



# The Spectrum



Issue 1005

October 2005

## From The President

*Keith - KG4ZXX*

It is hard to believe that a year has gone by so quickly. However, the older I get the faster time seems to fly. Such is life as a board officer of CARS.

We have had a lot of successes this year. We moved into the QRM room and turned it into a home. Unlike what it was when we first got there. Spring Fest was probably one of the best ones we have had in years. Even though, we were in a different location.

I want to thank everyone who has worked to make CARS what it is. I hope you will continue to be there to guide it along in the future.

October 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a dinner meeting at the Golden Corral in Chesapeake off of Battlefield Blvd. The only item of business will be elections for officers for the upcoming year.

The current slate of candidates as of today's date is:

- President: Keith, KG4ZXX
- Vice President: Bill, WF4R
- Treasurer: Rich, KI4EUM
- Secretary: Paul, K4PRB
- Communications Officer: Reggie, W5SSB

In case you notice a change from the announcement at the last general meeting, Reggie and Paul decided to do a swap. So this isn't a typo.

Anyone who would like to run for a position may do so. This is not locked in stone.

We have some goals for the next year that I hope the membership will be behind. SERA approved our repeater re-coordination requests. Looking for newer repeater equipment, a better home for Spring Fest and, as always, looking for new hams to bring into the fold.

See you at the dinner meeting!

73  
Keith  
KG4ZXX

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### Links of Interest

[Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Portsmouth Amateur Radio Club](#)

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

[ARRLWeb: Jamboree On The Air](#)

[American Red Cross](#)



## Upcoming Events

### **CARS Dinner Meeting**

Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 PM  
Golden Coral  
101 Volvo Parkway, Chesapeake  
[Map](#)

### **VBARC Meeting**

St Andrews United Methodist Church, 717 Tucson Rd &  
Princess Anne Rd. October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1930  
[Map of 717 Tucson Rd Virginia Beach](#)

### **Jamboree on the Air**

15-16 October

Maybe somebody with a better sense of the club's history (and the Tony Amato debacle) could get a feel for how to selectively pursue recruitment (i.e. what age & class of licensee, how long licensed, what neighborhoods, previous CARS or other clubs' membership, etc.).

Or maybe with all of the above as intuition they could review the data base one Zip code at a time and sort out a handful of most likely recruits to contact each month.

Something to work on during the long cold winter months. I think it is important that a good number of us work on building the club's membership.

My Buckmaster CD is available for loan (without the registration # for updates) if you are interested.

Bye.  
Paul – K4PRB

### **Fun with Numbers**

According to the Buckmaster Ham Call listing CD I bought Saturday, (supposedly current to the FCC database as of Sept. 5) ham licensees per city are:

Chesapeake:	414
Norfolk:	309
Portsmouth:	191
Va. Beach	735
Suffolk	121

Obviously these numbers include significant amounts of silent keys, move-always, novices & techs that lost interest, etc. that never got updated in the FCC database. Maybe as much as 20% or even more of the lost interest category in young cities such as Chesapeake & Va. Beach.

Nevertheless, these statistics are the best (read only) starting point we have to figure percentage of club membership per city's Ham population. And from those numbers we can judge:

- 1) How good a job we have done in attracting & holding on to members;
- 2) How big is our pool of Hams from which we can try to recruit.

My Buckmaster CD sorts by Zip code. The distribution of licensee classes varies surprisingly by those postal zones.



48th Jamboree on the Air - 15-16 October 2005

JOTA is an annual event in which about 500,000 Scouts and Guides all over the world make contact with each other by means of amateur radio. It is a real Jamboree during which Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, thus contributing to the world brotherhood of Scouting. The JOTA is a world-wide event. Units may operate for 48 hours or any part thereof, from Saturday 00.00 h until Sunday 24.00 h local time. It is for members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), and also for members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

Additional information is available on the [WOSM Radio Scouting](#) web pages.

## LOCAL NETS

<b>SKYWARN NET</b> Fridays 1900 hours.	146.820 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
<b>Tidewater Radio Association WT4RA net</b> Thursday 1930 hours (code drill follows net)	147.195 MHz

## **Radio Related Tid-Bits**

- Insects have antennae; radios have antennas (from the dictionary and John Kraus, W8JK, inventor of the helical antenna).
- One does not need to say "This is N9XYZ for ID". What else is a call sign for?
- Children should be referred to as "inter-modulation products" not "harmonics".
- Hams often say things like "We've been down with the lumbago for a while but should be able to work the contest...". I think it was Mark Twain who said "the first person plural should only be used by royalty, pregnant women, and people with intestinal parasites".

