may be received directly from the GOES weather satellites, processed for local use, and/or rebroadcast to the surrounding area on VHF radio. Numerous EMWIN systems are coming on line across the country, which should allow both point and mobile spotters access to critical NWS information. This in turn should allow for more efficient operation of spotter networks in the area.

SpringFest 2004 Report

SpringFest has been a long-standing tradition for the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service. It has been held in many places including the Virginia Beach Pavilion! This was the 3rd year that it was held in the Hickory Ruritan Club. This site has worked well and has been arranged for by one of our members, John Maheu, KB1BBS for essentially free. John was also the originator of the CARS website.

The event could not have happen without the large support of the club, and this year, the support was tremendous. Finding a site is half of the work, and with the help of John, that was one major hurdle out of the way. Early in the fall of 2003, Ruth, KB4LIF, secured the permit from the City of Chesapeake and I began sending out notifications of the event to about 100 vendors. Picking a weekend has been somewhat of a gamble each year with the Tour de Cure and the Raleigh Hamfest conflicting with our event in years past. Bill, WF4R, again put in hours of work, printing up tickets and flyers. He also designed the flyer and arranged the table assignments.

The real work began in March with advance ticket sales. Since many of the club members had participated in years past, the pre-event planning meeting 3 days before the event was brief and productive. Due to scheduling conflicts with a City of Chesapeake Mayoral Forum, setup could not begin till 10:30 p.m. With 15 people helping, setup unloading 2 vendors trucks took about 45 minutes. Work resumed the next day at 0615 with John Maheu opening up the facility. Brock, KC8LWV setup the flow control markers and directed parking. Phil, WB3IEC setup his station to greet incoming traffic and Bill set about giving out table assignments. John Smith, W4HDW handled talk-in queries the day before and early in the morning until 0800 at which point Keith, KG4ZXX took over. Keith was able to work crossband repeat through his car's mobile unit, allowing him to cruise the vendors while giving out directions. Steve, KI4EIN was secured 15 boxes of Krispy Kreme donuts. All the food was donated this year. We had hamburgers, hot dogs, chili and hot Italian sausages with onions and green peppers. Herb, KG4TAW again contributed his famous hot dogs and chili. All the food was prepared by Steve, Karon KI4FNR (formerly KI4EIW) and John. The food tasted great in large measure to the fun and love emanating from the kitchen. Margaret, KI4EIR and family helped with food serving and money collection.

Stewart, KG4KJW was outstanding as Master of Ceremonies and provided lively commentary for the entire event from 0900-1400. Many prizes were given out and many people left happy. I succumbed to peer pressure and bought one of those flashing LED name badges, which can

make any one into a walking marquee. Finally cleanup took about an hour.

The final tally for profits was in the neighborhood of \$2000! This far exceeded our target income of \$1000 and double last years profit. Having 40 tables, electricity, a public address system and a kitchen with large grill and worktable for essentially nothing was a tremendous asset. This combined with food donations and leftover prizes from last year all made the cost of the event extremely low.

Again I am very grateful to the members and non-members that helped. I've listed all that I can remember that helped and I apologize to anyone I inadvertently left off the list.

73
Leo
KG4PWC

Ed: List of volunteers at end of newsletter.



Radio-orientees from all over the country plus visitors from abroad are expected to attend. Moell anticipates a mix of experts and newcomers who aspire to be future champions. He says equipment need not be elaborate or expensive.

"Most beginners do very well by augmenting their handheld VHF transceivers with simple Yagi antennas made out of a steel measuring tape and PVC pipe from the hardware store," he said. For "closing in," he says an offset RF attenuator consisting of some \$15 worth of small parts will knock down the signal and keep the receiver's S-meter within its scale.

"Plans are on the Web

<<http://members.aol.com/joek0ov/offatten.html>>, and kits are available, so warm up your soldering iron," he adds.

The ARDF competitive courses are open to anyone of any age and at any foxhunting skill level. No Amateur Radio license is needed. Medals in the event will be awarded in five age categories for males and four for females, in accordance with International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) rules <<http://members.aol.com/homingin/intlfox.html#rules>>.

Heading up the USA ARDF Championships is Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS, a medalist at the last two USA ARDF Championships.

