



The Spectrum

Issue 0506

May 2006

From The President

April sure has been a busy month. The 2006 Spring Fest went off without many problems. The vendors loved the new location at the Portsmouth Moose Lodge on George Washington Highway. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this years event run smoothly. Also I wish to thank everyone for their professionalism. The Moose Lodge officials were highly impressed with our organizational skills. We have been welcomed back for 2007.

The 2006 Tour de Cure is coming up as this month's column is being put together. Then we get a little break until June which is Field Day.

Our membership ranks are growing again! We are now over 60+ members in the club. For all you experienced hams out there I hope you will share your wisdom and knowledge with the new technicians we are in our ranks.

October is going to be here before we know it. For the new members, October is when we elect board of director members for the next year. If you are interested in helping set the course that the club will follow for the upcoming year then now is the time to start learning more about the inner workings of the club. If anyone has any questions about the board and what's involved please let me know.

73's
Keith
KG4ZXX

Just a note

With a new hurricane season upon us let's remind everyone again that they should give some thought to their landline communications.



We're all tempted to buy/use the ubiquitous cordless style telephones. Most of these require an AC power connection to operate. In other words, when the power's off; so is your 'phone.

You need to make sure there is at least one telephone that works without external power- in other words, a line powered 'phone. Two would be even better. In some cases that old, out of date dial 'phone collecting roaches somewhere in a box could be a lifesaver if you had it ready to use.



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Links of Interest

[Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Portsmouth Amateur Radio Club](#)

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

[AA9PW Morse Code Practice](#)

Upcoming Events

CARS Monthly Meeting

May 1, 2006, 7 pm
116 Reservation Road
[Map of 116 Reservation Rd Chesapeake, VA](#)

VBARC

May 4th 7pm
St Andrews Methodist Church
Princess Anne Rd & Tucson Ave
[Map of 717 Tucson Rd Virginia Beach, VA](#)

ARES/Public Service meeting

Wednesday May 17 at QRM Room
Message Traffic / Delivering radios to shelters
3-5 Elem 2 meter Beam

INTRODUCING

THE VA BEACH ARC

HOTLINE!

757-395-4489

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE
VA BEACH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



LOCAL NETS



SKYWARN NET Fridays 1900 hours.	146.820 MHz
CARS 2M Net Sundays 2030 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
RASON Sunday thru Friday 1930 hours	145.330 or 442.95 MHz Repeaters linked PL: 131.8 for both

2006 Tour de Cure

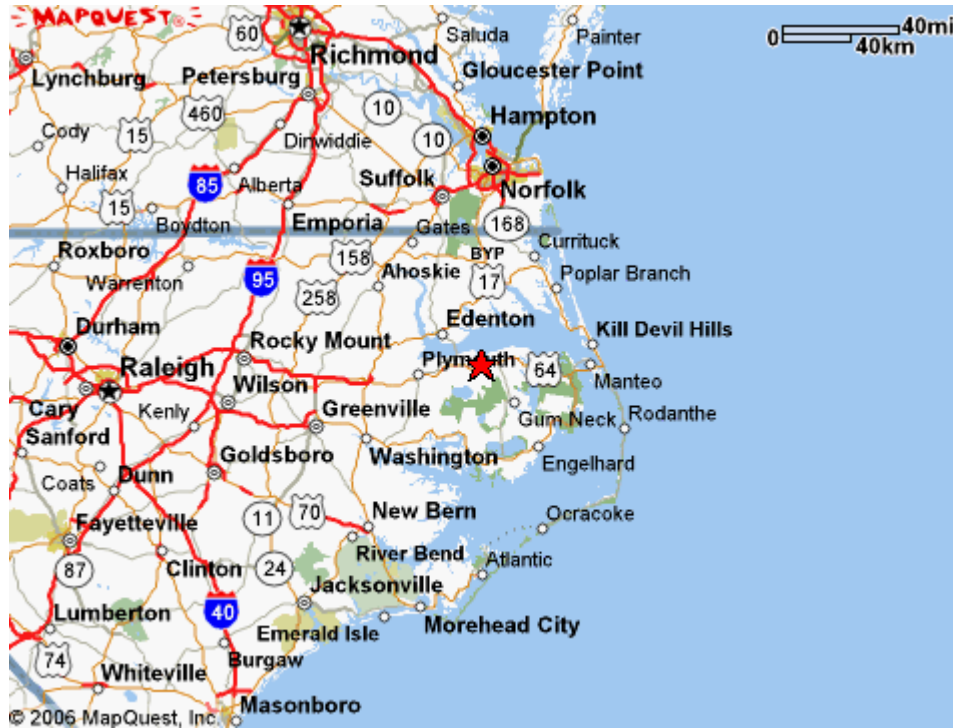
The Tour de Cure began in 1991 and is held in about 80 cities nationwide. The event brings together cyclists who have formed teams to raise money to support the American Diabetes Mission: *"to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes."* The ride is not a race, and the goal of participants is to raise money, awareness and finish. No time is measured or recorded but that does not prevent people from challenging themselves or being competitive. Throw into the mix the rather unpredictable nature of April weather and the rather unforgiving nature of rural Chesapeake and North Carolina roads and you can understand why our local tour organizers get such heartburn. But the money raised has been well over \$130,000 and some 700 participants participate in the 5 routes that are set.