## **DISASTER FACTS, PERSPECTIVES, and THOUGHTS**

### TIME

As I write this article, yet another Category 5 Hurricane, this time Rita is in the Gulf and heading towards Galveston, Texas.

### STORMS NOT HURRICANES DAMAGING OUR AREA

Hurricanes do not cause all the damage in our area. For those of you who have been around for a while, the Ash Wednesday storm of the 60's was a major blow to the area. Under the direction of the AREC EC for Norfolk, W4QDY, and the Radio Officer for Norfolk, W4DHz, a Norfolk Police Officer picked me up at my home in Ocean View and drove me near the Mary Jane Bakery near 17th Street in Norfolk. There some one in a motor boat was waiting for me and took me to the Center Theater EOC. Yes, downtown Norfolk was under about 3 feet of water from a big Northeaster. Later I walked through the water to the Red Cross Chapter House on Bute Street and operated from there. While in 1999 Floyd was a Hurricane, when it hit our area it was a tropical storm. You might remember I-64 on the Peninsula at the Jefferson Avenue under pass had 12 feet of water for days. That was caused actually by the design of the intersection. Yes, unknowingly the engineers designed that intersection to flood. This brings up the point of principles are always in place weather you know it or not! Your design gets the exact results it is designed to get. I -64 at Jefferson Avenue followed the principle of flooding as it was designed to flood. During Floyd, I participated in a lot of Shelter activity during the storm.

### TO THE POINT

No matter what claim any organization makes of readiness for any disaster, there is no way any of them can be ready for a big event. Today we as American Citizens place too much reliance on local, state, and federal government along with other organizations to protect us. It is no way they can. We must be ready and prepared to provide ourselves with self help.

In a major emergency EXPECT the Worse and Best of our fellow citizens. Some HEROES will appear, and some BAD people will appear. It is the way life is. In most cases you will not know who is who until you witness it. It is up to you to use common sense, which includes Integrity, Respect, Honesty, Knowledge, and Skills. It is also up to you to have a personal plan of action. **This is called taking responsibility for your self and your family.** This is something that a lot of people have not learned and do not do these days.

### **KATRINA's BOO BOOs**

Common sense tells me that if the evacuation point is in the center of the storms landfall, that is not the place to be. Common sense tells me if your mass transit vehicles are locked up in a compound in the center of the storm area rather than evacuating people, the government can not take care of you. In New Orleans could the city and people be spared with improved levees and better planning? Of course! However, the atmosphere was so relaxed and the money flowed so freely, the right things were not done. The job is now left to you and me to get things done the right way. There is an old QUALITY expression, it is more economical to do the job right the first time. We are proving it now. The question is will there be desired results from this lesson? My guess is that for a few years there will be a lot of Emphasis on this issue and then it will slowly revert to the back burner.

### **AMATEUR RADIO STILL RESPONDS FAST IN EMERGENCIES**

The bright spot is once again Amateur Radio has proven its worth. Billions of dollars of state of the art communication equipment and resources out of commission, but Amateur Radio is still working.

### **QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER**

What are the local evacuation plans for our area?

Where are the Shelters for our area?

Are you prepared to assist in an emergency? Do you know what is expected of you as a volunteer amateur radio communicator before, during, and after a disaster? In other words are you familiar with the emergency communications plan?

*Just a thought! Maybe amateur radio plans have to be somewhat universal, using the same element and formats, with specific locations and frequencies, since the resident in the disaster area may have evacuated and you may have to step in!*

What do you think would happen if a Category 5 Hurricane hit our area?

How would you help if the big one hit?

Would you know what to do?

Can you do what is necessary in an emergency (YOUR SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, and DESIRE to HELP)?

Do you think that New Orleans type disaster could happen here. After all, it seems like a lot of the disaster was man made!

**Perhaps, these questions along with the reality that DISASTERS are just around the corner will help you develop a real dialog within CARS, and encourage you to be an Amateur Radio Emergency Communicator.**

73

Rich

WA4BUE

## Emergency Preparedness for Amateur Radio Operators, Part II

The next level of preparedness is the ability to operate digital and HF. HF continues to be the backbone of long distance communication. Digital modes are necessary to communicate large volumes of information accurately. Discussion of digital modes is beyond the scopes of this article since there are a number of protocols for both error correcting (e.g. packet and Pactor), Internet linking (e.g. WinLink, Telpac, Echolink and IRLP), and non-error checking (e.g. RTTY and PSK31) protocols.