An optional training camp with map-and-compass orienteering kicks off the ARDF action June 12-13. The main program gets under way Wednesday, June 16. The 2-meter competition takes place Friday, June 18. The 80-meter competition is the next day.

The California events end just in time for final selection of ARDF Team USA 2004 members, who will travel to the Czech Republic for the 12th ARDF World Championships September 7-12. More than 200 participants representing two dozen or more countries are expected to turn out for the event. Moell says Team USA's positions will be filled based on performances in this year's national championships in California and in last year's national championships in Ohio.

There's more information on the 2004 USA ARDF Championships on the SBARC Web site <<http://www.sbarc.org/ardf/index.shtml>>. A downloadable registration form and additional information are on Moell's "Homing In" Web site <<http://www.homingin.com>>. --Joe Moell K0OV

Participants in 2004 SpringFest

Please thank these folks for making Spring Fest a success!

Alan KG4ZIM– parking

Barry W3AFH– setup and food purchase

Bill Runyon WF4R– tables, menu, tickets, flyers

Bob WA4SQL – admissions

Brock KC8LWV– parking, cleanup

Carl W4CAC- cleanup

Dee Dee KI4DNN/ Ron – cleanup

Harriet Siff– material for grab bags

Herb KG4TAW – hot dogs

James Gwaltney KA4EDI– setup

Jim Wessling KF5LI – setup

John Maheu KB1BBS– kitchen, cleanup

John Smith W4HDW– talk in

Karon KI4FNR – setup, kitchen, cleanup

Keith KG4ZXK – setup, talk-in, cleanup

Lee KI4CAV– admissions

Leo KG4PWC– chairman

Margaret KI4EIR – advertising, chips, kitchen

Paul K4PRB– setup and cleanup

Paula Kusuda – grab bags

Pete KG4VGH– setup

Phil WB3IEC – Parking and setup

Rich KI4EUM – setup and cleanup

Rich WA4BUE – WFOS announcement, setup, MC

Ricky KC4RIC – setup and cleanup

Rose KD4ILS – admissions

Ruth KB4LIF – City waiver, prizes, admissions, advertising

Sonny K4WYS– cones, CARS table, FrostFest

Steve KI4EIN – setup, kitchen, cleanup, Krispy Kreme don

Stewart KG4KJW – Master of Ceremony

Don't forget to support your club!!!

**June 5th is HamShack 2 Day!!! We need folks to help with preparing the new space for our use
&
FIELD DAY JUNE 26th-27th! COME OUT FOR A FUN TIME GREAT BRIDGE LOCK PARK!**

IRLP Continued from page 2

The IRLP was started back in 1997 by a group of Canadian hams who wanted to find an inexpensive way to link uhf/vhf repeaters in Canada. What they started has taken off world wide. If you check out the IRLP's website you will be able to pull up a map and printout of where the connected systems are located at.

The key to using IRLP is to remember to pause after transmissions. That gives the systems time to connect and also allows for folks to disconnect who wish to leave the system. You access the system by entering the ID or node number of the station you want to connect. To end the conversation you enter 73 on your DTMF pad and the link is disconnected. You must have a radio to use this system. No computer access to the airwaves is allowed on IRLP.

You are able to connect to a repeater directly for a one on one type of communication or connect to a reflector which is a computer that allows multiple systems to connect and rebroadcast transmissions from one repeater to all the other systems that are connected. The record for number of repeaters that have been connected to a reflector at one time is 42.

Each Saturday evening at 8:00 pm there is an IRLP Skywarn Net that has Skywarn spotters nationwide checking in. Keith, KG4ZXX, will try to have his system connected into that each Saturday night.

Right now the system has a 10 to 13 mile radius. It's operating on a Yaesu FT3000M for the radio link into the computer and is connected to a Ringo Ranger that is up about 38 to 40 feet. Keith has plans to increase the range later this year.

Hams not in Portsmouth probably need to be at a base station with a good antenna system to get into the system since its operating simplex. Traveling? The node # is 4865.

If you would like to learn more about the IRLP please contact Keith at kg4zxx@arrl.net or <http://www.qsl.net/kg4zxx>.

The Spectrum

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146.820 MHz
444.000 MHz

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