



The Spectrum

Issue 11

November 2007

Words from the President

November is the start of CARS' fiscal New Year as well as the renewal of our efforts to keep CARS moving forward. CARS has made fantastic progress under Keith's leadership, and I am proud to have the opportunity to continue that advancement through many means in this New Year.

Your Board of Directors will be setting the goals of the club for the coming year, and making a realistic budget to accomplish those goals. We welcome every member's input to determine these goals. Please contact me or any member of the board with your suggestions.

In order to plan for success, we need to know what our financial and manpower resources will be in the coming fiscal year. Membership dues (\$15 annually) are due on November 1. Please renew your membership by paying your dues promptly. If you are unable to do so in person at the November 5 club meeting, please mail your check to CARS, PO Box 6867, Chesapeake, VA 23323 – 0867 as soon as possible.

Please remember, CARS is YOUR club, in all respects including fellowship, repeaters, operating, public service, learning, contesting, training and mentoring, Special Events, etc. Let us know your desires and do plan to participate. This old saying may be trite, but I do believe it is true – The more you put into your membership, the more you will get out of it!

Please take note of upcoming events on our calendar which include Technician License Training Class Nov. 10 – 18 (VE test session Sunday, Nov. 18), our Special Event Station commemorating the Battle of Great Bridge Dec 1, and Dec. 2, and our December 3 "Christmas" Dinner Meeting.

Respectfully,
Paul, K4PRB

Links of Interest

[Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Portsmouth Amateur Radio Club](#)

[Home - KG4ZXK.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](#)

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

[QRZ Ham Radio](#)

| INSIDE THIS ISSUE | |
|-------------------|---|
| 2 | Upcoming Events / Local Nets |
| 3 | Ham Classes and FCC Exams/ Letter from the Editor |
| 4 | Simplex or Not to Simplex |
| 5 | Shelter J-Pole Test/ Letter from the Editor |
| 6 | BOD and Club Meeting Minutes |

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 28th at 7:30 pm

CARS Public Bus. Meeting

Monday, Nov. 5th, at 7:30 PM
116 Reservation Rd.
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Amatuer Radio Classes

Nov. 10th to Nov 18th

FCC Testing Session

Sun. Nov. 18 2:00 pm FCC V.E. License
Examination

Silver Diner Christmas Meeting

Monday Dec. 3rd

Shack Day

Saturday, Nov. 17 at 12:30 to ??

Battle of Great Bridge

Dec. 1st and 2nd at Cars Shack

CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING

Cars will hold its annual dinner meeting Monday, December 3, at the Silver Diner on the corner of Battlefield Blvd. and Volvo Parkway. Plan on arriving between 6:00 and 6:30 pm. We need to know who and how many will attend, so please contact Paul, K4PRB, at 484-6047 or K4PRB@arrl.net to reserve space(s) for you and your guests no later than Friday evening, November 30.

BATTLE OF GREAT BRIDGE SPECIAL EVENT STATION, DEC. 1 & 2 AT CARS SHACK

As you may have noted in minutes of previous Board of Director's meetings, CARS is planning to operate a Special Event station in cooperation with the Chesapeake Dept. of Parks & Recreation and in turn with the Great Bridge Re-enactors.

Final details are still being arranged with the City. Our event is now posted on the ARRL web site and will be published in QST. We expect to be operating from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm local both days, and will be on 7.275, 14.275, 21.375, and 146.820 mHz as conditions permit.

Operators welcomed! Come out and get on the air. This will be a great opportunity for Technicians to get some HF experience under the guidance of our control operators, or for some old hands who just want to get back into the game if they have been inactive due to deed restrictions prohibiting antennas, or anybody that will get a kick out a sharing some of our local history with the rest of the world.

This is a fine opportunity to enjoy a specific aspect of ham Radio, and also to interact with the folks in the City that are so gracious in providing us with our Field Day sites.

