



The Spectrum

Issue 05

May 2007

Words from the President

April sure has been a busy month for CARS.

We had the 1st Annual Swamp Stomp, SpringFest 2007 and the Tour de Cure! I wish to thank everyone who in some way participated and helped us pull off these events without much trouble. You are appreciated!

I am happy to report that we had an excellent SpringFest this year despite the weather we worked through. The club made enough money to help fund another year of projects and was not far off what we have done the past several years.

Now we are coming up on May and next thing you know we will have Field Day. Time flies when you are having fun they say.

It is great to see the enthusiasm in the club; the new members who are starting to get involved with the club and enjoy what they are doing. I would like to encourage every member of the club to ham it up with us! We need your energy and input in what you want to see the club do as we move forward through the rest of 2007!

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Cedar City Sales SpringFest 07



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](#)

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

[Daytona Hamvention](#)

[QRZ Ham Radio](#)

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Upcoming Events

CARS Public Service Meeting

Monday, May 7th, at 7:00 PM,
116 Reservation Rd.
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Shack Day

Saturday, May 12 at 9:00 AM

Saturday, June 9th, at 9:00AM

ARES and SKYWARN Training

3rd Wed Every Month

Dayton Hamvention

May 18th, 19th, 20th

<http://www.hamvention.org/>

Field Day

Saturday, June 23

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It has been a privilege to watch this club grow in the past three years! From the new club location, new repeater equipment and location, the list keeps going on and on.

I would like to speak to all of our newly licensed hams, and those who recently upgraded. We have great equipment and antennas at the QRM room for you to use to communicate around the world. Please come out and take advantage of the times we open the shack for you to get on the air and learn more about radio.

As I watch the final year of my presidency wind down I see lots of work that still needs to be done. We need volunteers to step forward and help. Please, if you like what you see with the club and want to see things continue to grow, we need people to help. Won't you consider volunteering some of your time and effort for the club?

Without your continued support, the club can't continue to grow. To those that give of their time and experience, thanks!

73

Keith, KG4ZXX

LOCAL NETS

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 |



SpringFest Crew



Great Food at the Moose Lodge



Dennis K4DKR



SpringFest 2007

Every year, SpringFest has been a challenge with irate club members, irate vendors, and changing locations but the weather has been good on the day of the event. Well, I am still waiting to run the perfect Hamfest. But perfection like beauty may be in the eye of the beholder. From many accounts, this SpringFest other than the 2 inches of rain and predictions of worst storm of the decade went off very well. On top of that I was running radio support for the inaugural Swamp Stomp Half-marathon the day of the vendor move-in and event setup. But what would life be without challenges? We actually caught a break in the weather for the load-in and load-out of the vendors! Our principle vendors, who anchor the event, Cedar City, G&G Electronics and Hilton Sport and Hobby were happy with sales during what should have been an off day and rough estimates are that we came close to our target proceeds almost equaling proceeds from last year!

You cannot run an event such as this without a lot of help. Last year we had a successful event and I feel blessed that the Moose Lodge was willing to have us back. At least I didn't have to figure out logistics in a new place for the 4th time! Paul K4PRB was our liaison. Ruth KB4LIF got the city permit and helped with advertising in the local papers. Rich WA4BUE helped with the WFOS programming. Although a site was secured, the date was a moving target. With larger hamfests such as the Raleigh and Timonium moving to the beginning of April and Easter falling on the second weekend and the Tour de Cure the 4th weekend that left the 3rd weekend open. But the City of Chesapeake decided to hold their inaugural Swamp Stomp Half-marathon the 3rd Saturday. At least we were planning on having the event Sunday (the Moose Lodge schedule dictated this). I was able to register the event with ARRL in September 2006. Bill WF4R did his usual superb job in designing a flyer and printing up tickets. So by February, all the major components were in place.

