

# Davie County ARC

June Meeting

Volume 1, Issue 4

## Field Day a Success

First I would like to thank everyone that helped in the set up and tear down for Field Day on Friday and Saturday, and those that operated on Saturday. Also a thank you to those that came by and visited during the operation.

It was miserable hot and humid Friday and we all looked like we had been caught in a thunderstorm by the time we were finished. Fortunately the actual thunderstorm didn't arrive until after we had finished, I ran into it on the way home.

We ended up with three HF stations operating on Saturday using four different antennas. Jack had a battery operated station set up in the shade at the back of the parking lot. The antenna he was using

was a short G5RV and it seemed to be working like a top when I walked over to visit.

In the area behind the hospital building we had two stations operating using an 80 meter dipole, a Hustler vertical and a 40/20 inverted V using a homemade push up pole for the center support.

We had several visitors, both hams and non-hams, and hopefully we will get a new club member or two. We called it a success; we set up three station, we made contacts, and we had some interested visitors. Not bad for a first time out, not bad at all.

There are some pictures inside showing some of the activities.

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### Special points of interest:

- Contact John at [n4qvm@n4qvm.com](mailto:n4qvm@n4qvm.com)
- Contact James at [ki4bjr@yadtel.net](mailto:ki4bjr@yadtel.net)
- August 19 -- The Davie County Emergency Communications Group will work with the county Chamber of Commerce during the Mocksville Daniel Boone Family Festival.

## How Many DX'ers in the Club?

In past issues I've included information about emergency communications, being prepared for bad weather or other disasters, and Field Day.

Being a DX'er myself I wonder how many other members also chase DX. I know there are at least a couple. Let me know if are a serious DX'er, or casual about it. How many countries have you worked total and how many of the current countries do you still need? What kind of station do you have?

If there is enough interest maybe I can add some articles about upcoming DXpeditions to those needed places or other DX related subjects.

At the July meeting I will have a video of an earlier DXpedition to Peter 1 Island. If there is time at the end of the meeting we will watch this video to get a look at what it's like on the other end of the pileup. There are two videos on the tape, each one about 25 minutes long.

## Meeting Minutes

6 June 2006

In attendance were John Dwigins—N4QVM, Norma George—K14ADD, James George—K14BJR, Jack Davidson—NW4O, Don Cassidy—KG4IUC, David Pinnix—KO4XV, Buddy Eaton KG4DKN, Ben Wasilauskas—K4GHS, Glen Everest—N4LV, Jimmy Johnson—N4YR, and Les Pinnix—N4YSB

Since the July meeting falls on July 4<sup>th</sup> it was voted that the meeting will be July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Dwayne Smith, will be offering ICS classes when their new building is completed. As of now we do not know the length of the class.

Talked about learning how to handle traffic by listening to the CC Traffic Net(146.82), The heaviest traffic is on Thursday night.

You can monitor the frequency for hurricanes.

John Dwigins has the tracking maps if anyone wants one.

Jimmy Johnson, asked to have the floor. He offered repeaters that could be operated. Said he would donate the equipment and time. Also he is a VE tester.

We put the finishing touches on field day, which is June 24.

Start setting up for field day June 23 at 2 pm.

Jack Davidson said a few words about emergency services.

## John's Station

Sorry, no picture of this one. My station used a laptop to run a SignalLink soundcard interface to work the digital modes. Unfortunately I did not have time to use the laptop to work digital before Field Day, so of course after I got it set up it didn't work. Well, it didn't work on RTTY. For whatever reason it would key the transmitter, but it would not generate the RTTY tones. It worked fine for sending CW, so I worked that mode for a little while. The antenna I used was the Inverted V on the push-up pole. I did work stations in California, Texas and Oklahoma so the antenna worked fine. When I brought everything back home and set it back up in the shack it worked fine, just like it always has. When I get time I will find out why it wouldn't work with the laptop.

## ICS Training

Les Pinnix has talked to Dwayne Smith about teaching ICS classes. The classes will be taught in the training room at the EMS building, which is across the parking lot from the hospital. If you are interested in doing any kind of emergency work you will need to take these courses. The latest date I have heard is that you must have these classes by October of this year.

