

Davie County ARC

May Meeting

Volume 1, Issue 3

Field Day Planning

OK, I promise, this is the last article about Field Day. At the present time it looks like we will have at least 2 HF stations and probably 1 VHF/UHF station. If everything goes as planned I will have a digital station set up using a laptop and a sound card interface. This will make it possible to work RTTY and PSK31. This will be a good opportunity for some to try a new mode.

There should be Extra class operators there all day Saturday so we will be able to operate on all amateur bands. This will be a good time for Tech class operators to get a taste of HF operating, and maybe be an incentive to upgrade.

Everyone is invited to drop by and take a turn operating, or just come by to chat and check out what we are doing. Or better yet join us in planning at the club meeting on June 6. We will need people to set up the operating positions and put up the antennas at the start as well as operators.

Anyone that can bring radios, antennas or feedline please contact John or James and let us know. Later I will add a page to the club web site for Field Day that will list the items we have and what we still need. I will also list the bands and modes we plan on operating with the equipment that we expect to have.

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Special points of interest:

- Contact John at n4qvm@n4qvm.com
- Contact James at ki4bjr@yadtel.net

It's Hurricane Season Again

The 2006 hurricane season is officially underway, it started June 1 and runs until November 30. NOAA predicts an 80 percent chance of an above normal season, but it shouldn't be as devastating as the 2005 season.

While we don't usually feel the full effects of hurricanes here there are exceptions. When Hugo came through in 1989 you could still see the eye on the weather pictures when it went over Charlotte. We lucked out here and the worst of the storm went west of us hitting Iredell

County. Still, I had several trees down in the yard and was without power for about 2 days. It could have been worse, parts of Charlotte were without power for weeks.

For 2006 NOAA is predicting 13 to 16 named storms, 8 or 10 of those becoming hurricanes and out of those 4 to 6 becoming major hurricanes. Chances are we will get hit again somewhere this year. The big questions are where will it be, how bad will it be and how will it affect us here. Are you ready?

Meeting Minutes

2 May 2006

In attendance were John Dwiggin—N4QVM, Don Cassidy—KG4IUC, Les Pinnix—N4YSR, Jack Davidson—NW4O, Glenn Everest—N4LV, Ben Wasilaukas—K4GHS, Buddy Eaton—KG4DKN, Wilson Sparks—KF4ISF, Kathy Sparks—KF4EKZ

So far the operators for Field Day are Jack Davidson, Les Pinnix and John Dwiggin. (if I missed someone I apologize, remind me) Antennas will probably be dipoles, possibility a vertical. Jack volunteered to copy the ARRL bulletin and Ben volunteered to climb the tower if needed.

Les Pinnix has a packet station running on 144.770

The call sign for Jack Davidson's club in Arizona is N7VPR

ICS was discussed. ICS will be required by 2007. Les will see if Dwayne Smith can give training.

On Tuesday 9 May Jack Davidson will give a presentation about Emergency Operations.

Discussed the importance of ARRL ARECC courses. For ARES/EmCom the ARECC Level I is almost a must.

The tower for the 440 repeater will probably stay where it is now.

Les brought some examples of cheap radios that are available on Ebay.

Les brought some pictures of a small station that is set up at the hospital now.

We watched the video "The Last Voice out of Kuwait"

July Meeting Date Needs to be Changed

The usual meeting night of the first Tuesday of the month presents a problem for July. The first Tuesday is July 4th and I am sure everyone has something else planned for that day, probably the whole week. I will probably be in upstate NY that week. At the June meeting we will need to decide on an alternative date for the July meeting. You can state your preference for a date at the June meeting, or email me at n4qvm@n4qvm.com before Tuesday evening and I will submit it for you.



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 July. Hopefully there will be more information available at the meeting next week. I will add the information to the web site as I get it so you can check there for updates.