Most of the club contributed either at the event or selling tickets. Thanks go to Bob AC5ST, Dennis KI4ORF, Paul K4PRB, Dennis K4DKR, Terry KI4RXC, Barry K5VIP, Leo KC4LEO, Jim WB4UVJ and Keith KG4ZXX for helping with setup. Stewart K4STW did his usual stellar job as Announcer. The PA equipment provided by Rich N5RAG worked much better than the two bullhorns we had last year. Joe KI4RKB did an outstanding job selling raffle tickets

with \$190 sold. Ruth KB4LIF and Don W4PRN worked the door. Special thanks go to Bob N4RAZ, Terry KI4RXC, Barry K5VIP, Dennis KI4ORF and Dave KI4NSE for doing parking. They were the true unsung hero's, who stood out in the rain making sure that people parked where they were supposed to.

Tailgating was a wash, literally! But business indoors seemed brisk and many hams were enjoying getting together with old friends. The food sold by the Moose Lodge was appreciated. We had 10 people take exams and the 4 VE's, John WT4M, Don AI4ME, Leo KC4LEO and Carl W4CAC ran a very smooth operation.

The sun came out at the end! This year's cleanup proceeded smoothly and by 4 o'clock, everything was back to where they were supposed to be. The club has been doing this event for over 30 years! It has been an honor to run this event since 2003.

73
Leo
KG4PWC
SpringFest 2007 Chairperson

Great Job and Thanks to the SpringFest Chairperson Leo KG4PWC



Swamp Stomp 2007

This is a new event. The City of Chesapeake and Chesapeake General Hospital organized this event to promote health and raise money for the Chesapeake Schools. They had planned for 1500 runners and on the day of the event had over 1600 with some world-class runners. With any event, problems were expected to arise which hopefully would be fixable for future events. As a first event, radio support was also an unknown. As such, it is always better to have more operators than less.

Net Control Station (NCS) had both veterans and a newcomer. Ken KI4GEM and Dave K5SFM are the top ARES operators for Portsmouth ARES and they brought their excellent mobile communications trailer!

This marvel of ingenuity was the result of many hours of sweat by Dave and Ken. Complete with air-conditioning, desks, chairs multiple antennas for Amateur Radio, Marine and CB 2-way communications and a coffee pot. Rich WA4BUE, past Emergency Coordinator and a veteran NCS operator for many decades was the main operator. Sean W5CDR, was new. but brings organizational experience. The 4 were responsible for NCS and support of water station #2. Bob AC5ST had the unenviable task of shadowing the race coordinator. She is a dynamo and I should have probably asked that he get medical clearance! Terry KI4RXC and Phil WB3IEC manned the Start/Finish area. Dave KI4NSE and his wife, Stewart K4STW, Bill WF4R, Keith KG4ZXX, John K0IBS, Fred K9KV, Ray K4CRH, Mary Lee K4MLH and Jim WB4UVH manned the mile markers and other water stops. Yours truly was the gopher, delivering toilet paper, monitoring activities and taking over for NCS as the end as the event wound down.

The event is somewhat unique in that the trail was not along a major thoroughfare. Fortunately, we had no major emergencies to test out access by emergency vehicles to the entire course. Once the event was in motion, access to the course was not possible by vehicle.

With 1600 runners, there were times when the road was jammed with runners coming and going in this out and back race. Although we had a brief rain shower, the weather was good for the runners with cool and overcast conditions.

There were some weak spots along the course for operators using HT's. However, we did not have to resort to simplex. There were definitely some glitches to fix for next year, but they seemed relatively minor. I have not heard feedback from the runners, but most people appeared happy. It was overall a gratifying event to participate in and I thank all those who came out to help.

