

Davie County ARC

March Meeting

Volume 1, Issue 1

Field Day Participation

At the March meeting we discussed participating in Field Day this year. After talking about several possible sites where we could set up the best site seems to be in the back parking lot at the Davie County Hospital. There are several advantages to using this site, the main one being that it will not cost the club anything. It will also place us in an easily accessible location for possible served agencies to drop by and get an idea of how we could set up and operate in remote locations.

Even though this seems to be the best location for us to set up for Field Day it has not been definitely decided on yet. This will be voted on at the April 4 meeting. If you would like to participate in Field Day you are encouraged to attend the April meeting.

It has been suggested that since this will be our first Field Day that we only operate on Saturday and tear back down late that evening. This option is still open for discussion and will depend on how many operators we

have and how long they are willing to operate.

There should also be a Field Day committee set up at the April meeting. The purpose of this meeting would be to decide what modes and bands we would operate during Field Day. This would depend on what radios and antennas we can obtain, and who will be available to operate.

Items that will be needed include radios, feedline and antennas for HF and VHF/UHF. Antennas will need some type of support that is easy to set up. Operating modes can be CW, voice and digital. Tables and chairs will also be needed, along with paper and pencils for logging. Generators and drop cords will be needed to provide and distribute power.

This will also be a good opportunity to introduce non-hams to the hobby. A person does not have to be licensed to operate a station as long as a licensed control operator is present.

Tuesday Night ARES Net

The Tuesday night net has had very little participation lately and it was questioned at the March meeting if it should be discontinued. If the net is to continue there need to be volunteers for Net Control and check-ins.

A few ideas were tossed around at the March meeting on how to increase net participation. One idea was changing the time and/or night

of the net if a more suitable time can be found. If you have any suggestions please attend the April meeting and share them, or email them to John at n4qvm@n4qvm.com.

Another suggestion was to have members check in to established nets until such time as we have more members interested in having our own net.

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Special points of interest:

- *We need Net Controls for the Tuesday night net*
- *A Field Day committee should be formed at the next meeting to handle preparations*
- *The next meeting is at 7:00 on April 4*

March Minutes

In attendance were John Dwiggins – N4QVM, Ben Wasilauskas – K4GHS, Les Pinnix – N4YSB, Buddy Easton – KG4DKN, Don Cassidy – KG4IUC, Bob Kassel – N2DMC

The 440 repeater is on hold until things get worked out about which tower it will be located on. There is a chance that it will be on a tower located beside the EMS building.

The club call sign application will probably be completed at the next meeting.

There is a county wide drill coming up. Les will look into it to find out when it is and if it will be possible for the club to participate in some way. Also the hospital has drills of their own from time to time and we may want to participate in some of those.

Les Pinnix and Bob Kassel said they could help members obtain low priced 440 rigs so they will be able to use the new 440 repeater without spending a lot of money.

We may need a club ID for members to use when they provide Em Comm that is acceptable by different county agencies.

Field Day - the best bet may be to have it in the back parking lot at the hospital. We discussed only doing Saturday and tearing back down that evening.

Yahoo announcements - Some people are somewhat annoyed with the yahoo announcements, especially since two of them are for a net every Tuesday and no one seems interested in the net. It was also brought up that there is very little participation in the net and does it need to be continued. If it is continued there needs to be more participation.

We discussed having meetings at a place to eat from time to time.

We lightly discussed ARRL affiliation. There is a small benefit to the club and I plan to have more information about it at the next meeting.

We watched two short movies about emergency communications.

Increasing Membership

There needs to be an effort to increase membership, and to increase participation for current members. One thing that can be done to increase attendance is to have a short program at each meeting. At the March meeting we saw two short videos about emergency communications and there will be other short videos at future meetings. Hopefully from time to time someone can give a demonstration on different aspects of ham radio.

The ARRL has announced the “Hello” campaign which is intended to help non-hams learn a little about Amateur Radio and to arouse interest. There is an associated web site at <http://www.hello-radio.org/> There are also 4 page brochures available for free, but a donation to cover shipping is appreciated. Bumper stickers are available for \$2.00 each.



Field Day Video at Next Meeting

At the April meeting we will watch a video about Field Day, length about 25 minutes. Hopefully this will provide a little of the experience of Field Day for those that have never participated. Field Day is different things to different people, but the main theme is for clubs and individuals to have a chance to operate under emergency conditions without the emergency. If you haven't made up your mind about joining us for field day the video may answer some of your questions about what it is like. For others it may serve as a review.

