

Davie County ARC

February Meeting

Volume 2, Issue 2

Officer elections and Constitution Changes

Everyone should attend the February meeting because this is when officers will be elected for 2007. At this time the nominations are: President—John Dwiggins, N4QVM, Vice President—Ben Wasilauskas, K4GHS, and Secretary/Treasurer—Norma George, KI4ADD. This is the last chance to nominate someone, even yourself. Voting will take place at the beginning of the meeting and the new

officers will assume their duties at that time.

Also at the February meeting we will discuss certain changes to the constitution and then vote on those changes. The main change to be decided is the process of adding new members to the club. The other changes are minor changes to correct wording and misspellings. Come on out and cast your vote, it's your club. See you at the meeting.

Sunspot Cycles and DX

Anyone that operates on HF probably knows that the sunspot cycle affects propagation on the HF bands. Without getting into a technical explanation we'll just say that the energy given off by the sun energizes the atmosphere so that it reflects radio signals back to the ground. For that reason DX'ers are very interested in sunspot cycles.

The latest prediction from NOAA is that this cycle will bottom out in August of this year. That prediction is based on solar flux hitting a low in August, 2007. On the other hand the predicted sunspot number low is in March. These are just predictions, but everyone agrees that sometime this year we will hit bottom, and then start back up. How will this affect DX'ers?

For several more months it will be a fight to work rare DX. There was an operation from Lakshadweep Is. last month that had very short openings to the US on the upper bands. Since this was the number two country on the Most Wanted list there were thousands of DX'ers crammed into two hour openings fighting it out for a contact. Three or four years from now, if the next solar peak is as high as expected, there should be bands open to that part of the world all day. With more bands to chose from, and openings that last from several hours up to all day, there will be less crowding, less frustration, and much more enjoyment. For those that will soon receive HF privileges you've got a couple years to get ready. Then hold on to your hats!

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Special points of interest:

- Contact John at n4qvm@n4qvm.com
- Contact James at ki4bjr@yadtel.net
- Dues for 2007 due
- Morse Code requirement to be dropped Feb 23

January Meeting Minutes

2 January 2007 Present were John Dwiggins—N4QVM, Buddy Eaton—KG4DKN, Don Cassidy—KG4IUC, Wilson Sparks—KF4ISF, Norma George—KI4ADD, James George—KI4BJR, Ben Wasilauskas—K4GHS, David Pinnix—KO4XV, Robert Kassel—N2DMC, and a visitor Neil Brock—KD4UMQ

Treasury Report—There is \$44.00 in the treasury.

Nothing has been heard from the ARRL about our club affiliation application so it will be re-submitted.

Discussed the need for club officer nominations for next year, elections are at the beginning of the February meeting. Ben Wasilauskas has been nominated for Vice President. There were no other nominations.

We discussed the band changes and the new band plan. Also discussed the FCC ruling that will eliminate the CW requirement, and also will grant Technician classes licensees the same privileges as Technician Plus.

Took an informal poll to find out what bands people operate on, what their interests are. Interests include operating HF in general, some information about DX, antennas, especially dipoles. Also some interest in VHF operating such as VHF and packet. Bob Kassel volunteered to give a demonstration of APRS at a future meeting.

Discussed having an informal net on VHF or HF. Decided to try for a net on 3805 on Wednesday at 9:00.

Asked for other activities that club members may be interested in.

Bob Kassel made a motion that all new members must be voted in. The motion was seconded by James George. After some discussion the motion was tabled until the next meeting to allow some proposed changes to the constitution to be developed. Changes will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

Bob Kassel volunteered to bring equipment to a club meeting so the members can bring radios and have their frequency accuracy checked. He also volunteered to help members program used radios to use amateur frequencies. He mentioned the availability of Kenwood repeaters for approximately \$900.00.

Buddy Eaton asked if anyone was able to check into the Tar Heel Emergency Net. Iredell County is unable to check into the net during their ARES drills.

Discussed the illegal use of amateur radio by drug smugglers and others. Any amateur that hears this type of activity should report it to law enforcement immediately.

Dipole Antenna's Explained

Quiz question #2. How do you figure out the length of a 40 meter dipole? To start with we are most comfortable using feet instead of meters. One meter is 3.28 feet so 40 meters would be 131.2 feet. That is the length of one full wave on 40 meters, or 7.00 MHz. A dipole antenna is only one half wavelength long, so $131.2/2$ gives us 65.6 ft.

The common formula used to find the length of a dipole is $468/f$ where f is the frequency in MHz. For our antenna at 7.0 MHz we have $468/7.0 = 66.9$. This is much simpler than the example above, and is the formula generally used. In a perfect world, to construct the dipole you would measure out this length of wire and cut it exactly in half. Then you would connect one end of one wire to one of the feedline wires, and connect one end of the other wire to the other feedline wire.

