

Davie County ARC

May Meeting

Volume 2, Issue 4

Daniel Boone Family Festival

According to the Calendar of Events on the Chamber of Commerce web site there will be a Daniel Boone Festival this year. The information is a little confusing, in the Details section it says beginning August 24 but in the Description it says beginning August 25. I hope to have more information before the May meeting.

Last year there were several people interested in setting up a booth at the festival if it was held again this year. If there is still any interest in this it is something we need to start planning for.

If you are interested in taking part we need to form a planning committee and start working on the details.

Field Day Preparation

As I mentioned at the last meeting we are coming up on Field Day again. Including the May meeting there are only two meetings before FD, so we need to start planning for it now.

At the April meeting we discussed Field Day and started talking about what we need to do. If you want to participate there will be things you can do, from helping to erect the antennas to operating during the event.

The first thing that needs to be determined is how long we will operate.

Last year we only operated for a few hours on Saturday. There was a lot of time invested in setting up and tearing down to only operate a few hours. This year we should think about oper-

ating at least through Saturday night. So the first thing we need is operators.

Second we will need volunteers to set up and take down the antennas and operating positions. Some of these will probably be the operators, but extra help will be appreciated.

Third we will need equipment. This includes radios, antennas, coax, and antenna tuners if required. For wire antennas we will also need rope to hold the antennas up.

We should also consider moving the July meeting to Field Day and having a cookout or picnic Saturday evening.

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Special points of interest:

- Contact John at n4qvm@n4qvm.com
- Contact Ben at bwasilau@triad.rr.com
- Daniel Boone Special Event Operation p.2
- Upcoming DXpeditions p.3
- Shady Grove demonstration p.4–5

March Meeting Minutes

6 March 2007 Present were John Dwiggins—N4QVM, Buddy Eaton—KG4DKN, Don Cassidy—KG4IUC, Wilson Sparks—KF4ISF, Kathy Sparks—KF4EKZ, Norma George—KI4ADD, James George—KI4BJR, Ben Wasilauskas—K4GHS, Les Pinnix—N4YSR, Bob Kassel—N2DMC, Mike Scherback a visitor

Kathy Sparks made a motion to accept the Constitution and By-Laws changes, it was seconded by Ben Wasilauskas. The motion was voted on and passed.

Repeater update—everything is pretty much ready, just waiting on a good time

There is a Thursday night net on 146.730 at 9:00 by the Rowan club

Some members of DCARC are meeting on 28.400 at 7:00 Thursday nights

Talked some about Field Day, maybe move July meeting to Field Day Saturday

Talked about setting up a station at Shady Grove school fair on April 23

April Meeting Minutes

3 April 2007 Present were John Dwiggins—N4QVM, Buddy Eaton—KG4DKN, Don Cassidy—KG4IUC, Ben Wasilauskas—K4GHS, Bob Kassel—N2DMC, Harold Fuller WB4ADC a visitor

Talked a little about emergency communications and the need for planning

Some members brought examples of their QSL cards, and some DX cards

Discussed the Thursday night 10 meter net

Talked about providing communications at the Shamrock run

Did some planning for the Shady Grove School event

Daniel Boone Special Event Operation

After the Daniel Boone Family Festival last year I mentioned that our club may want to have a Daniel Boone special event operation this year. There was also some interest in the club setting up a booth at the festival if they have one this year. Although it would be several months until the festival if there is one this year, it is not too early to start thinking about it. The first thing we need to do is find out if there will be a festival, and then decide if we still want to have a booth there.

For the special event station we will need some time to come up with a special QSL card, and possibly a certificate. Those things take a little time to design and get printed. Since we do not have a club operating station we will have to operate from our own stations, or possibly set up a station similar to a Field Day operation. These are the types of things that will have to be decided and working out the details will take time.

In the past the Rowan County club has operated special events with the members operating from their home stations. To avoid confusion from having two stations operating on the same band and mode at the same time they use a schedule. Each operator will select the days and times they want to operate. It usually works out just fine.

One possible period of operation would be from October 22 until Nov 2. Daniel always said his birthday was Oct 22, but after the calendar was changed years ago his birthday fell on Nov 2. More about that later.