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 (<u>code drill follows net</u>) | 147.195 MHz |

AMATEUR "HAM" RADIO CLASSES AND FCC EXAMS

SATURDAY NOV. 10 THROUGH SUNDAY NOV. 18

Sat. Nov 10 2:00 - 4:00 pm - Introduction

Tue. Nov 13 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Text Chapt. 1 & 2

Wed. Nov 14 7:00 – 9:00 - Text Chapter 3

Thur Nov 15 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Text Chapter 4

Fri. Nov 16 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Text Chapt. 5, 6, & 7

Sat. Nov. 17 2:00 – 5:00 pm - Review session

Sun. Nov. 18 2:00 pm FCC V.E. License Examination

Textbook: "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" First Edition list price \$24.95 plus shipping. Available from www.arrl.org and local sources. Also available through the class for aprox. \$20 (and no shipping charges) depending upon quantity ordered from Paul Buckwalter by Thursday, Nov. 1. Texts are sold at cost only as a service to the students, IF ORDERED BY NOV. 1.

Classes are FREE ! However, there is a \$14 FCC set fee for the examination session.

For more information, please contact Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service at W4CAR@yahoo.com, Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club at James.Lindsey@verizon.net, or Paul Buckwalter K4PRB at 484-6047 or K4PRB@arrl.net.

Simplex or Not To Simplex?

To simplex or not to simplex is the question that never gets ask enough. I have notice that many of the new and old hams alike have problems with their radio as soon as another operator ask them to go simplex. Some operators know how to listen on the reverse but, can not go to a random simplex frequency without a great deal of frustration. Much of the problem can be attributed to the new radios on the market today with many new menu functions that so many people say they have problems working with. Yet, I think it is more likely we have gotten lazy and preprogram the new radios with what frequencies we think are important when the radio is new and do not work the radio after that. So, when a new frequency or PL tone is required panic sets in and the radio gets all the blame not the operator. We owe it to ourselves and others to practice with our radios often in different modes of operation so that we are proficient radio operators and not just a group of people who have a microphone to talk into and hope someone is there to talk back to us.

Reasons to talk simplex are many and some are as follows:

1.) If you and another are within simplex range and are not expecting a call from someone else on the repeater then you should go simplex so the repeater is not tied up during peak travel time for mobiles.

2.) When operating an event or in the field with handhelds you may wish to go simplex on the output frequency of the repeater so as not to tie up the repeater yet, still hear a call on the repeater. With this said it should be noted that it is best to go to a simplex frequency per the band plan and operate simplex if the repeater is not needed for what you are doing in the field or at the event you are operating at.

3.) If the repeater should go down during an emergency you should be able to go simplex on the output frequency of the repeater with no CTCSS unless Net Control Station (NCS) advises it.

4.) When traveling with other Hams on the way to a Ham Fest you may wish to operate simplex between vehicles so you have good communications without having to deal with repeater input and output frequencies and PL tones that may have changed in the past year.

When the LPD antenna at the CARS QRM Room (the club's radio shack) slipped on the mast and was pointed the wrong way and needed realignment I needed communications with the person on the ground without having to shout and maybe misunderstanding what was being said to me from the ground. Sean Gorman W5CDR and myself use handhelds on simplex low power and had no problems making the adjustments as needed. His radio was the latest model and the one I was using has about five to ten years on his for age and we were both able to adjust for simplex with no problems because we both have taken the time to learn our radios. The big difference between the radios is he uses menu functions and I had to use switches to change from duplex to simplex and for PL tones I have to use dip switches and again he uses a menu function. This alone illustrates the differences between different radios out there and why it is important to learn your radio so you can establish and maintain communications because, the other operator may know nothing about your radio and will be unable to help you with it over the air. Once you have learn all the different ways to operate your radio you will enjoy it much more and may even find yourself operating in a completely different mode such as packet, APRS, slow scan TV, ATV, or a mode that I did not list. If you have any problems with learning how to operate your radio new or old no matter what class of amateur you are you should feel free to ask other hams if they could help you figure it out. Even if neither one of you know much about the radio in question there is very few problems in this world that two hams working together cannot figure out. A technician class amateur just license may be able to help a twenty year extra class license amateur with a new handheld with all the menu function because he or she is use to the menus and the more experience ham may be more use to the switches and dip switches that the younger hams would find very confusing in contrast.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

In closing we all need to learn all we can about the radios we have now and be as proficient as we can so when others look to use to get the word out we can do it. If anyone has a question about amateur radio and does not know who to ask come to Shack Day the third Saturday of each month and I will do the best I can to answer your question or put you face to face with a person who can. You can also test a new radio at the shack on Shack Day if you do not have an antenna at home yet for your radio and learn how the controls work with the help of others if needed. Have fun learning and operating your radios new or used.
DE Jim KG4WOJ