Unfortunately we do not live in a perfect world. Things such as the height above ground, or the composition of the ground, can affect the antenna in ways that change these calculated lengths. For that reason you can cut the legs a little long and gradually trim them down to obtain minimum SWR. As an alternative you can use an antenna tuner to match the transmitter to the feedline. If you use twin lead or ladder line for the feedline and a tuner you can use the dipole on all bands above the design band.

Topics for Discussion at February Meeting

Vote for officers

Treasury Report

Discuss changes to constitution, vote on changes

Discuss the dropping of the Morse code requirement goes into effect Feb 23

NC QSO Party

Discuss trying another HF net, maybe 6m, frequencies and times

Discuss Tar Heel Emergency Net, can anyone local check into the net at 3.923 or 7.232 daily at 7:30 pm.

Discuss dipole antennas

Ask Norma for a list of all members current on dues

PRESIDENT EXPRESSES APPRECIATION TO AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

President George W. Bush has written the ARRL to recognize the just-ended Hello Amateur Radio public relations campaign and to extend "greetings to all those celebrating 100 years of voices over the airwaves." The president said the centennial of Reginald Fessenden's landmark Christmas Eve 1906 voice broadcast "opened the door for technological advances" that improved the lives of people around the world.

"I appreciate all who work in radio, and I am grateful to the Amateur Radio operators who provide emergency communications that help make our country safer and more secure," President Bush wrote. "Your good work strengthens our society and represents the American spirit."

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP, conceived and developed the Hello campaign. He says that while that initiative is formally over, ARRL public information coordinators and officers will take advantage in the new year of the momentum it generated.

"As we begin launching the new Emergency Communications campaign, the friendships and goodwill developed in Hello will aid in future promotions of Amateur Radio," Pitts commented. "For 100 years, radio in its many forms has saved lives and aided in crises. We have a great legacy and a bright future."

The grand finale of the Hello campaign December 29-30 involved special event operations from WIAW (see The ARRL Letter, Vol 26, No 02, Jan 12, 2007), WIF at Brant Rock, Massachusetts (see below), and GB1FVT in Scotland.

The theme of the ARRL's 2007 public relations initiative is "Ham Radio . . . Getting the Message Through for your Family and Community." It will focus on Amateur Radio's capability to provide reliable emergency communication when traditional systems fail or become overloaded.

From The ARRL Letter/American Radio Relay League

2007 Dues are Due

Just a simple reminder that dues for 2007 should be paid if you haven't already done so. You may pay dues at the monthly meeting or mail them to Davie County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 516, Mocksville, NC 27028.

Also at this time I would to remind everyone that the newsletter can be downloaded from both the Davie Hams Yahoo site at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/davie_hams/files/ or from the club website at www.ki4orw.org in the newsletter section.

If anyone would prefer to have the newsletter emailed to them I would be glad to do so. Just send me an email to let me know and I will add you to the email list. If you do not have internet access and would like to have the newsletter mailed to you send me a note with your address on it and I will see what I can do. John Dwiggins, PO Box 970, Coolemees, NC 27014

February Meeting

Davie County Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 516
Mocksville, NC 27028

Next meeting is 6 February at 7:00 pm at
the Davie County Hospital

We're on the web at
www.daviearc.org
www.ki4orw.org

Monthly meetings are the first Tuesday
of every month.



The Davie County Amateur Radio Club was formed on August 16, 2005.

DCARC was formed for two reasons. First, there was no amateur radio club in Davie County, and second, there was a need and desire to form an ARES group in Davie County.

We would like to welcome any amateurs in Davie County or surrounding counties to attend meetings, and if you are interested, become a member.

Club officers for 2006 are:

President John Dwiggin N4QVM

Vice President James George KI4BJR

Sec/Treasurer Norma George KI4ADD

Odds and Ends

PACKET RADIO STUDY GROUP

Although many areas have effective local packet networks, effective statewide communications is more of a challenge. Section Emergency Coordinator, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, is leading a study team on the use of packet radio for emergency communications in North Carolina. The study will analyze the current state of packet networks in the section, identify gaps, and develop a plan for the future. If you have input you'd like to offer, contact me at n4ib@arrl.org or Bernie at wa4mok@arrl.net.

IT'S OFFICIAL! MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT ENDS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. Effective that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective.

LEAGUE ROLLS OUT EMERGENCY RADIO PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN, WEB SITE

"Ham Radio . . . Getting the message through for your family and community" is the theme of the League's 2007 public relations campaign. The "Emergency Radio" Web site <http://www.emergency-radio.org/> debuted this week. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP, says the 2007 PR initiative picks up the momentum ARRL public information officers started during the just-ended "Hello" campaign.

The North Carolina QSO party is coming up. The date and time is 1700 UTC Feb. 25 until 0300 UTC Feb. 26. NC QSO party details are available at www.w4nc.com/2007ncqsoparty.html