Topics for Discussion at April Meeting

Treasury Report

Discuss HF net on 28400 at 7:00 on Thursdays

Ask Norma for a list of all members current on dues

Discuss Field Day, start planning, need volunteers to do planning

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

Discuss doing a special event for Daniel Boone this year, need dates and operators. What bands and modes are people interested in working. Need ideas for QSL card for event

Does anyone have something to do for a meeting program

Need ideas, suggestions for meeting programs

Armed Forces Day Crossband communications

Are we going to set up a booth at the Daniel Boone Family Festival this year

Digital Operation—SSTV



How would you like to be able to send pictures like the one on the left to your radio friends using amateur radio? The picture on the left was taken from a web site and was captured on 40 meters and took approximately 70 seconds to receive. If conditions are good you can copy this quality of pictures. If conditions are less ideal the picture quality will suffer.

To be able to send and receive SSTV all you need is a computer sound card interface like the Signalink pictured below and SSTV software. To connect the Signalink

to your computer sound card you will need two stereo audio cables with 3.5 mm stereo plugs installed. The installation instructions are very clear and the installation is very simple. The software I use is MixW available at <http://www.mixw.net/downloads.htm>

The Signalink is available at <http://www.tigertronics.com/> and a list of digital SSTV nets is available at <http://www.tima.com/~djones/dignet.txt>



Upcoming DXpeditions

In the March issue I mistakenly stated that there are 338 entities on the DXCC list. That is wrong, the current number is 337, sorry for the mistake.

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. As I write this the team has reached Scarborough Reef and should begin erecting the stations soon.

Even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle there are plenty of opportunities to work DX. In a recent 7 day period I worked 4 new entities, 3 on 40 meters and 1 on 30 meters. A little over a month ago I worked the Falkland Islands on 10 meters so the bands do open up some even at the bottom of the cycle.

Shady Grove School Demonstration April 23



Bob Kassel N2DMC, Ben Wasilauskas K4GHS and John Dwiggins N4QVM went to the Shady Grove School fair on April 23 and set up an Amateur Radio demonstration station.

This was like a mini-Field Day. All the equipment was powered by a generator supplied by Bob. There were two operating stations, one HF and one 2 meter.



The HF station used a G5RV antenna that was strung between a tall tree and a portable pole that consisted of 6 sections. The VHF antenna was simply a mobile antenna on top of Bob's vehicle.



Unfortunately there was a lot of noise on the HF rig that we never did eliminate. The noise all but made it impossible to make contacts. The VHF rig did provide contacts, one of which was with a trucker through the Charlotte repeater



By far the most interesting part of the display for the students was the rig set up with a straight key to demonstrate Morse code. Each student received a print out of the code for all the letters and numbers.



You can see some of the students in the pictures using the key to send their names in code. Some of them needed a little help figuring out the letters, and some of them looked at the print out and sent things besides their name. Many of them learned how to send SOS in code. I was amazed at the interest shown in CW and at how many students considered it "Cool" to send code.

May Meeting

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

Next meeting is 1 May 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

In case you haven't heard there is a postage increase to go into effect May 14. The rate for one ounce first class will go from 39 cents to 41 cents. There is also a proposal for a "forever" stamp that will always cover domestic postage first class one ounce after you buy it, no matter if the cost goes up. Before you complain about the cost of postage in the US think about this. If you send for a QSL card from someone in Germany now you must send \$3.00 US with the card to cover return postage. Due to the cost of postage from Germany, and the conversion rate of US dollars to Euros \$2.00 is no longer enough to cover the postage. Interestingly the cost of postage from Italy is half the cost from Germany.

Armed Forces Day is coming up. The military/amateur crossband communications test will take place on Saturday, May 12. If you want to participate the details can be found at <http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/docs/ARMEDFORCESDAYFinal.doc> for which frequencies the military stations will be transmitting on. You will listen for the military station on military frequencies and reply to them on amateur frequencies in adjacent bands. The military operators will announce which frequencies they are listening on. The amateur bands that will be used include 80, 40, 20, and 15 meters. Most operations will be either USB or LSB, but one station has indicated they will also use RTTY and MT63. In addition a Secretary of Defense message will be transmitted via the digital modes including RTTY, PSK-31, MT63, AMTOR FEC and PACTOR FEC.