NVIS Antenna for Field Day

For Field Day I hope to have a Near Vertical Incident Skywave, or NVIS antenna with a simple push-up mast. NVIS, pronounced nee-vis, is also known as a "cloud warmer" antenna because most of the RF energy goes almost straight up, where it bounces off of the ionosphere and comes almost straight back down. For a DX'er, or anyone else interested in long distance communications this is a poor antenna. But for someone that has a need for communications going out two to four hundred miles this is a very reliable antenna. For us, located in the approximate middle of the state, a NVIS antenna will provide reliable communications over most if not all of the state. In a situation such as they had in the Gulf states last year, where many of the VHF/UHF repeaters were down, HF nets may be the best way to go.

Most HF operators have always heard that higher is better. For a NVIS antenna that is not the case. In fact one of the main points is that the antenna is low, around 20 to 25 feet seems to be most quoted height. Usually you will use 40 meters during the day and 80 meters at night. The optimum design is to have the antenna flat across the top, but an inverted V is also acceptable. I plan to use the inverted V since it only requires one high point, so it will be simpler and cheaper. The center push up mast, if it works like I plan, will be light weight and should be easy for one person to set up. I haven't assembled the mast yet so come on out and see if I get it figured out right. I will be playing with it in my backyard over the next week or two so I should have all the bugs worked out before Field Day. Hopefully it will work as advertised.

Program for June Meeting

I haven't talked to Jack Davidson yet, but he may have a short program on some aspect of EmComm or traffic handling. In case he doesn't have anything ready on such short notice, my fault, I will have a tape with two 25 minute programs on it. These videos are a change from what we have been seeing, they are about two different DXpeditions. One is the 1992 operation from the South Sandwich Islands and the other is the 1994 operation from Peter I Island.

On the South Sandwich Islands they had to share space with around one million penguins and three thousand fur seals. First order of business, cleaning up from all the un-house broken birds and seals.

Peter I is called the most isolated place on Earth, a frozen chunk of rock at the bottom of the world. Along the way you get to see King Penguins, lots of ice and lots of snow.

Local Nets

Here are a few nets you may want to monitor or check in to.

2 Meter Nets

Piedmont Emergency Training Net 145.35 - Daily 8:00 PM

Forsyth County ARES Net 145.47 - (100) W 8:30 PM

Charlotte (CLT) SKYWARN Net 145.35 - when needed

Central Carolina Traffic Net 146.82 Daily at 9:30 PM if you want to practice copying formal messages

HF Nets

Tar Heel Emergency Net 3.923 7.232 Daily 7:30 PM

Hurricane Watch Net 14.325 as needed, it's that time of the year again

I hope to soon have a list of local nets on the web site, just been too busy to do it yet.

May Meeting

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

Next meeting is 6 June at 7:00 pm

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 Dwiggin N4QVM
Vice President James George KI4BJR
Sec/Treasurer Norma George KI4ADD

Are You Prepared for an Emergency?

Are you ready for an emergency situation such as several days, or a week or more, without power and water? Here are a few things you can do to make it easier on yourself.

Have reliable transportation and fill the tank before the power goes out, if possible.

Have adequate cash on hand for regular needs and emergencies. That is CASH, not ATM or credit cards. That money machine at the bank doesn't work when the power is off, and the bank will probably be closed.

You should have emergency food and water on hand. Each person should have about a gallon of water a day. You can live off of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for a day or so, but after that they begin to get old. Canned foods are good. Just make sure they have pull tops or you have a can opener. You can use a small propane camp stove to cook on, it'll be just like camping out!

You should have an AM/FM radio so you can listen to the latest news, and keep from getting bored. You should also make sure you have a supply of extra batteries.

A generator and plenty of fuel will make life a lot more bearable. Just make sure you know how to use it before an emergency situation arises. If you want to hook the generator into the house wiring have a qualified electrician install a disconnect so that when you are running off of the generator you are disconnected from the power grid.

Don't forget to plan for your pets. They will need food and water too. Bear in mind that most shelters do not take animals, so if you think you may have to go to a shelter have a plan for what to do with your pets.

You will also need flashlights and extra batteries.