

Feedline



www.qsl.net/n4nc/
N4NC@arrl.net

The Voice of The Cary Amateur Radio Club N4NC

August 2001

Wake County ARES EC Visits CARC Meeting; Provided Drill Information

On August 23, at the State EOC in Raleigh, the Wake ARES will hold a general membership meeting on Thursday, August 23rd at 7:00 pm at the State EOC. All Amateurs interested in Wake County ARES are welcome to attend. We will review the results of the Eastern Branch Hurricane drill and the McGuire Nuclear Plant drill, and discuss options for adding digital communication to the Wake ARES plan. On Tuesday, August 14, 2001, the State EOC will be supporting an emergency procedures test at the McGuire nuclear plant. This plant is located along Lake Norman, north of Charlotte. As with a Shearon Harris plant drill in Wake County, most operations will be local to Mecklenburg and surrounding counties, and handled on VHF-FM. But the drill calls for maintaining an HF link to the State EOC. Details on the drill are pending.

If you are interested in participating in either drill, please contact John KG4HDT

Not Interested in Windows, Try LINUX

Triangle Linux Users Group, dedicated to the Triangle area of North Carolina including Durham, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, and Research Triangle Park. TriLUG has been incorporated as a 501(c)3 educational non-profit for the purpose of promoting and supporting the use of Linux and related Free and Open Source programs in the Triangle area. We have monthly meetings, quarterly Installfests, and a very active mailing list--currently over 100 subscribers! Here you will find up-to-date TriLUG information, links to Linux resources, and ways to meet and communicate with Linux and other Free and Open Source enthusiasts locally.

Subscribe to the TriLUG discussion list to keep up to date with the latest TriLUG issues and events. It is also available as a newsgroup. There is also a low traffic list for the purpose of announcements. To subscribe, send a message to majordomo@employees.org with the body "subscribe trilug-announce". A steering committee mailing list exists for the steering group to coordinate meetings and day-to-day operation of the LUG. Please feel free to send mail to us with questions or comments. Meetings are the best way to get to know your fellow LUG'ers. TriLUG meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of every month.

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

Electronic QSLs Closer to Becoming a Reality, "Logbook of the World" Software Design Under Way

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 2, 2001--Fast on the heels of approval of the "Logbook of the World" by the ARRL Board of Directors, software design to support the electronic contact-verification program is continuing apace. ARRL Membership Services Manager and LOTW Project Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, said the ARRL hopes to make LOTW software modules available soon to vendors for incorporation into their logging programs.

"We have been in touch with 15 or so developers of popular logging software," Mills said. "We're also looking at providing a basic, do-it-yourself program to get contact data to ARRL."

The logging software modules are being developed as part of the Trusted QSL open-source project headed by Darryl Wagoner, WA1GON. (More information is available on the Project: Trusted QSL Web site.)

At the heart of the Logbook of the World concept is a huge repository of log data provided by operators--from individual DXers and contesters to major DXpeditions--and maintained by ARRL. Mills says the system will benefit big and little guns alike by providing quick QSO credit for awards offered by ARRL, and, it's hoped, for awards offered by other organizations as well.

Once it becomes available--which could be as early as the middle of next year--Logbook of the World will accept authenticated data directly from computerized logs via the Internet. "This is an e-mail based system that uses easy-to-obtain digital signatures for authentication," Mills said. "Once you get your digital certificate, a few keystrokes will do the trick."

Mills said the program envisions user access to the LOTW "confirmed database" so an operator can see what "matches" turn up--such as confirmation of new DXCC entities, states or grid squares. "We'll also publish a list of logs that have been submitted," he said, adding that operators may access the LOTW database once they've uploaded their own log data.

Heading up software development is ARRL Electronic Publications Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, along with Web Applications Developer Mark Simcik, WA1VVB. Software specifications already have been established. In addition to Wagoner, those advising the project include Dick Green, WC1M and Ted Demopoulos, KR1G. ARRL staffer and well-known contester and DXer Dave Patton, NT1N, who conducted the original electronic QSL project study, also is assisting.