Last year the weather resulted in the closing of the bridge to the outer banks and cancellation of the rides in the outer banks area and the 100-mile ride. At the start of the week, the weather outlook appeared to be a repeat of last year. As the event drew closer, severe weather reports in the Midwest only added to the worries. The event has no rain date and would precede rain or shine with only severe lightning delaying the start.

New construction and traffic problems have resulted in alterations of the route every year. This year was no different. We would cover the 1st three rest stops in the 100-mile ride and the 30 and 65-mile loops. The 65-mile loop had 5 rest stops but examination of the route showed that the most treacherous area was just north of rest stop #2/#4 (same location used twice). Rest stops are in communication with the event organizers by cell phone. The section of road between rest stops #2 and #3 was heavily traveled and being the most remote would be the most likely place for riders to experience problems. All of this turned out to be true. Therefore it was planned to concentrate most of the Amateur radio resources at rest stop #2 and roving duties in that area and no Amateur Radio operators were initially placed at rest stop #5. With gasoline prices at \$3 and many area gas stations closed for conversion to the Ethanol blend, it was hoped that enough mobile operators would be available to share roving duties.

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At previous Tour de Cures, I had setup 2 VHF/UHF and 1 HF radios. However, the HF rig had never been useful. The Virginia Beach ARES supports the North Carolina section of the 100-mile ride and the 25 and 50 mile-loops in Manteo. Repeaters to be used were the 146.820, the 146.970 and the Columbia, NC repeater at 146.835. The Columbia repeater is at 1200 ft on the UNC TV tower and has a very broad coverage. But the close proximity in frequency of the 146.820 and 146.835 repeaters can result in interference.



Columbia Repeater (146.835 PL 131.8) location

The plan this year was to use 2 radios, Yaesu 897D and a Kenwood V7a. The antennas available included an 8 ft collinear vertical dual band antenna, a 3-element beam, 2 mobile dual band VHF/UHF antennas and a High Sierra 1500 HF mobile screwdriver antenna. A 40-meter RadioWorks Carolina Windom was available.

With the weather forecast predicting possible high winds, the decision was made to place the antennas on the roof at lower level. The 3-element beam was positioned south of the vertical, facing SSE and connected to the Yaesu to access the Columbia repeater. This arrangement did eliminate cross talk into the vertical and into the 146.820 repeater. The dual band vertical was up about 45 ft and connected to the Kenwood V7a, which could monitor 2 different frequencies at once.

