

Davie County ARC

March Meeting

Volume 2, Issue 3

New Officers

Elections were held at the February meeting and the club officers for 2007 are: President John Dwiggins N4QVM, Vice-President Ben Wasilauskas K4GHS, Secretary/Treasurer Norma George KI4ADD and Member at Large James George KI4BJR.

Next year elections will be held at the January meeting with the officers

serving from February 1 until January 31. This will allow the new officers to have a full month to prepare for taking office. This change requires a modification of the Constitution and By Laws, which was pointed out at the last meeting. For that reason voting on the changes was postponed until the March meeting. Please attend to cast your vote.

ARRL Outgoing Bureau, Incoming Bureau

Before the February meeting there was some discussion of the ARRL QSL bureau and how it operates. The bureau services are divided into two parts. The outgoing bureau is at ARRL headquarters and is one of the services provided to members.

To use the outgoing bureau you sort your cards alphabetically by the parent callsign prefix. For example, all cards for English callsigns such as G, M, 2E, etc, would go together under the G prefix.

To use the outgoing bureau you must be an ARRL member and send proof of membership with your cards. The cost is \$5.00 for a half pound, \$10.00 for a pound, etc. See more details at the

ARRL web site <http://www.arrl.org/qs/qsout.html> This service is for DX QSL cards only, no domestic cards.

The incoming bureaus are divided by call areas. Which bureau you use is determined by the number in your callsign. For the 4 call area there are actually two bureaus, one for single letter prefixes and one for double letter prefixes. If you have a number other than 4 in your call you use the bureau for your number regardless of where you live. Contact information for all bureaus can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/qs/qslin.html>

Select the bureau that services your call and follow the directions. Again, DX cards only.

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Special points of interest:

- Contact John at n4qvm@n4qvm.com
- Contact Ben at bwasilau@triad.rr.com
- Rhombic antennas p.2
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February Meeting Minutes

6 February 2007 Present were John Dwiggin—N4QVM, Buddy Eaton—KG4DKN, Don Cassidy—KG4IUC, Wilson Sparks—KF4ISF, Kathy Sparks—KF4EKZ, Norma George—K14ADD, James George—K14BJR, Ben Wasilauskas—K4GHS, Les Pinnix—N4YSR, Bob Kassel—N2DMC

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

Kathy Sparks made a motion to accept additional nominations for club officers, Don Cassidy seconded the motion. It was voted on and the motion carried. There were no additional nominations.

As there was only one nomination for each office all three officers were voted on with one vote. The officers for 2007 are: President—John Dwiggin, N4QVM Vice President—Ben Wasilauskas, K4GHS Secretary/Treasurer—Norma George, K14ADD

There was considerable discussion on changes for the Constitution and By-Laws. It was decided to postpone voting on the changes until the March meeting so more time could be devoted to the task. The changes will be posted on the Yahoo site and www.ki4orw.org for members to review before the March meeting. The changes will be voted on at the March meeting.

There was discussion on the dropping of the Morse code requirement that goes into effect February 23

It was announced that there will be a test session on February 24 at the Dobson Fire Dept meeting hall.

The date and time for the NC QSO party was announced.

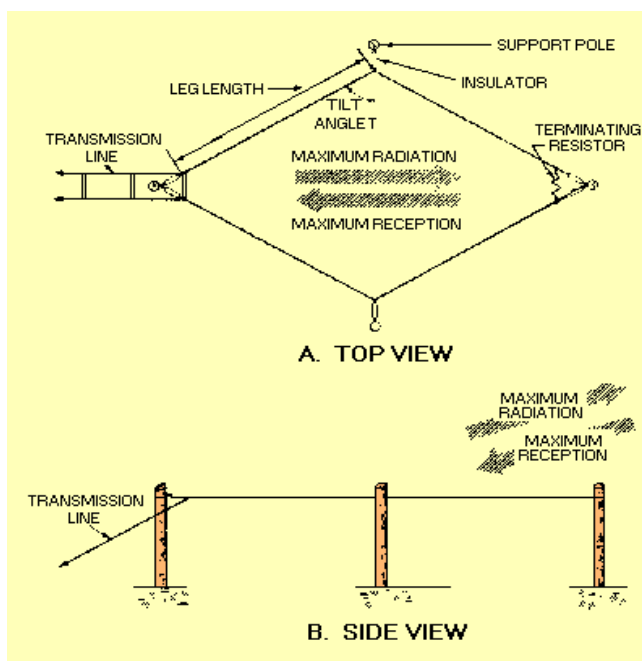
There was some discussion about trying another HF net, but no time or frequency was decided on.

There was some discussion of dipole antennas.