As mentioned in part I, the ability to have emergency power is very important. Batteries are the primary portable source since they can be moved inside buildings. Generators and solar power are very useful, but must be located outside. Most deep cycle batteries are rated for around 75 amp/hours. During a full power 100-watt transmission, your transmitter may be using 20 amps per hour. Fortunately, in most instances, you will be receiving more than transmitting, but even then you could expect no more than about 8 hours in the worst-case scenario prior to having to recharge your battery. A digital field station will require more power to run the computer (which can be quite an energy hog) and the radio at full duty cycle. Fortunately, with digital modes, longevity of the transmitter and the accuracy of the error checking protocols, are two very good reasons to operate the transmitter at less than 50% of its full output.

Modern rigs such as the Icom 706 MKII G and Yaesu 897D have been able to squeeze a lot of features and bands into one box. The ICOM 706 has a built in SWR graph function, which makes it very handy for HF. However, it is even better to have at least a separate multi-band HF/VHF SWR meter. If you can calibrate the meter to full deflection at higher frequencies than rated, the meter can work for those frequencies. An antenna analyzer such as the MFJ 269 is even better but a bit pricey for most beginning Hams.

Being able to setup an effective antenna, especially for HF work can be a challenge. The Hamstick dipoles made by Lakeview and Ironhorse can be setup on a simple mast. You may have seen my TV mast setup that is mounted on an old patio deck umbrella stand and some wooden X-base or my temporary mast mounted to my truck. You will need extra coax in 50-100 ft lengths. Rope, lots of rope, is handy. J-poles can be mounted hanging upside down or into a pipe. The plate glass suction holders can be redesigned to hold antennas if you need to mount them outside a bus or building window. Most HF communication is within a few hundred miles. Therefore antennas for DX work actually are poor choices. Their low angle radiation will skip right over the intended receiving station. Near Vertical Incidence Systems (NVIS) are better, which means that a dipole low to the ground is better than one that is  $\frac{1}{2}$  wavelength or higher.

Those that have HF privileges and an effective station should be prepared to send formal ARRL NTS message traffic. As mentioned in part I, you will need to operate within the frequencies of the appropriate Amateur Radio segments and respect all applicable restrictions.

The Tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean demonstrated that there still is a role for CW! When it comes to truly low power, long distance communications under adverse conditions, nothing beats CW!

To setup a more advanced emergency station, takes the coordinated effort of many people. The best example is at Field Day where we typically setup 5 different transceivers with different modes with computers and multiple bandpass filters, with special attention given to location and design of antennas to minimize interference.

Hopefully you will find overcoming the challenges of setting up an emergency field station as fun and rewarding as I do. If you don't have the equipment, jump in during field day!

73  
Leo  
KG4PWC

*Leo's series will conclude next month with part III*

## My QTH is in Hampton Roads...Part II...Water, Dams and, Sports

Areas like the Northwest River is actually in the Southeastern part of Chesapeake. Deep Creek contains no deep creeks, but it is where the Dismal Swamp Canal starts. The Great Dismal Swamp has the intra-coastal waterway that ends in North Carolina. Surrounding this area are miles and miles of virgin forest just begging to be mowed down by developers for housing tracts. Imagine being able to watch black bears romping with your kids in the yard while sipping Iced Tea on the verandah, or having lost deer running into the dining room being chased by the local dogs. Great Bridge is our affluent area and seat of city government is accessed by crossing a tiny drawbridge. The area of Dam Neck contains no dams. The Norfolk Naval Shipyard is in Portsmouth. One of the largest Coast Guard bases on the east coast is in Portsmouth, 21 miles from the coast. Hilltop, a mildly affluent shopping area, is not on a hill (it is a geological ridge less than 10 foot high). There are no cars at the Chrysler Museum. Scope is not a mouthwash; its a convention center and arena in Norfolk.

Sometime, just for fun, stop and ask a local for directions to "downtown Virginia Beach." Chances are, you will be sent to Norfolk. Virginia Beach has no downtown. They claim to but it is in fact a shopping district with five squat brown office buildings and one new multi-million dollar tower, but no hotels. No one carpools here, allowing the HOV-reversible lanes to be used by skate boarders during rush hours. All the tollbooths were taken down a few years ago, creating one less place for traffic accidents to occur.

Everyone in the country lived here once or knew someone who did. You will be hard pressed to find a native of the area. Everyone here is from somewhere else, due mostly to the fact that Norfolk contains the largest naval base in the world. When you curse the drivers here for not being able to drive, you are cursing the drivers of the whole country. This, combined with the pervasive and ongoing road construction creates an incredible number of traffic accidents every day, and ten fold when it rains.

Our International Airport is one of the most beautiful airports in the world. It is smack-dab in the middle of Norfolk Botanical Gardens, put here presumably so world-travelers would not be confronted with the ugliness of Norfolk as soon as they step off the plane.