As it turned out, the Columbia repeater was not needed to contact Al WA4TCJ the NCS for the Outer Banks. However, several mobile operators either due to location or minimal equipment had difficulty hitting the 146.820 repeater but could be contacted easily simplex. By setting the two channels on the Kenwood to 146.820 and 146.220 (146.820 reverse) and receiving both simultaneously, I could hear everyone. You may wonder why some operators did not set their radios to operate 146.820 simplex? Operating simplex 146.820 would allow everyone to hear each other. I have learned to bring out my radio manuals so that I could more easily reprogram my transceiver. Some of the operators will probably do this in the future.

This year we had an outstanding turn out for help including several new Hams. Rich WA4BUE and Phil WB3IEC helped at Net Control. Rich N5RAG, Bill WF4R and Stewart KG4KJW (did double duty for Virginia Beach and us) were at Rest Stop #3 in Moyock, NC. Roving and tail end duties were performed by Gavin KD7GJB, Matt KI4ODF, Dennis KI4ORF, Paul K4PRB, Dennis K4DKR, Ray K4CRH and Mary Lou K4MLH. Sonny K4WYS and Ricky Lee KC4RIC manned rest stop #1. Rest stop #2/#4 had Barry K5VIP (who loaned the 3-elem beam), John KI4MYZ and Ruth KB4LIF. Paul KI4IRL, Dave KI4NSE, Barry and John helped with setup and take down of the antennas on the roof. All told 20 Hams were out in force. Although not out in the field, George KV4GR lived along the route and reported in during the event.

It was a worthwhile day. Dennis was first on the scene when a rider went into a ditch suffering a concussion. Barry was able to bring the bicycles back to Hickory while the rider and friend went to the hospital courtesy of the Chesapeake City EMS. Bill picked up 2 100-mile riders who left so late from Rest Stop #2 that they would have encountered no open rest stops in the remaining 80 miles. John insured that one very late 30-mile straggler made it safely across the Battlefield intersection and told the police that there were no more riders. Finally we were able to keep the event coordinator updated of the status of the riders and pass on the numbers of those 100-mile riders dropping out to the people in Manteo.

The radio support worked out very well. With approaching severe weather, and the last riders being north of us, we could take down the antennas on the roof while operating through the mobile antenna in a protected area by the entrance of the school. The severe weather arrived about an hour after the last rider was in.

Diabetes is a significant and growing health problem in the United States. It is very gratifying to assist in the mission of the American Diabetes Association. I want to say "many thanks" to the Amateur Radio operators who came out.

73
Leo
KG4PWC

SpringFest 2006

The origin of the saying “third times the charm” is obscure, but it is believed to originate in America. Regardless, SpringFest 2006 was my third as chairman and was held in the third different venue. There was no vendor or volunteer discord. There was no thunderstorm threatening to make load in a soggy mess. The facility was not being used prior to load-in delaying setup till after 10 pm. In fact, I didn’t have to resort to an antacid this year! The weather was perfect with the sun shining brightly on a warm early spring weekend. Load-in occurred at a more reasonable mid afternoon time and all participants were cordial including the Moose Lodge personnel. More importantly, we will be able to stay at the same site next year and the site has some considerable advantages over our previous sites.

SpringFest has been the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Clubs main fundraising event. It is only one of two local hamfests and therefore is a major service to local Hams. For newcomers, it is a chance to look at used equipment both for bargains and to gain a historical perspective. For old timers, it is a time to get together and reminisce. This being the 3rd time, I firmly believe that if everyone has a good time, that the event runs smoothly and we make a little money, then SpringFest was a success.

Not that the event didn’t have problems. First, due to job related commitments I was not able to concentrate much on anything amateur radio related from September 2005 through the middle of January 2006. Fortunately, Paul K4PRB was able to secure the Moose Lodge on George Washington Hwy. However, we did not have a final agreement until January and the day that was available was 3 weeks earlier than in the past. These two events shortened the timeline by more than 2 months. So I was faced with organizing an event in an unknown site with 2 months less planning time. I have to admit, I was more worried about this year’s SpringFest than in the past!