SHELTER J POLES TESTS OCTOBER SHACK DAY

Our Communications Officer, Jim, KI4WOJ organized a trial run of communicating from shelter locations via 2 meter simplex using the J poles constructed at last month's shack Day. He and Don W2SBI went to Grassfield High School and Hickory High School. Two visitors, Robert KB8MUS and Phil KF4LJO went to Great Bridge Middle School and Indian River High School. Keith KG4Z XK and Paul K4PRB served as "net control" at the shack. Reliable communications were established between the CARS shack and all of the shelter locations which were using ½ to 5 watts. J poles were only 5 feet above ground, so communications between some shelter locations were not possible. Had the J poles been ten or more feet above ground, shelter to shelter communications should have been possible. Overall, this shack day activity was a great success in proving out the J poles themselves and demonstrating the use of simplex to communicate reliably without the use of a repeater.

Letter from the Editor

From now on the newsletters will not be emailed out, but placed on the website only. I will send out an email notifying everyone the newsletter is done and the link. I will still mail out the newsletter to those who don't have an email address. Please submit articles prior to the 15th of the month, so I can get the newsletter to the club members in a timely manner.

My email address is wrightwon_itt@hotmail.com

Thanks
Gavin KD7GJB

CARS BOD MEETING MINUTES

9 / 25 / 07

Attendees:

Keith KG4 ZXX Paul K4PRB Jim KG4WOJ
Bill WF4R Jim WB4UVH

Meeting called to order at 7:45 pm.

Minutes of the previous meeting were not read, by preference of the BOD.

Jim WB4UVH moved that new hams will be offered memberships at half the normal quarterly prorated dues in the first, second, and third quarters, and no dues in the fourth quarter. Seconded and approved.

The BOD concurred that frequencies to be used for the Battle of Great Bridge Special Event operation will be 7.275, 14.275, 21.375, and 146.820 mHz.

Keith KG4ZXX moved to pursue scheduled VE test sessions quarterly.
Seconded and approved.

A letter dated August 30, 2007 from Ruth Bigio, KB4LIF, was received on September 22, 2007, in response to the BOD's letter of August 20, 2007 to her.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

CARS CLUB MEETING MINUTES 10 / 1 / 07

Meeting called to order 7:40 pm

Previous minutes were not read due to absence of the Club Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: presented by Jim, WB4UVH

Public Service: Jim Hardee WB4UVH announced the Tour De Cure event is scheduled for 29 April '08.

Communications Officer: Jim Rogers KG4WOJ announced a program for the upcoming shack day will be experimenting with operating via simplex and using J poles to simulate conditions when permanent antennas and repeaters may not be available.

New Business:

Slate of candidates for 08:

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------|
| President: | Paul Buckwalter | K4PRB |
| Vice Pres: | Gavin Wright | KD7GJB |
| Secretary: | Marshall Denny | AI4CM |
| Treasurer: | Barry Priddy | K5VIP |
| Comm.Off: | Sean Gorman | W5CDR |

No other candidates were offered from the floor despite the President's request for such. The existing slate of candidates was approved by unanimous acclamation.

Tracy Wood K7OU gave a presentation of Free To Air (FTA) television. This was another fine example of media available to anyone interested in exploring less popular portions of the spectrum. Tracy's presentation was enjoyed and found to be very interesting by all present.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

The Spectrum

Monthly newsletter of the Chesapeake
Amateur Radio Service (CARS)

Post Office Box 6867
Chesapeake, VA 23323-6867

<http://www.w4car.org>

Email: w4car@arrl.net

Newsletter Editor: Gavin Wright-KD7GJB

Webmaster: Sean Gorman - W5CDR

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

President: Paul Buckwalter K4PRB

Vice President: Gavin Wright KD7GJB

Secretary: Marshall Denny AI4CM

Treasurer: Barry Priddy K5VIP

Communications Officer

Sean Gorman W5CDR

Past President:

Keith Ainsley KG4ZXK

Public Service Coordinator:

Jim Hardee WB4UVH

Repeater Committee Chairman:

Bill Runyon WF4R