The weather here is very similar to the weather of your hometown. Tomorrow it will be very similar to the weather of the area someone else is from. If you don't like the weather, take a nap. When you wake up, it will be different. Hurricanes are a major threat here six months of the year, although we haven't had a major hurricane strike in 300 years. The last big hurricane created most of what we now call Ocean View. The departments here to handle the effects of a hurricane haven't seen the big one, yet. We like to tell ourselves that hurricanes bring land and jobs.

There are no major sports franchises here. The general rule of thumb is that if a sports franchise expresses interest in our area, they are on the verge of folding. We used to have an ABA franchise... well, you know the rule.

Suffolk is the Peanut Capital of the World. It is where Mr. Peanut came to life. In Isle of Wight county, Miles E. Standish Xth actually holds elected office. Remember, here in the Commonwealth of Virginia, you're either in a County or a City. It's called a Commonwealth because your wealth commonly goes straight into the coffers of the state via income tax, sales tax, personal property tax, etc., etc.

Newport News has the largest shipbuilding facility in the world. In fact, if it were its own city, it would be among the Top 10 largest cities in the state.

Not satisfied with having all the great beaches and scantily-clad beach-goers, Virginia Beach is also home to Pat Robertson. Strangely, Pat Robertson maintains a very low profile here. You can see the CBN and Regent University buildings from the interstate but no one knows where Pat Robertson lives or where he dines.

He has little or nothing to do with local politics. But he has some people believing that a hurricane was turned away by his request.

Jim & Tammy Faye Bakker started their careers in Portsmouth hosting a children's show on a local television station. Presumably, that was when it was still safe to wear jewelry in Portsmouth. If you go there now, you're just asking to be shot... or shot-up. A while back they had a Clean Up Portsmouth program, where they spent a weekend erasing all the chalk outlines, tearing down yellow police tape and picking up syringes.

For most of us, the cities have their individual roles. We work in Norfolk or Chesapeake, party in Virginia Beach, buy drugs in Portsmouth and weapons in Isle of Wight county, dump our dead bodies in the backwaters or woods of Chesapeake and hide from the law in Newport News. We used to go see dirty movies in Hampton, until they banned them. Now, the only reason people go to Hampton is for the Jazz Festival.

A lot of people like to say our area is like New York City, with none of the good stuff and all of the bad stuff. We know differently. Each city here has something special about it. Norfolk has naval bases, Virginia Beach has beaches, Hampton has industry, Newport News has shipbuilding, Portsmouth has ship repair, Suffolk and Isle of Wight have agriculture, Chesapeake has tract homes, and the other areas are steeped in history, offering Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown.

So the next time someone asks you what is so great about your QTH, tell them!  
Just don't tell them where we dump the dead bodies.

73s

Sonny – K4WYS



## Spooky Ham Stories

Halloween is the time for spooky stories. Kids like stories about scary happenings, but for ham operators, plenty of spooky things are happening to our hobby so there is no need to tell strange tales.

There is a complete disappearance of small radio shops run by people holding a ham license. If there were still kits available for youngsters to build in the garage or after school as an electronics club project, people would line up to learn about repeaters.

Another spooky thing is the bewitching tale that interest is declining in the entire field of amateur radio. Recent ARRL statistics reported by the Rockford Amateur Radio Association's newsletter indicates a decline in applications for new FCC technicians' licenses, but there is an increase in the number of General or Extra Class license certificates. The strange suggestion is hams want more technical knowledge after earning the Technician license.

But, on a lighter side, grab this Halloween movie where a rare atmospheric phenomenon allows a New York City firefighter to communicate with his son 30 years in the future via Amateur radio. The son uses this opportunity to warn the father of his impending death in a warehouse fire, and manages to save his life. However, what he does not realize is that changing history has triggered a new set of tragic events, including the murder of his mother. The two men must now work together, 30 years apart, to find the murderer before he strikes so that they can change history—again. If you are a fan of Dennis Quaid I think you will find the movie Frequency enjoyable.

Rich – KI4EUM

## The Spectrum

Monthly newsletter of the Chesapeake  
Amateur Radio Service (CARS)

Post Office Box 6867  
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### **CARS : Repeaters**

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

**W4CAR Trustee:**  
Bill Runyon WF4R

## **CARS OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS**

**President:**  
Keith Ainsley KG4ZXK

**Vice President:**  
Reggie White W5SSB

**Secretary:**  
TBD

**Treasurer:**  
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**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.



The local chapter of The Red Cross could use your assistance. They are desperately looking for volunteers to man telephone lines and pass health / welfare messages into and out of the Hurricane Katrina affected area. You can contact the Red Cross via the following:

Pam Wakefield

(757) 446-7740

[wakefieldp@seva-redcross.org](mailto:wakefieldp@seva-redcross.org)