Mills said that he hopes to be able to announce a specific inauguration date for Logbook of the World within a few months, as the software design progresses.

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ATTENTION ARRL AFFILIATED CLUBS

The 2001 ARRL Club Annual Reports are due. These reports are used to determine whether or not your club is still active, and to provide information about your club to prospective amateurs who want to learn more about our hobby. The club annual report is the only available mechanism for identifying who the newsletter editors are. Your prompt response is appreciated. Remember, the data provided to prospective amateurs and others is only as good as that which is received by the ARRL from the club's annual report. Please note you may submit your club's report electronically at <http://www.arrl.org/field/club/forms/fsd2/>. You may also go to the ARRL site index, select the letter "C", select clubs, and then search by clubs. The multicopy forms will not be sent to you unless requested

REVISED BAND PLAN FOR 160 METERS

The Board adopted a revised band plan for 160 meters based on a proposal from the ad hoc 160-Meter Band Plan Committee. The plan adopted sets aside a segment for digital modes from 1.800 to 1.810 MHz, maintains CW operation for the entire 1.8 to 2.0 MHz band, recommends a lower limit of 1.843 for SSB operation, and designates QRP calling frequencies--1.810 for CW and 1.910 for SSB.

The 1.830 to 1.850 MHz "DX window" was eliminated. The committee recommended that contest sponsors "consider the use of DX windows as necessary." The plan accommodates established frequencies used on 160 for AM.

Cary Band Day is Approaching, Sign-Up Today

The following message was sent to Herb, W3HL. Let's join together to ensure another successful event:

Herb:

Hope you are having a great summer. Believe it or not, its time to start planning our 43rd Cary Band Day to be held on November 3 this year.

I have enjoyed working with you the past few years and appreciate all the time that you have given the Cary Band over the years. I hope that things are going well and that you're still going to be able to coordinate our Cary Band Day Parade communications again this year. Since CARC has been involved it has helped our parade run much smoother.

Please let me know by August 15 if you'll be able to/ or not able to help with Band Day

As soon as Matt and I get the meeting schedule, I'll let you know.

Again, thanks for all the work that you have done to keep the Cary Band tradition alive.

I look forward to working with you as we plan our 43nd year of band competition and parade.

Thanks!
Sandi

FRS Radio For Sale?

Since April 1999, The United Kingdom and Europe has had an FRS type service called PMR 446. The frequencies used are within the 446.0 to 446.1 range. Of course, this makes them likely to show up here in the USA some day, and pretty darn close to the 446.0 National simplex frequency. The radios are 500mw in power

So one day if you are monitoring your 440 remote base, or are unlucky enough to have a repeater with a nearby frequency as in Southern California 446.02, 446.04, 446.06, 446.08, or 446.1, and you hear some unlicensed sounding folks with foreign accents, you'll know what it is.

Look for this to happen in the LA area, Orlando Area, and other vacation destinations. Also in cities where cruise ships dock. When I was on a cruise this past May, EVERYONE had an FRS radio. Now that those frequencies are clogged, look for the industrious Ebayers to begin selling imported British radios to those looking for "clear channels".

PMR 446 Service Frequencies

For more info, see <http://www.transmission1.net/pmr446/pmr446-intro.html>

For British Govt PMR 446 info see

http://www.radio.gov.uk/publication/ra_info/ra357.htm

(SERA Egroup Message)

CARC Minutes – 21 June 2001

The Meeting was called to order promptly at 7:33 pm.

ARES discussion:

The meeting began with a short discussion by John Gurriero, KG4HDT on ARES activities. John discussed his dual coordinator rolls for NC Emergency Management and Wake EM, shared with Tom Brown, N4TAB John and Tom share the responsibility of Wake County EC. If you have a question or problem, call either one.

Officially, John is EC for North Carolina Emergency Management (State EOC), and Tom is EC for Wake County.