The classes will be taught sometime in August. Some of you have already emailed me and indicated that you want to attend the classes. If you have not contacted me to let me know that you are interested in the classes please do so soon so I can forward the list to Dwayne.

The last information I have is that they will require a total class time of about 16 hours. The classes could be done in 4 evenings or 2 Saturdays. Let me know when you would prefer to take the classes and we will see if Dwayne can work it out to give them then. I will add the information to the web site as I get it so you can check there for updates.

## Les Chillin'

Here's Les chilling on Saturday morning. When I arrived around 11:00 he already had put up the Hustler vertical, run the ground wires for two operating stations, set up the tables and kicked back. You can't see it in the picture, but there was a fan blowing on him at the time. Now that is being prepared! By noon on Saturday you already needed the fan.



Les also had a small TV so we could keep an eye on the thunderstorms that were moving around the area. We never did get rained on, but for a while the clouds looked kind of threatening.

That's Les's rig in the picture. He alternated between the vertical antenna and the dipole, both seemed to give satisfactory results. He worked stations in Ohio, Wisconsin and Canada.

Les, please pass on the club's thanks to the hospital for providing us with a nice place to set up for Field Day. It was appreciated.

## Jack's Battery Powered Station



This is Jack's battery powered HF station. The antenna was the short G5RV, which he said was working like a charm. Jack worked stations to the west, like California, Oregon, and Arizona.

You can see the top of the battery and power distribution panel behind the table. On the table are the rig, SWR/power meter and keyer. I didn't look too closely before, but it looks like a Bencher paddle in the lower left. I've always wanted one, but never seem to get around to ordering it. Maybe soon.

## Jack and Ben Setting Up Jack's Station



Here are Jack and Ben putting the finishing touches on Jack's station. I believe they are hooking up the ground wire to the ground rod. Getting the ground rod in was the easy part. The hard part was getting it back out at the end of the day. That involved blocks of wood and a car jack.

Notice how shady it is here! I think Jack had the coolest operating position. Sitting in the shade, a little breeze blowing, I don't know how he kept from falling asleep. Just kidding Jack, it was hot everywhere.

## June Meeting

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

Next meeting is 11 July at 7:00 pm

We're on the web at  
[www.daviearc.org](http://www.daviearc.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 Dwiggins N4QVM

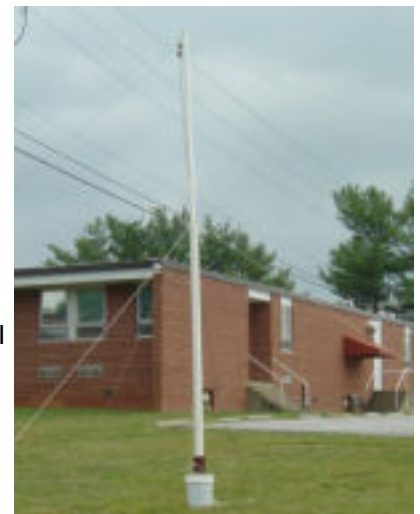
Vice President James George KI4BJR

Sec/Treasurer Norma George KI4ADD

## Two of the Field Day Antennas



These are two of the antennas Les and I used. The one on the left is a Hustler 6BTV, which stands for 6 Band Trap Vertical. I don't know who Les worked on the vertical, but I have one just like it at home and it works pretty good. The 6BTV works on 80, 40, 30, 20, 15, and 10 meters. The one I have at home doesn't have the 30 meter trap. I haven't had it long enough to really try it out, but I have worked a few German stations on it. You can modify it to work on the 12 and 17 meter bands, which I plan to do to mine soon. I should get a chance to try it out this weekend because the IARU contest is this weekend and I plan to play in it.



The antenna on the right is the homemade push up mast with a 40 meter and a 20 meter dipole

mounted on it. You can just barely see the wires coming off the top in the picture if you look really hard. After I brought it home I strung it up between two trees and have worked stations in the South Pacific, South America, and Africa with it. The antenna was intended to be lightweight and easy to erect. The mast weighs about 15 pounds, add a couple more for the wires. The bucket weighs about 75 pounds. One person can put it up in about 30 minutes.