Barry Norman mentioned that there is a repeater on 442.025 that has little use and he encouraged members to make use of it.

Bob Kassel suggested having a small hamfest.

Rhombic Antenna's Explained



At the last meeting there were some questions about Rhombic antennas. The picture shows the standard design though it is not to scale. In most rhombic antennas each of the 4 legs will be at least one or two wavelengths long at the lowest operating frequency. If increased gain is desired the legs will need to be longer, sometimes up to 8 to 12 wavelengths. This means that the wires in a rhombic antenna can be several hundred feet long.

If you have the room for a rhombic it does have benefits. It is useful over a wide range of frequencies and if constructed correctly will have gain and directivity. Since it is made from wire it is easy to construct and you only need four supports, one at each corner.

If you have the room it is worth the effort to build a rhombic. Just do a google search on the words rhombic antenna and get the fine details.

Topics for Discussion at March Meeting

Treasury Report

Discuss changes to constitution, vote on changes

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

Discuss rhombic antennas

Discuss Incoming/Outgoing QSL Bureaus

Ask Norma for a list of all members current on dues

Discuss Field Day, start planning.

Maybe move July meeting to Field Day, have cookout to avoid July 4 holiday

Roof Top Tripod Mount



Looking for an inexpensive way to mount a beam antenna? With the cheapest towers costing several hundred dollars you may want to consider a roof mount tripod. True it will not get the antenna as high as a tower, but the cost is much less. The tripod in the photos was purchased at Radio Shack for about \$40.00. Add to that a 5 foot mast for about \$11.00 and you have a mount for around \$50.00.

If you want to add a rotator you will need to add that cost, plus a second mast. The picture shows a TV rotator used to rotate an HF tri-band beam and a 2 meter three element beam. This is more load than should be used with this rotator and at times the rotor and the control become unsynchronized. Also a strong wind such as we have had recently will at times turn the antenna and you will have to re-sync the control.

The tripod attaches to the roof with 2 lag bolts through each foot. There is a sealant supplied with the mount, but I took the added precaution of adding a layer of silicon around all cracks. On the inside of the roof I added a 2X4 cross member between the rafter for each bolt. So far the antenna has survived some strong winds, and there are no leaks.



Upcoming DXpeditions

Here we are at the bottom of the sunspot cycle and all the rare DX entities are coming on. A couple months ago VU7 Lakshadweep Islands, the #2 most wanted country out of 338, was on. Now, in a few days 9M4SDX Spratly Is, the #36 most wanted entity will be on for about 10 days, March 10–19. Brunei, # 100, will be on March 8–12. The Solomon Islands, #88, should be on from now until April 25. In the May/June time frame Rotuma Island, #58 should be on. In late April Scarborough Reef, the #1 most wanted entity will be on. All of this rare DX at the very bottom of the cycle really makes you long for the good old days when the bands were open around the clock. Well, it may be the bottom of the cycle, but at least it's not going to be boring.

March Meeting

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

Next meeting is 6 March 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 2007 are:

President John Dwiggin N4QVM

Vice President Ben Wasilauskas K4GHS

Sec/Treasurer Norma George KI4ADD

Odds and Ends

As I was working on this issue I was watching the TV series Enterprise. For those that don't know what that is, it is the last series developed in the Star Trek family, which took place in time before the original Star Trek from the late 1960's. It just happened that one of the episodes tonight had one of the crew members using Morse code to send a message to the ship's captain. So, all you CW fans will be happy to know that CW survives into the 22nd century, at least on TV.

Most people don't realize that Morse code made it into a lot of the Star Trek series. In ST The Next Generation many of the control panels used a series of long and short bars inspired by Morse code. The Borg, the greatest villains in TNG had blinking lights on their bodies. They were part people, part machine for those that don't know. The lights supposedly blink in Morse code, a different message for each individual. Since I am not good at visual code I have a hard time reading the messages. I don't recall any specific instances of the series Voyager, the third spin off of ST, using Morse code but I feel sure they did. A lot of the production people involved with all of the Star Trek incarnations were hams, so they stuck CW related material in when they could.

To expand into movies many of you probably have heard of the movie Frequency, where a son and father communicate across time using an old Heathkit ham radio. It's been a while since I saw the movie, but I think they were using 15 meters. I've made quite a few contacts over the years, but never one with someone in the 60's. In the science fiction hit Independence Day they save the world by communicating around the world using "old Morse code" as one of the characters said. Interestingly enough, in another Will Smith movie they use CW to make the sounds for a spy satellite. The satellite is calling CQ over and over. The movie is Enemy of the State. Ah, CW, immortalized in film.