73 Leo
KG4PWC

Tour de Cure 2007

The Tour de Cure is an annual fund raising bicycling event. Participants must raise at least \$150 to be able to ride and many riders form teams supported by their employers and fellow colleagues. Previous events have raised well over \$180,000 to support education and research of diabetes. Many riders are either diabetics or have family or friends suffering from the illness. The event consists of 5 total rides with 2 circuit rides at both the start and finish and the main 100-mile ride from Chesapeake to Manteo. For Chesapeake, there were the 30 and 65-mile loops and in Manteo there were the 25 and 50-mile loops. About 600-700 riders participate annually.

CARS has provided radio support for the Chesapeake Circuits, which cover the area between Fire Station #5 on Hanbury Rd and Moyock, NC. The Rest Stops and most distant parts of the course are within approximately a 10-mile radius from Hickory HS, where the Net Control is located. In the past this distance was difficult to cover with the 146.820 repeater located at 130 ft at the WFOS station. Coverage was possible with using simplex and a vertical antenna at about 50 ft at Hickory HS. This year, the 146.820 repeater antenna was in a new location, so I was hoped that Simplex would not be needed.

Previous years events have been punctuated by severe storms, road construction, cyclists getting lost and the rare significant injury. Amateur operators have handled all these circumstances very well and we have provided valuable information on the whereabouts of the last riders. To increase our capability, we planned on deploying APRS stations. To be prepared for anything including contacting our VBARC counterparts in Manteo, our Net Control Station resembled a mini-Field Day station with 3 transceivers, 4 antennas and 2 laptop computers. One laptop computer had the rider database and the second ran APRS. Rigs included a Kenwood V7A to listen to 146.820 repeater and 146.820 simplex. A Yaesu 897D provided HF and a second VHF frequency. Finally a Kenwood 2550 ran the APRS. Antennas included a 3-element 2-meter beam, an 80-meter Carolina Windom fed by an LDG z100 tuner, a 5/8-wave dual band magmount and a Diamond X200 dual band vertical antenna. All antennas were on the roof of the high school with all but the magmount on masts. The magmount had a superb groundplane since the large metal roof was

made from coated steel. Setup on Friday took only 1½ hours this year with the help of Dennis KI4ORF, Paul, KI4IRL, Reggie W5SSB, Jim WB4UVH and Barry K5VIP.

The next day started quite cold and after setting up my ladder, I found the roof was iced over. Fortunately it was a minor obstacle and the rest of the day turned out to be perfect. Thanks to all who came out even for a part of the day. The radio support was superb. Phil WB3IEC, Reggie, Paul and I manned NCS. Rich N5RAG, Keith KG4ZXX, John K0IBS and MaryLee KF4HJL were at Rest Stop #2/4. Stewart K4STW, Jim WB4UVH and Leo KC4LEO were at Rest Stop #3 in Moyock. Ricky Lee KC4RIC and Bill were at Rest Stop #1. Dennis KI4ORF provided tail end duties in a car while Jim KG4WOJ provided ground observation on his bicycles, which also had APRS capabilities. Dennis K4DKR and Paul K4PRB provided tail end duties in the afternoon. Ruth KB4LIF and Bill KB4LRZ manned Rest Stop #5. Finally one of the motorcycle support riders Bernie AA4BL did tail end duties for the 100-mile riders.

APRS bugs like proper baud rate and squelch settings took a little while to correct, but APRS looked like a neat tool for future events. The 3-element beam provided the best signal. The 146.820 repeater worked well with all rest stop operators having good signals. However, the 146.970 repeater was unable to provide coverage in North Carolina for most of the day and so North Carolina operations were switched to 146.940 PL 131.8 (W4PCN, <http://obra.aginet.com/repeaters.html>). Both the beam and the vertical up 50 ft easily hit this repeater. Lots of reports came in with over 50 entries made in our log. Fortunately, none were serious.

The free food in the cafeteria was good as usual. However, those out in the field having experienced food shortage in the past took matters into their own hands this year. Rich N5RAG held a true tailgate barbecue at Rest Stop #2/4. A few of the operators took advantage of the free massage! Fortunately, they were done with their duties since the massage induced relaxation seemed to bring a glaze to their eyes. Although for many finishing the ride was a personal achievement, the atmosphere was less competitive and friendlier with all acknowledging their efforts for the greater good of diabetics.