Join us at the April 4 meeting as we discuss the coming field day and see if there is a part you want to play. You may want to help erect the antennas or bring a generator to power the radios. Or you may be interested in operating the radios. Whatever your interest there will be a spot for you.



Meeting Programs

Several people have mentioned at recent meetings that they would like to see a program at the meetings. The first few meetings were mainly concerned with getting the club established and operating, and I think that occupied most peoples time. Now that the club has settled into a routine it is time to start thinking about ways to make the club meetings more interesting. If the meetings are more interesting there will probably be more members attending meetings, and it will be easier to interest others in becoming hams and joining the club.

If you have an idea for a program that you can present at one of the meetings please contact either John Dwiggins by email at n4qvm@n4qvm.com or by phone at 336-284-2420, or James George at ki4bjr@yadtel.net. We will schedule you for a meeting date to give your presentation so we don't have several people ready to present at the same meeting, and other meetings not have any programs. Any topic dealing with Amateur Radio is welcome and I am sure others will enjoy hearing about some aspect of radio that you enjoy. Many of us only operate one or two modes. Others only operate HF or VHF/UHF. Some may operate the digital modes while to others it is a complete mystery. This is your opportunity to share your favorite operating modes with the rest of us, and teach us how to enjoy another aspect of amateur radio.

If there is a particular aspect of amateur radio that you would like to learn more about let us know that also and we will try to find someone to present a program on that topic. If we can't find someone to give a presentation there may be a video that we can watch that will answer general questions.

Newsletter Feedback

When DCARC was first formed one of the things that some people wanted to see was a club newsletter. The first few meetings were taken up mostly with getting the club up and running and the idea of a newsletter was put on the back burner. Not everyone is able to attend the meetings and in an effort to keep those members informed about how the club is progressing this is a first attempt at a newsletter. Included here is information on what has taken place at recent meetings, mostly the March meeting. As you can see the club is planning on participating in field day, having short programs at the monthly meetings, finding ways to increase membership in the club and increasing participation of the members.

I would appreciate feedback from the members about the club in general, and this newsletter in particular. If there is some activity you would like to see the club more involved with let us know. Do you like this first edition of the newsletter, or is there something you would like to see changed. You can reach me via email at n4qvm@n4qvm.com or by telephone at 336-284-2420. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Update on 440 Repeater

The 440 repeater project is on hold for the moment. There is the possibility that the antenna will be mounted on a tower beside the EMS building. At the moment there is a construction project taking place and it is my understanding that the tower will be constructed at this time.

The EMS building has emergency backup power so the repeater would remain operational during power outages. If the repeater is placed at the hospital there is emergency backup power there also. Since either location has backup power and the two towers are only a short distance apart it is mainly a question of where the antenna would fit in best with the least chance of interfering with other operations that use the towers.

There is the possibility that this repeater will be linked with another 440 repeater and also with a 2 meter repeater. Linking with other repeaters will increase the coverage area. Hopefully we will get an update at the April meeting.

March Meeting

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

We're on the web at
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

Tornado Season

Last year, the National Weather Service issued 57 tornado warnings and recorded more than 25 tornadoes in North Carolina. Tornadoes usually form during heavy thunderstorms when warm, moist air is lifted in advance of cold fronts. Large hail and strong winds often accompany the kind of thunderstorms that spawn tornadoes. The National Weather Center also issued 116 flash flood warnings and recorded more than 400 incidents of severe thunderstorms with winds of 60 miles per hour, some with large hail.

Listen to the radio, local television, weather channel or a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) radio for information on any severe weather in your area. A watch means conditions are right for tornado formation; a warning means a tornado has actually been sighted. Go to the lowest level and inner rooms. If a tornado threatens, the safest place to be is underground in a basement or storm cellar. If you have no basement, go to an inner hallway or smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Do not open or close windows. Stay away from them. Stay away from skylights and large open areas. Stay out of gymnasiums, auditoriums and other rooms with a large expanse of roof. Try to find something sturdy you can get under to protect yourself from flying debris or a collapsed roof. Crouch on the floor in the egg position. Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Mobile homes If severe weather threatens seek other shelter. Even mobile homes with tie-downs are not safe from high winds. Know beforehand where you can go for safe shelter whenever the weather turns bad.

If you are outside Lie on the ground, in a ditch or depression if possible. Use your arms to protect your head and neck and wait for the storm to pass. While waiting, be alert for the flash floods that sometimes accompany tornadoes. Do not try to outrun a tornado in a car. A tornado can toss cars and trucks around like toys. If you see a funnel cloud or hear a tornado warning issued, get out of your vehicle and find safe shelter immediately.