Also discussed was the Wake County ARES net(which is on Thursday nights at 9:00pm on the 146.88 repeater), Activity scheduled in Kinston at the Eastern NC ARES site(date?), and a Nuclear disaster drill in the Charlotte area scheduled for August 14th, 2001, and discussion of the installation of digital modes for State ARES site.

The ARES website is under construction(or re-construction) at: <http://www.wakeares.org/>

John is also serving as coordinator for the support of the Red Cross at the NC State Fair this year. He will have sixty shifts of 6 hours each to fill. For information on participating, see <http://www jmpstart.com/fair-opsked.html> and contact John at kg4hdt@arrl.net.

OLD BUSINESS:

Field Day:

Thanks go to Will, K4IWW for securing the Bond park site after the NC State site was unavailable. Mike, WA4KE, reported the final score was 6682. Thanks to Nathan, the CW station had an outstanding 1091 QSO's logged for 4364 points. The VHF station was manned by club members from CARC and the NC State club, whose members also contributed to the set-up, tear-down, and SSB operation. Lacking a photo of Charles' 3:00am visit, there were 800 bonus points claimed.

The issue of securing a new or backup site was discussed. All ideas welcomed.

SWAPFEST:

Will, K4IWW, began the discussion by conducting a drawing for five subscriptions to Worldradio, and one for Amateur Radio Trader. Will also announced he had comp. tickets for the Roanoke hamfest.

The swapfest appeared to be a success, with little negative feedback reported to date. The food vendors were said to be happy with the outcome. Attendance was similar to last years event.

Susan, WA4AKB, announced the financial summary, with expenditures for the swapfest at \$3,938.75, income at \$5,047.00, for a 201 Swapfest profit of \$1108.25

Hank, K4HM, reported that the exam session had about 30 people taking exams, with only two not passing any section. It was generally agreed to continue providing for the exam sessions.

Issues to be considered for next years Swapfest include the following:

- 1) Will has an "administrative hold" on the community center for next years Swapfest (date????)
- 2) It is possible that there could be a conflict in reserving the meeting room for the exams. The City is scheduled to begin renovations that may make the meeting room unavailable in the July timeframe.
- 3) The food vendor required the use of two circuits for their operation.

PROGRAM:

The nights program was a demonstration of LINUX, given by Alf, KQ4FP. Alf recommended "Mandrake" Linux as a more user friendly flavor of the OS from a user perspective. A lengthy discussion ensued, as well as a discussion of the benefits of idealistic collective socialism versus real-world capitalism as a basis for choosing an OS. Fortunately, the discussion did not degenerate into a argument over the benefits of Beta vs. VHS, nor 8-track vs. Cassettes.

Special thanks to the Associate Secretary - W4KAZ, Keith Zeringue

SHORTWAVE CORNER - Radio Australia

Radio Australia is the international service of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

Celebrating 60 years of broadcasting, Radio Australia is an independent and trusted source of information about Australia, Asia and the Pacific. We talk to Southeast Asia, North Asia and the Pacific Islands, and we tell the rest of the world about our region. Radio Australia is Your Asia Pacific Network.

Radio Australia talks to the region in local languages - Chinese, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Khmer Cambodian) and Tok Pisin (Pidgin) as well as English.

Regional language broadcasters offer in-depth knowledge of the cultures and values of Asia and the Pacific focusing on the region's agendas and concerns. With its specialist broadcasters and the resources of the ABC's worldwide network of correspondents, Radio Australia is a key source of news and information in Australia and the Pacific, respected for its authority and integrity, in line with the ABC's charter and editorial policies.

Radio Australia responds to the growing demand for information in the region with special radio and online education services. These include English lessons, and programs about politics and economics produced with the backing Australia's leading universities.

There are also features on the latest developments in science, technology, health and farming as well as programs on sport, the arts and music.

Broadcasting the best of the ABC's domestic programs, Radio Australia tells the region and the world about Australia and keeps Australian expatriates and travellers in touch with home.

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Article Contributions and Suggestions

PLEASE send any article contributions or suggestions to Mike Lewis, wa4ke@earthlink.net.