Without a strong headwind, which plagued previous rides, the last rider arrived around 3 o'clock. By this time, we had taken down all but the magmount antenna. KI4IRL, KG4WOJ, W5SSB, KG4ZXX and WB4UVH assisted with cleanup. It was a great event. Again thanks to all that came out to assist.

73
Leo
KG4PWC

Net Control



APRS



CARS CLUB MEETING MINUTES 4 / 2 / 07

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm.

Attendance: 26 members and guests.

Paul, K4PRB read the last club meeting minutes. Leo KG4PWC moved to approve as read, seconded and approved.

Rich N5RAG read the Treasurer's report as of 1 April 07.

Repeaters - The replacement antenna for the .82 repeater is on hand, awaiting installation whenever the City will have a tower crew on site for other purposes. We will pick up City surplus radios April 5. We will store useful pieces for future use, and cull out antiquated, non-functional pieces for the benefit of the club.

Newsletter – Gavin, KD7GJB is the newsletter editor and the deadline for newsletter articles will be the 20th of each month.

Field Day – Bob, N4RAZ announced that he will be busy in Washington, DC tending to his daughter's needs much of the time for the next few months, so Gavin KD7GJB will be assisting him and handling many of the preparations for Field Day.

Dennis, KI4ORF posted another new flood plain map, this one showing primary, secondary, and tertiary shelters. No shelter designations are changing this year, contrary to an earlier report.

Leo, KG4PWC presented details of upcoming events: Swamp Stomp run, SpringFest, and Tour de Cure. He announced there will be further organizational meetings for SpringFest and Tour de Cure on April 11 and 18, respectively.

Leo KC4LEO won the 50/50 raffle (17 / 17).

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Field Day Information

As everyone knows Field Day is quickly approaching and will be on June 23. I would like to get everyone together on Saturday May 12th Shack Day to install software, set-up computers and test network connectivity; I will also attend Shack Day Saturday June 9th for any last minute computer tweaks. If anything is needed for your computer please let me know prior to shack day. Any questions please email me at wrightwon_itt@hotmail.com.

Thanks
Gavin KD7GJB

Amateur Radio Questions for May

| | |
|----------|---|
| G1A08 | What are the frequency privileges for a General Class control operator in the 10-meter band? |
| A | 28000 - 29700-kHz |
| B | 28025 - 29700-kHz |
| C | 28100 - 29600-kHz |
| D | 28125 - 29600-kHz |

| | |
|----------|---|
| G1B08 | Which of the following amateur station transmissions is NOT prohibited by the FCC Rules? |
| A | The playing of music |
| B | The use of obscene or indecent words |
| C | False or deceptive messages or signals |
| D | Retransmission of space shuttle communications |

| | |
|----------|--|
| G1C07 | What is the maximum transmitting power an amateur station may use on 14.300 MHz? |
| A | The minimum power necessary to carry out the desired communications, with a maximum of 1500 watts PEP output |
| B | 200 watts PEP output |
| C | 1000 watts PEP output |
| D | 2000 watts PEP output |

| | |
|----------|--|
| G1E11 | What operating restrictions must amateur radio stations observe while operating in the 60-meter band? |
| A | They must not cause harmful interference to stations operating in other radio services |
| B | They must transmit no more than 30 minutes during each hour to minimize harmful interference |
| C | They must use lower sideband, suppressed-carrier, only |
| D | They must not exceed 2.0 kHz of bandwidth |

Answers will be in June's Issue

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Monthly newsletter of the Chesapeake
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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

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Vice President: Bill Runyon WF4R

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Repeater Committee Chairman:

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Spring Fest Coordinator:

Leo Kusuda KG4PWC