Some might say I was crazy, but in addition to organizing SpringFest, in the month of March I also was involved with the General Class Licensing class, the Monitor Merrimac Special Event station and starting a new Net. Unfortunately, several key members including myself also got quite ill in March. I am a firm believer that life is all about overcoming adversity, but you don’t always get sympathy if you bring it upon yourself.



Under the stewardship of our club President Keith KG4ZXX and the members of the board of directors, the club has grown and has a lot of energetic wonderful members. So, when I asked for help, I got it! Considering, registration of the event with the ARRL, advertising and ticket production were all significantly delayed, we were fortunate to get several repeat vendors with Cedar City Sales anchoring. One major headache, food, was being taken care of by the Moose Lodge. Although the sale of food usually accounted for about \$300 in revenue, it was a significant amount of work and in retrospect; we did not have enough help to cover this. The day of load-in was my first look at the inside of the Moose Lodge. There were lots of tables, both 6 and 8 ft. We were told; we had to make sure they went back in the same place at the

end. Sounds trivial, but we are talking about 100 tables with a rather complex layout! Next we were told; that the sound system, which was connected to the lodges bingo display, was too valuable for them to allow us to use it! I had already been informed about the Lodge’s preferred traffic pattern and restricted parking areas. But it all flowed rather smoothly. Two bullhorns helped with announcing the prizes.

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Reviewing with club members the satellite imagery of the site using Google Maps and digital pictures of the grounds helped with traffic flow and parking. Digital pictures of the inside helped with relocating the tables.

Matt KI4ODF, Dave KI4NSE, Bob KI4MNC, John KI4MYZ, Phil WB3IEC and Reggie W5SSB did a great job with traffic flow, collecting tickets and parking. Ruth KB4LIF, in spite of being ill with the assistance of Don KB4NKP, Rich N5RAG and Gavin KD7GJB manned the entrance ticket booth and 50:50 ticket sales. Bill WF4R did the usual stellar job of printing out tickets and flyers and room layout/vendor location. Keith KG4ZXX and John W4HDW handled talk-in. Stewart again showed great fortitude and showmanship as the Master of Ceremonies for the prize drawings. Ruth and Rich WA4BUE handled a lot of the publicity. Most of all we had many members come out to help with load-in and clean up!

For a Sunday and limited advertising, business was steady and the vendors seemed satisfied. I again spent more than I should have. There were some wonderful radios in the tailgate area. Maybe I'll get another rig next year? For \$5, I don't think you could find a better deal for a Hamfest!

We tried something new this year. We held an exam session with 13 people taking tests with most walking away with an upgrade, new license or a Certificate of Successful Completion of Element (CSCE). The exam area was noisier than desired but 3 out of 4 people passed their code!

Estimated revenue was lower than the target amount but within ranges of previous years SpringFests. When you have fun with great people and make a little money on the side, it was a success!

73
Leo
KG4PWC



CARS CLUB MEETING MINUTES 4/3/06
(Not yet approved by membership)

Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm.

Attendees: 21

Paul K4PRB read the previous club meeting minutes. Paul KI4IRL moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded and approved.

Rich, N5RAG, read the Treasurer's report. Dennis K4DKR moved to approve it as read. Seconded and approved.

Leo, KG4PWC took suggestions for next year's Springfest, and explained our activities in the upcoming Tour De Cure. Leo announced there will be an organizational meeting for Tour De Cure during the Wednesday, April 19 ARES meeting.

Paul, KI4IRL moved to reschedule the next dinner meeting, to be held at the Silver Dinner, to Monday, July 10. Seconded and approved.

There was a brief discussion with Dennis Walker concerning some of the "wish list" items we might present to the City. Other than some hardline for the upcoming repeater installations, the discussion was tabled.

Bill, WF4R, moved to approve the membership applications of:

Matt Johnson	KI4ODF	David Householder	KI4NSE
Robert Lien	KF4URV	Barry Priddy	K5VIP

Seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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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 KG4ZXX

Vice President: Bill Runyon WF4R

Secretary: Paul Buckwalter K4PRB

Treasurer: Rich Graham N5RAG

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